

## THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

God in Flesh Made Manifest

January 7 & 8, 2017

5:00pm & 8:00am

### AS WE GATHER

The Feast of the Epiphany is a celebration of Christ's divine nature manifested in the humanity of the child Jesus in Bethlehem. Beginning with the Wise Men from the east, down through the present day, all nations are coming to His light, and kings to the brightness of His rising. The visitation of the Magi is the first unfolding in time and space of the mystery of Christ, which is that all people are fellow heirs, members of one Body, and participants in the promises of Jesus through the Gospel. In the presence of such a child—God in human flesh who brings all people into oneness with Himself—the royal visitors cannot but worship, offering such gifts as gold, frankincense, and myrrh in grateful response to the love of God made manifest in the humanity of Jesus.

### WELCOME

"Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: Jesus appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory." (1 Timothy 3:16)

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### OPENING HYMN #370 "What Child Is This"

What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

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!

(Rise)

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,

**People: who alone does wondrous things.**

Pastor: For He delivers the needy when he calls,

**People: the poor and him who has no helper.**

Pastor: He has pity on the weak and the needy,

**People: and saves the lives of the needy.**

Pastor: From oppression and violence He redeems their life,

**People: and precious is their blood in His sight.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God, who revealed your glory when the Son became man,

**People: turned away from you by my sinful nature, I try to do your job—I play God. I think I know what is best for me and for other people. I try to control things over which I have no power, and I too quickly give up on things I need to change. I've hurt you, myself, and the people around me. I need help. You are the God who knows human life both from the outside-in as creator Father, and from the inside-out as incarnate Son and indwelling Spirit. Only you can hear me, forgive me, and return me to peace with yourself, with myself, and with the people around me.**

Pastor: The God whose glory is revealed in the human life of Jesus hears your confession, and for Jesus' sake freely forgives you. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE #395 “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”** Stanzas 1 & 6

O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God’s own truth and light,  
Aglow with grace and mercy!  
Of Jacob’s race, King David’s son, Our Lord and master, You have won  
Our hearts to serve You only!  
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, All victorious, Rich in blessing!  
Rule and might o’er all possessing!

What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love is first and last,  
The end and the beginning!  
He will one day, oh, glorious grace, Transport us to that happy place  
Beyond all tears and sinning! Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness!  
We are yearning For the day of Your returning!

**SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

**✠ WORD ✠**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 60:1–6* (The people of the nations come to worship the King.) "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. "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 arm. Then 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. Herds 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.

**EPISTLE** *Ephesians 3:1–12* (The mystery of Christ revealed: good news for all people.) Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles--Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This 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. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His 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, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

**8:00 CHOIR ANTHEM** *“Child of Hope and Love”* Words & Music by Douglas E. Wagner

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 2:1–12* (The Wise Men visit the child Jesus and His mother, Mary.) After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "'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 be the shepherd of my people Israel.'"Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On 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 and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

(Be seated)

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SERMON HYMN #394 "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,  
Manifested by the star To the sages from afar,  
Branch of royal David's stem In Thy birth at Bethlehem:  
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
And at Cana wedding guest In Thy Godhead manifest;  
Manifest in pow'r divine, Changing water into wine;  
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole Palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
Manifest in valiant fight, Quelling all the devil's might;  
Manifest in gracious will, Ever bringing good from ill;  
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Sun and moon shall darkened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;  
Christ will then like lightning shine, All will see His glorious sign;  
All will then the trumpet hear, All will see the Judge appear;  
Thou by all wilt be confessed, God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Present in Thy holy Word  
Grace to imitate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;  
That we might become like Thee At Thy great epiphany  
And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest.

## SERMON

### "We Have A King!"

Matthew 2:1-12

(Rise)

**NICENE CREED** *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*

(Be seated)

**OFFERING** As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**Pastor:** Let us pray to God our Father, who sent His Son to be our light and give us everlasting joy. Almighty God enthroned forever, you love righteousness and hate wickedness; yet for our sake, you sent your only begotten Son to suffer the wages of our sin, that we might be holy in your sight.

**People:** **As you have poured out upon us grace and salvation, so continue to anoint us with the oil of gladness and the hope of everlasting life.**

**Pastor:** Lord of glory, you sent your Son so that your glory might be made known to the peoples who live in darkness. As you have called, gathered and enlightened us by the work of your Holy Spirit, grant that we might rejoice to proclaim Jesus Christ — the Light of the world — to all who will hear. Bless especially our Together in Mission partner, Pastor Chuck Ferry, as well as Pastors John Reinke and Bud Palmer, and others who lead the work of our Deaf ministry in southern Wisconsin.

**People:** **Send forth your holy Gospel throughout the world, that many might speak your Word and many more might hear and believe.**

**Pastor:** Giver of all wisdom, you guided the Wise Men from the East to your holy Son, that they might believe and worship their King. Preserve us in the faith so that we are not led astray by cultural trends or man-made philosophies.

