

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



As We Gather

EPIPHANY

January 8, 2023

The mystery of the Magi is not who they were or where they came from but that God welcomed them as His own through Jesus Christ. None of us is worthy of His love or His redemption, but God has chosen to rescue us from sin and its darkness by the incarnation, suffering, death, and resurrection of His Son. The star still shines upon us with the light of Christ and fills our hearts with faith. This is the true unity that transcends every division and even reaches through space and time to make us His children. In response, we offer Christ the worship of our hearts, the tithes and offerings we bring in our hands, and the service of love to our neighbors in need.

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**Please meet with an usher for prayer requests.
Ask us about Associate Memberships for Lutherans who are part-time residents.**

A Gentle Reminder to turn off cell phones. Thank You.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION



As Lutheran Christians, we believe that our Lord's Body and Blood are truly present (not symbolic) in the Bread and Wine and received by all who attend. Since our Lord reminds us that thoughtless or faithless reception of the Sacrament can incur His judgment, all are encouraged to examine themselves that they may receive it worthily. (1 Corinthians 11:27-32)

Please use the following questions and LSB p. 329 as a personal guide before partaking of this Holy Sacrament:

- *Do I renounce sin, Satan and my own flesh, and seek true forgiveness and reconciliation with God and my neighbor?**
- *Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil?**
- *Do I believe that Christ's own words, this is my body and this is my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins (Mt. 26:28), mean exactly what they say for us today?**
- *Do I earnestly desire to live a Godly life by the power of the Holy Spirit and in thanksgiving to Christ?**

Because attendance at Communion is also a testimony to this faith in the Triune God confessed and taught here, and to unity in belief as brothers and sisters in Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16-17), we ask that any visitors not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation, and who desire to receive the Sacrament introduce themselves to the Pastor or Elder beforehand if possible.

Please Note

An invitation for children not confirmed in the Lutheran church to come and receive a blessing at the altar.

We offer a traditional communion wafer,
Off-White Color Wafers are Gluten Free.

While communing, please point to the bread meeting your preference.
Clear Color Wine is Alcohol Free

PRELUDE
WELCOME

PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN #397 “As With Gladness Men of Old”

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Based on Psalm 117:2; Isaiah 60:3*

- P** Great is the steadfast love of the LORD toward us;
C **and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**
P Nations will come to His light
C **and kings to the brightness of His rising.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Silence for reflection on God’s Word.

- P** Let us confess our sins unto the Lord.
C **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**
P The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C Amen.

WORD

INTROIT

- P** I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
C **therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.**
- P** Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;
C **you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.**
- P** Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
C **your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.**
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- P** I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
C **therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.**

KYRIE

LSB 227



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

HYMN OF PRAISE “This Is The Feast” LSB 155

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON **Isaiah 60:1–6**

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. 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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.”

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING **Ephesians 3:1–12**

“For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of

Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE

P Alleluia. Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?

C For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL **Matthew 2:1–12**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”” Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY #395 "O Morning Star, How Fair And Bright" sts. 1, 4-6

SERMON "Our Place In The Plan Of God" Ephesians 3:1-12

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Called by the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord of light on behalf of all who sit in darkness and the shadow of death. *[Silence for prayer and meditation.]*

O Light of light, shine with the brightness of the one true light, that those who live in darkness may be granted the light of life. Embolden Your Church that we with confidence and joy proclaim this saving Gospel to all the world and bring together the divided into the one people of Your grace in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

P *[Petitions...]* Lord, in Your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

P Grant to us all things needful and keep from us all things harmful, O Lord, for we trust in Your goodness and in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

G Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY What Child Is This *LSB 370 st. 3*

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh; Come peasant, king to own Him.

