

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 8, 2023

Season of Epiphany

Epiphany - Friday, December 30, 2022



Thought:

We live in a world that threatens us with darkness; but the God of light shines brightly.

In the movies, threatening scenes are often filmed in dimly lit settings, while scenes of joy and happiness are filmed in bright light. What movie scene captures your spirit today? Whether you begin in shadowed darkness, an early dawn, bright light, or dusk, God seeks to bring light to your life this day!

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

P: May the light of Christ shine in your heart as you greet others. The peace of the Lord be with you!

C: And also with you.

Call to Worship

L: Arise and shine people of God.

C: We arise to reveal the glory of the Holy One.

L: Arise and shine people of God.

C: We arise to be a light of truth to the nations.

L: Arise and shine people of God.

C: We arise to act for justice and to proclaim good news.

L: Arise, sisters and brothers, in the name of the Prince of Peace.

Hymn of Praise - "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" ELW #815

https://youtu.be/sDzcZWa_YqQ

by Chris Brunelle

Invocation and Confession

P: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all.

C: If we say that we have fellowship with God while we are walking in darkness,
we lie and do not do what is true.

P: But if we walk in the light as God himself is in the light, we have fellowship
with one another,

C: and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Almighty God,

C: You dwell in light unapproachable. Unprotected, we perish in your presence, for our hearts are darkened, our minds beclouded; we have loved darkness rather than the light; we call for night to cover our deeds. The darkness of death awaits.

P: For his sake God hears your prayer. God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in your hearts, to give you the light of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

C: We have seen the Lord's glory; we have heard the Lord's voice.

P: Walk, then, as children of light...in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Epiphany - "The First Noel"

ELW #300

<https://youtu.be/0u5UvnKlCTA>

by Pentatonix

Prayer of the Day

L: O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star.

C: Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Word

Old Testament reading - Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come

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.⁶ A 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 Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

All kings shall bow down before him

¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
²that he may rule your ¹ people righteously and the poor with justice;
³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**

⁷In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

¹¹May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

¹²**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

¹³He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.**

Epistle reading - Ephesians 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel

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, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel - Matthew 2:1-12

<https://youtu.be/pK2NqWJuemY>

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you O Lord.**

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: “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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children Of God Time

<https://youtu.be/FKededzq98l>

Homily - “Those Stars We Have Not Yet Seen”

<https://youtu.be/090FIRwaQ-A>

Hymn of the Day - “Brightest and Best of the Stars” ELW #303

https://youtu.be/ddg_YVSkUb4

by Riverside Church

Prayers of Intercession

P: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: Calling God, you speak with power to your church. Open our hearts and minds to the new things you are declaring. Strengthen bishops, pastors, deacons, lay leaders, and teachers of the faith. Equip the baptized for your reconciling and redeeming work. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Renewing God, you provide the waters of the earth and in Jesus' baptism you reveal the waters of life. Cleanse and protect oceans, rivers, and watersheds (*local water sources may be named*). Bring relief to parched lands and to communities without access to safe water. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Righteous God, you never weary of establishing justice. Increase cooperation and constructive dialogue between nations. Guide local, national, and international authorities to govern with equity, vision, and integrity. We pray for those in military service, for peacemakers, and for our enemies. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Abiding God, your mercy is steadfast. Give sanctuary to people who flee from oppression, war, poverty, and famine. Sustain health care workers, caregivers, first responders, counselors, and all who help and heal. Comfort those who are grieving or experiencing crisis (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Blessing God, in Christ you gather the beloved community. Kindle the gifts of your Spirit in your people. Accompany the newly baptized, those recently ordained, and any beginning a new ministry. Inspire synodical leaders and congregational councils to serve with imagination and wisdom. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Promising God, your faithfulness endures throughout all generations. We give thanks for those who have died in Christ, trusting that we will be united with them and all the saints in Christ's resurrection life. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

Offering/Offertory Prayer

L: Father, we have sought you out...

C: ...as the Magi once searched the skies to know you.

L: Father, we come to worship...

C: ...as the Magi bowed down to worship your Son.

L: Father, we bring these gifts before you...

C: ...they are signs of our seeking. They are symbols of our worship.

L: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Preparation - "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

ELW #671

<https://youtu.be/yC2SZGGIAFc>

by Hillsong

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all place give thanks and praise...

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light!

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit

Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Distribution

Post Communion Blessing - Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

L: The gold, the incense, the myrrh - our gifts cannot compare to this great gift, O Lord.

C: For you have given yourself.

L: Teach us, by your example, to give of ourselves.

C: For that is true worship.

L: We bless you now and evermore.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn - "This Little Light of Mine" ELW #677

<https://youtu.be/dxZmKxGI7j0>

by Love to Sing

Dismissal

L: In the darkness, our light shines brightly. We go to serve.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

