

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

Happy New Year! And a blessed Epiphany season! We have come to worship the King, just as the wise men did so long ago. Welcome. Welcome pads are at the end of each pew; please sign your name and pass it along.

Sunday, January 6, 2019, 8:30am

Epiphany of Our Lord

Welcome

Mission Opportunities and Sharing of the Peace

Invocation, Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Opening Song

“The First Noel”

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

(Refrain) Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

This star drew near to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. *(Refrain)*

Then entered in those wise men three, full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *(Refrain)* Text: English traditional

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Song of Praise

“Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow”

There’s a star in the east on Christmas morn, rise up, shepherd, and follow.

It will lead to the place where the Christ was born, rise up, shepherd, and follow.

(Refrain) Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow the star of Bethlehem, rise up, shepherd, and follow.

If you take good heed to the angel’s words, rise up, shepherd, and follow.

You’ll forget your flocks, you’ll forget your herds, rise up, shepherd, and follow. *(Refrain)*

Text: African American spiritual

First Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses’ arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The Epiphany Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Second Lesson

Ephesians 3:1-12

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Sermon

The Mystery of Christ

Pastor Kent Stillson

Song

"Jesus Messiah"

He became sin who knew no sin That we might become His righteousness

He humbled Himself and carried the cross Love so amazing love so amazing

(Chorus) Jesus Messiah Name above all names Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel

The Rescue for sinners The Ransom from heaven Jesus Messiah Lord of all

His body the bread His blood the wine Broken and poured out all for love

The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn Love so amazing love so amazing *(Chorus)*

All our hope is in You All our hope is in You All the glory to You God The Light of the world

(Chorus)

Jesus Messiah Lord of all The Lord of all The Lord of all

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Prayer Song

“Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place”

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

I can feel His mighty power and his grace.

I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face;

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

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Prayers of the Church

Hospitalized/III: Judy Bruchhof, Carol Hinderaker, Greg Dubois, Chad Lambert,
Christine Walraven, Elden Hemme, Sonya Benson, Stan Peterson
Doreen Erickson, *mother of Sandy (Dan) Albertsen*
Debra Roddel, sister of Darla (Arlyn) Adolphsen
Martin Waller, *son-in-law of Nancy & Dean Slostad*
Jerry & Cindy Rudebusch, *friends of Lesa (Tom) Franken*
Josh Anderson, *grandson of Terri Bruner*
Donnie Ammon, *cousin of Nancy Slostad*
John Lahey-Wiggs, *brother of Chala (Tom) Lechner*
Jim Wiggs, *brother of Chala (Tom) Lechner*

Deaths: Evelyn Halonen

Roger Knox, *brother of Cliff (Sharon) Knox*

Minerva Fick, *grandmother of Curt (Holly) Fick*

Betty Loterbauer, *sister-in-law of Char Loterbauer*

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Holy Communion

Words of Institution – The Lord’s Prayer – Distribution

Extended Altar – Holy Communion delivered to shut-ins by lay people.

“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!
For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

“Only By Grace”

Only by grace can we enter Only by grace can we stand
Not by our human endeavor But by the blood of the Lamb
Into Your presence You call us You call us to come
Into Your presence You draw us And now by Your grace we come
Now by Your grace we come

(Chorus) Lord if You mark Our transgressions Who would stand
Thanks to Your grace We are cleansed By the blood of the Lamb *(repeat Chorus)*

Only by grace can we enter Only by grace can we stand
Not by our human endeavor But by the blood of the Lamb
Into Your presence You call us You call us to come
Into Your presence You draw us And now by Your grace we come
Now by Your grace we come

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Post Communion Blessing and Benediction

Sending Song

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

(Refrain) Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *(Refrain)*

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *(Refrain)*

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and brought us God's salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *(Refrain)*

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

Call to Service

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

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*Sound amplification devices and/or large print bulletins
are available. Just ask an Usher.*

Serving This Morning

Presiding: Pastor Dan Ofstehage; **Preaching:** Pastor Kent Stillson

Combined Worship Team: Vocals: Peg Juba, Pam Rehder, Julianne Decker, Codi Hanson, Brian Bak

Guitar: Greg Dubois, Justin Hanson; Bass: Don Armstrong; Piano: Marian Riddle

Head Ushers: Darwin Brinkman, Carl Bevers; **Acolytes:** Logan Koll, Brooke Hlavacek

Greeters: ; **Sound & Projection:** Kent Anderson, Sam Langner; **Lector:**

Ushers: Ken & Bonnie Karst; **Communion Assistants:** Ken & Bonnie Karst, Diane Hane

Sunday Morning Helpers: Allen & Julie Rude; **Coffee Servers:**

Welcome Center: Lynn Langner, Darlene Bailey; **Altar Committee:** Barb Carson, Brenda Rydell

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2. Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer Christian Preschool