



The Epiphany of Our Lord



Epiphany

January 9 and 10, 2021

Today's focus: Joy to the world, the Lord is come! This morning we gather for the Festival of Epiphany which celebrates Jesus as Savior of the whole world. The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord is the second oldest festival celebrated by the Church, dating to the second century. The Eastern Church commemorates the birth of Christ on this day, but the Western Church remembers it as the "Gentile Christmas" and celebrates Jesus who appeared as the Word for the world.

The Season of Epiphany

The twelve days of Christmas culminate at the celebration of the Epiphany of our Lord on January 6th (which we are celebrating in worship on January 9th and 10th). The season of Epiphany highlights the appearance ("epiphany") of the Son of God as the Savior of the whole world—both Jew and Gentile. God revealed the mystery of his person and his mission through the words and works of the Father, through the anointing and empowering of the Spirit, and through the preaching and miracles of Christ.

This season of the Savior's appearance is bracketed by two white Sundays: The Baptism of our Lord and Transfiguration. Since he had come hidden in flesh, recognizing Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of God required revelation. From John's Baptism to the Father's booming voice, God revealed the truth about Jesus to the world: this son of Mary is the Son of God, come as the Christ. The Father's testimony about Jesus bookends the season. From the glory of his baptism at the beginning of his ministry to the glory of his transfiguration at its culmination, the voice of the Father declares what flesh had hidden from the world: This is my Son!

The rest of the Sundays in Epiphany are green. Like the green Sundays of Pentecost, they focus on growth and new life in the Church.

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church

525 63rd Street, Downers Grove

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www.gsdg.org

It is the mission of



Good Shepherd

to

Seek the Lost
Feed the Flock and
Serve our Savior



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is part of a group of nearly 1,300 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 21 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.

We Come into the Presence of God

Musical Introduction (*This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.*)

Opening Hymn: #80, verses 1-2 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
all the earth; Once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry;
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing—
Refrain
Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: Come and wor - ship,
Yon - der shines the in - fant light.
come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, abr., alt.
Tune: REGENT SQUARE (87 87 87) Henry T. Smart, 1813–79.

A Litany of Confession and Absolution

Minister: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

M: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

C: **We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.** (*John 1:14*)

M: As the light of Christ shines upon us, our eyes are opened to see him.

C: And by God's law, our eyes also see our sinfulness.

M: Christ the Light has entered the world that darkness may be dispersed.

C: Let us then confess our sins and ask for forgiveness in his name.

Silence is observed

M: O most merciful God,

C: We confess to you that we are sinners. Our natural state knows only darkness and despair. But since you have given your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy on us, and for his sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By your Holy Spirit kindle in us the light of Christ, that we may sin no more and worship you in holy wisdom. By your grace, may we come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

M: God in his wisdom has seen our need and provided our Savior. As a servant of the Word, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

M: Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you once made known to all nations your only begotten Son; now lead us, who know you by faith, to know in heaven the fullness of your divine goodness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn: #80, verses 3-4 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

**Magi, leave your contemplations;
Brighter visions beam afar.
Seek the great desire of nations;
You have seen the Savior’s star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

We Listen

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

¹“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
²See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
³Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴“Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.
⁵Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.
⁶Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

The Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-12

²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: #83, verses 1-3 "As with Gladness Men of Old"

1 As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to your
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At your cra - dle,

star be - hold, As with joy they hailed its light,
low - ly bed, There to bend the knee be - fore
rude and bare, So may we with ho - ly joy,

Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, So, most gra - cious
You whom heav'n and earth a - dore, So may we with
Pure and free from sin's al - loy, All our cost - liest

Lord, may we Ev - er - more your fol - lowers be.
will - ing feet Ev - er seek your mer - cy seat.
treas - ures bring, Christ, to you, our heav'n - ly King.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.

Tune: Dix (77 77 77) Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872, alt.



Sermon: Matthew 2:1-12

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

We Respond

Offering *(In an effort to maintain a safe social distance, please place your offerings in the provided plate when exiting the sanctuary.*

If you are a guest in our church, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. We do not want you to think that God or our congregation is soliciting funds from you. You enrich us simply by being here.)

Prayer of the Church for Epiphany

M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death:

C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

M: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

M: Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Blessing

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: #83, verses 4-5 "As with Gladness Men of Old"

**Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds your glory hide.**

**In the heav'nly country bright
Need they no created light;
You its light, its joy, its crown,
You its sun which goes not down.
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King!**

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Serving in Worship

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Organist: Karen D'Aversa

Live Stream Team

Sun	8:00 am	Kristen Reynolds & Bob Reichert
	10:30am	Greg Busse

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