The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;

Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

(Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98)

SACRAMENT

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is our good and pleasant duty and our greatest delight to sing Your praise, O Lord, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, who was made flesh and manifest to all people as Savior and Lord. He has rescued us from the darkness of sin and death and united us as one people that we may live to the praise of His glory, now and forevermore. With saints and angels, prophets and patriarchs, apostles and evangelists, and all the company of heaven, we praise Your name and join in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (Tune – “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”)

**Holy, holy God of power, God of mercy, God of grace.
Heav’n and earth are filled with glory, praising You in ev’ry place.
Hear the loud Hosannas leaping to Your throne of highest might.
Blessed is the King who comes to bring us justice, peace and light.**

WORDS OF OUR LORD “Remember Me” G. Gustafson & M. Nystrom

- P** (*sung*) “On the night ... This is My blood poured out for you and as you drink it remember Me.”
C (*sung*) “**So we thank You for the wine and for the bread;
For we see the life You gave And the blood you shed.
And we remember Your wondrous love
You gave your body You shed Your blood
And we remember Your wondrous love
You gave your body You shed your blood.**”

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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.

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI (Tune – “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”)

Lamb of God, who pardons sinners, show us mercy, show us grace.

Lamb of God, whose promise lingers, grant Your peace in ev’ry place.

Lamb of God, the world is broken. It is filled with scattered souls.

Fill us with the words You’ve spoken, reconcile and make us whole.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

#394 “Songs Of Thankfulness And Praise” #412 “The People That in Darkness Sat”

#400 “Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning”

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. In Your light, O Lord, do we see light. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may see clearly Jesus Christ and trust in Him only. Bring us with those of every generation and tongue from darkness into Christ’s light, that in common confession we may walk together as the children of the light; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #411 "I Want to Walk as a Child of Light"

ANNOUNCEMENTS POSTLUDE

+ + + + +

Reader Today: Jan Aslin

PRAYER LIST Deedee Halterman, lung cancer, sister-in-law of Maggie Halterman; Tom Stettler, Southern Utah Veterans Home; the homebound.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Today	11:00 a.m.	25 th Anniversary Committee
Mon. Jan. 9	1:00 p.m.	Outreach Planning
Tues. Jan. 10	11:00 a.m.	Childcare Chapel
Wed. Jan. 11	9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
Thur. Jan. 11	10:30 a.m.	Grief Support Group
Thur. Jan. 11	10:30 a.m.	Jesus Time (Childcare Ctr)
Thur. Jan. 12	1:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
Thur. Jan. 12	3:00 p.m.	Choir Practice

BIRTHDAYS

Jan 13 Bonnie Holtz	Jan 18 Bonnie Semmler	Jan 20 Annie Black
Jan 23 Greg Larson	Jan 26 David Gnacinski	Jan 26 Jim Jones
Jan 26 Ruby Stuart	Jan 27 Rudy Hammond	Jan 30 Beverly Brack
Jan 30 Joan Samuelson	Jan 31 Jeff Meckley	

ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 31 Gordon & Carol Shepherd

Altar Flowers: We now have a flower chart to sign up for altar flowers. It is on the bulletin board in the narthex, near the water fountain. If you have any questions about anything regarding flowers, please call Claudia Havens at 702-523-1049 or E-mail: secretary@mesquitelutheran.org.

USHERS WANTED! We are in need of some additional volunteers to assist with ushering at our services. **Sign up sheets are on the table.** **Contact Jim Hinson rah4446@yahoo.com** or **Pastor** or speak with an acting usher if you have questions or would like to volunteer to help as a greeter, usher (bulletins, offering, Communion), or acolyte. We will provide directions/training.

ADDITIONAL CLEANING TEAMS NEEDED Join our great teams of church cleaners that do a great job! Couples or teams of 2-3 clean once a week (scheduled 2 weeks in a row, a couple of times over a 6 month period). Supplies provided. Clean anytime during the week when church is not in use. List of areas to be cleaned on wall in janitor room in the kitchen. We will provide training. **Contact Bob Sennett 801-414-8324 or rfsdne@msn.com.**

HELPING HANDS AVAILABLE Do you need a little help with a household chore, need a high light bulb changed or smoke detector battery changed? **Just let us know you have a need by writing your name and phone number on a little card in the clear box (card and pen inside) on the narthex table and we'll give you a call and make arrangements!**

10 a.m. service available online at our Facebook page (live and recorded - @MesquiteLCC). You do not need a Facebook account to view. Go to facebook.com/MesquiteLCC/live or visit our website mesquitelutheran.org/Online-Services.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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