



January 3, 2021

Epiphany

**GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

1600 Old Trolley Rd
Summerville, SC
29485-8275

EPIPHANY

January 3, 2021

✠ PREPARATION ✠

PRELUDE

"As with Gladness Men of Old"
"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

Wayne L. Wold
Jan Bender

WELCOME

Stand

HYMN

"As With Gladness Men of Old"

LSB 397



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.
There for-ev-er may we sing Al-le-lu-ias to our King.

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** Arise, shine, for your light has come!
G **Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.**
- P** All the nations shall come to the light of Christ
G **Kings shall bring Him gifts.**
- P** For Christ reveals the mystery hidden through the ages,
G **that all nations are partakers of the promise in Jesus Christ.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Through the Gospel, all people are fellow heirs of salvation and members of the same Body. Yet there have been times when we have failed to live in unity, when we have failed to treat our brothers and sisters in Christ with respect and honor. Our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection

- P** Heavenly Father,
G **We confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have created division and discord. We have hidden the light of Christ from others. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us with the light of Christ, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy sent His Son, Jesus, into our world to shine as a light for all people, including you. Jesus has died for your sins and is risen for your righteousness. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
G **Amen. We are partakers of the promise. We are forgiven in Christ.**

✠ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ✠

ENTRANCE HYMN

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

LSB 367 st. 3

Sages, leave your contemplations,
 Brighter visions beam afar;
 Seek the great Desire of nations,
 Ye have seen His natal star.
 Come and worship, come and worship;
 Worship Christ, the newborn King.

KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world and for the well-being of the Church of God, that many will follow the Magi and find the Savior of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

LSB 394, sts. 1&5

1 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.

5 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.

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 to the Gentiles Your only-begotten Son.

C **Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence;**

P through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60: 1-6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For 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.

³And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴Lift 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.

⁵Then 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.

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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

A Praise the LORD, all nations!

C **Extol Him, all peoples!**

A For great is His steadfast love toward us,

C **and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**

A Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

C **bring an offering, and come into His courts!**

EPISTLE

Ephesians 3:1-12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—
²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which 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. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of 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. ⁸To 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, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

VERSE

Matthew 2:2b

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.**

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "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." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶"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."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And 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." ⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And 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. ¹²And 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.**

Sit

HYMN

"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" **LSB 395 sts. 1, 3, 5**

1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
 3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls
 5 O let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all
 own truth and light, A - glow with grace and mer - cy!
 from God a - bove A ray of pur - est plea - sure.
 with mu - sic crowned, Our voic - es glad - ly blend - ing!
 Of Ja - cob's race, King Da - vid's son, Our Lord and mas -
 Your Word and Spir - it, flesh and blood Re - fresh our souls
 For Christ goes with us all the way— To - day, to - mor -
 ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on - ly!
 with heav'n-ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure!
 row, ev - 'ry day! His love is nev - er end - ing!
 Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, All vic - to - rious,
 Let Your mer - cy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!
 Sing out! Ring out! Ju - bi - la - tion! Ex - ul - ta - tion!
 Rich in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
 For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.
 Tell the sto - ry! Great is He, the King of Glo - ry!

SERMON

Stand

NICENE CREED, *As printed on forwards screens*

HYMN VERSE

“Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning”

LSB 400 st. 1

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
 Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
 Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
 Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Light of the world.
- C** **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**
- A** Lord, there are many divisions in the church, divisions based on class, race, wealth, and age, divisions that need not exist. Bring unity where there is division, peace where there is discord, and reconciliation where there is conflict. Light of the world,
- C** **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**
- P** Lord, comfort all those who are suffering in the darkness of grief. Comfort them with the hope and promise of the resurrection to eternal life. Light of the world,
- C** **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**
- A** Lord, strengthen all marriages, encourage those who are single, and help us to recognize the value of each person, for Your redemption stretches to all people. Light of the world,
- C** **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**
- P** Lord, bless all pastors, teachers, church planters, missionaries, musicians, and servants in Your Church. Embolden them as they seek to reflect Your light to all the nations. Light of the world,
- C** **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**
- A** Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured and recovering, (especially ...) Have mercy upon them, and heal them according to Your good and gracious will. Light of the world,
- C** **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**
- P** Lord, shine Your light of hope upon all whose who are caregivers. Send them rest and peace, knowing that in You their labor is not in vain. Light of the world,
- C** **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**
- P** Lord, we commend all of these things to Your caring hands, trusting in Your mercy to all people. Light of the world,
- C** **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid. Amen.**

✠ SERVICE OF THE 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.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS "O Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" *(Sung to "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright")*

*O holy, holy, holy Lord,
You draw the nations ever toward
The joy of Your pure reigning.
For You rule all in heav'n and earth
With love and light, with might and mirth,
Your care the world sustaining.
So we beg Thee,
Save us Jesus!
Come and free us
From sin's wages,
Blessed King of endless ages.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son to be our reconciliation and our peace. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to ever lead us to the light of Christ. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Though we may feel as if we do not belong, we pray the You would gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

G Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember all that You have done for us before we were born, to realize that You are with us today, and to await Your promised return one day to receive us into Your eternal kingdom. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER, *As printed on forwards screens*

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

AGNUS DEI

"O Lamb of God, You Take Away"
(Sung to "O Morning Star, How fair and Bright")

O Lamb of God, You take away
The sin and guilt and shame that weigh
So heavy on our hearts, Lord.
Grant us Your mercy, hear our plea!
Without Your grace, Lord, we would be
Beyond all hope and wayward.

Still You come to
Share the myst'ry
Masked through hist'ry
That salvation
Is for ev'ry tribe and nation.

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Sit

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN

"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"

LSB 636, sts. 1-4,8



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with
3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther
4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver



gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day - light's
lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -
cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of
this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is



splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.
mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.
heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.
bound - less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:



Bless the One whose grace un - bound - ed This a - maz - ing
O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you
Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the
With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to

ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and
 there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
 gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
 us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -

ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.
 riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.
 la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!

8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
 Let me gladly here obey You.
 By Your love I am invited,
 Be Your love with love requited;
 By this Supper let me measure,
 Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
 Through the gift of grace You give me
 As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

VOLUNTARY

"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"

Paul Manz

Stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE "Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace"

LSB 937

1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,
 2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,
 △ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,

Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
 The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
 To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and

va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
 in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.
 Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have welcomed us into the Body of Christ and have given us Your Church as a home for all nations.

G **Strengthen us through this Sacrament, that we may love others as Christ first loved us;**

P through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

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

G **Amen.**

HYMN

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

LSB 411



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In Him there is no dark - ness at all.
 The night and the day are both a - like.
 The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.
 Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

- A** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

J. S. Bach

PARTICIPATING IN THIS SERVICE

Pastor: Rev. Richard Willsea

Deaconess: Karen Suter

Organist: Patty Barnes

Instrumentalists: Charlie, Susan, Andy Messersmith

Acknowledgments

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