**People:** **By your holy Word, strengthen us to believe that Jesus is the Christ, your Son and our Savior; and lead us to thankfully make use of your gifts in accordance with your will.**

**Pastor:** Source of all knowledge, we give you thanks for the blessings of our Lutheran schools, that students and teachers together may learn together and also grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

**People:** Bless our principal and teachers, that they may be diligent in their duties and good models of Christian living. Bless our students to learn well and to be formed by the love of Christ.

**Pastor:** O Lord, our almighty King, you preserved the lives of Jesus and His parents when Herod schemed to destroy Him. Protect your Church from trouble and persecution.

**People:** Whenever your people suffer for the faith, preserve them by your grace and Word, that they might trust fully in Christ who has died and is risen to deliver them.

**Pastor:** Almighty God, you have made us fellow heirs of the unsearchable riches of Christ. Remember all those who are afflicted and in need of deliverance including Gilberte, LouAnn, Larry, Dolores, Flora, Virginia, Eleanor, Marion, Matthew, Arlene, Mae, Carol, Jerry, Dorothy, John, Arlene, Richard, Roemelle, LuEva, Kathleen, Jean, Russ, Helen, Leonard, Linda, Gladys, Jack, Shirley and Sarah.

**People:** Hear their prayers, provide help and deliverance according to your will, and preserve them in the faith until that day when their eternal healing is fully revealed.

**Pastor:** Heavenly Father, we give you thanks that you have revealed Jesus to be the Savior of the peoples of all nations. Bless those whom you have made to be ministers of your Word, and grant that all of your people might rejoice to believe in the unsearchable riches of Christ.

**People:** Bless all those who gather at your Supper today, that they might receive your Son's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

**Pastor:** We give thanks to you, O Lord, for your faithfulness to all the saints who have gone before us and who now rest from their labors. Continue to gather us, along with all your sons and daughters, from every corner of the earth until that day when we stand before your throne in glory forever; through Jesus Christ, your only Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** Amen.

**AGNUS DEI #547**

**"The Lamb"**

Stanzas 1-3

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?  
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!

**Refrain**      **Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!**  
**The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.  
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. **Refrain**  
The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill  
So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill. **Refrain**

(Be seated)

**DISTRIBUTION** Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

**HYMN #404 "Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered"**

Jesus, once with sinners numbered, Had no blemish of His own:  
In the waters of the Jordan His true worth and work were shown:  
Heaven opened and the Spirit There descended like a dove,  
As the Father's voice resounded, "Hear My Son, the One I love."

John confessed Him as the Savior – "Look, the sinless Lamb of God!"  
Yet he dared not loose the sandals Of the One God's love had shod.  
Oh, how fair the feet of Jesus, Bringing news of peace to us,  
Christ, the herald of salvation, Preaching mercy from the cross:

This the baptism that our Savior Greatly longed to under-go;  
This the crimson cleansing needed So the world God's love might know;  
This the mission of Messiah As He stepped from Jordan's stream,  
He, the chosen and anointed Son of God, sent to redeem.

Jesus, once with sinners numbered, Full obedience was Your path;  
You, by death, have consecrated Water in this saving bath:  
Dying to the sin of Adam, Rising to a life of grace;  
We are counted with righteous, Over us the cross You trace.

**“We Three Kings of Orient Are”**

W&R #233

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

**Refrain:** *O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a king on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. **Refrain**

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high. **Refrain**

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom:  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb. **Refrain**

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies. **Refrain**

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

As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav’n and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin’s alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav’nly King.

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 Thy glory hide.  
In the heav’nly country bright Need they no created light;  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;  
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King.

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: O God the Father, thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of  
your Son who became flesh for us. Since we have been strengthened by  
this Meal, fill us with your love that it may overflow from our lives to  
bless the people around us. Help us to be people of your peace to all  
people in this world, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICAMUS**

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN #810 “O God of God, O Light of Light”**

O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and King of kings:  
To You in heav-en’s glory bright The song of praise forever rings.  
To Him who sits upon the throne, The Lamb once slain but raised again,  
Be all the glory He has won, All thanks and praise! Amen, amen.

For deep in prophets' sacred page, And grand in poets' winged word,  
Slowly in type, from age to age The nations saw their coming Lord;  
Till through the deep Judean night Rang out the son, "Good-will to men!"  
Sung once by first-born sons of light, It echoes now, "Good-will!" Amen.

That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death so steeped in hate and scorn-  
These all are past, and now above He reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.  
Lift up your heads, O mighty gates! So sang that host beyond our ken.  
Lift up your heads, your King awaits. We lift them up. Amen, amen.

Then raise to Christ a mighty song, And shout His name, His mercies tell!  
Sing, heav'n-ly host, your praise prolong, And all on earth, your anthem swell!  
All hail, O Lamb for sinners slain! Forever let the song ascend!  
Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign, All glory, pow'r! Amen, amen.

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Acolytes  
Organist  
Choir Director

Pastor Gregg Stanton  
Pastor Harold Bender  
Marc Stefanic, Dan Vaclav  
Jaeden Brandt, Adam Biedenbender  
Michelle Prince  
Nancy Hoelke