

The Festival of the EPIPHANYOF OUR LORD

GOOD SHEPHERD EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

Kearney, Nebraska Friday, January 6, 2017

WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD!

We are so happy you could join us today! If you're interested in membership, or just want to talk about our congregation, please don't hesitate to speak to an usher or Pastor Seelow.

For your convenience, **Listening Devices** are available for those who need assistance in hearing the service and a **Large-Print** version of the service is available for those who need assistance in seeing the service. Please speak with an usher if you need either one. A **Nursery** is also available and is equipped with a speaker so that a minimal amount of the service is missed. The nursery is located in the hallway just off the entryway (first door on left).

THE FESTIVAL OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

On January 6, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord. This feast commemorates no event but presents an idea that assumes concrete form only through the facts our Lord's life. The idea of Epiphany is that the Christ who was born in Bethlehem is recognized by the world as God. At Christmas, God appears as man, and at Epiphany, this man appears before the world as God. That Christ became man needed no proof. But that this man, this helpless child, is God needed proof. The manifestations of the Trinity, the signs and wonders performed by this man, and all his miracles have the purpose of proving to men that Jesus is God. Lately, especially in the Western Church, the story of the Magi has been associated with this feast day. As Gentiles who were brought to faith in Jesus Christ, the Magi represent all believers from the Gentile world.

OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

As Christians who believe that the Bible is inspired by God and that every word written in it is God's holy word, we believe that we receive the body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. While this is something that goes beyond our human understanding, our faith allows us to accept this as true. God warns us in the Bible that anyone who doesn't understand this teaching or who denies this real presence of Christ's body and blood will do damage to his or her soul if not properly taught first (I Corinthians II:27-29).

As a congregation we care about people and about the spiritual well-being of individuals, especially those attending the Lord's Table today. If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to the pastor before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are not under church discipline in another congregation, and are members of our congregation, one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod [WELS], or a member of our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS].

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister	Pr. Nathanael P. Seelow
Organist	Michelle Reinsch

THE DIVINE SERVICE

OPENING HYMN A Hail, O Source of Every Blessing



Text: Basil Woodd, 1760–1831, alt.

Tune: O DURCHBRECHER ALLER BANDE (87 87 D) Freylinghausen, Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, Halle, 1704, alt.

INVOCATION Matthew 28:19

Please stand.

M In the name of the Father and of the

■ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

M The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 27:1

M The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:2

M The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:5

M Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.

Ephesians 5:14

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Silence for meditation on God's Word and for self-examination as you consider your thoughts, words, and actions according to the Ten Commandments.

- M Lord of Life,
- I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride, For sins of habit and sins of choice, For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus sake.

- M In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son

 and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

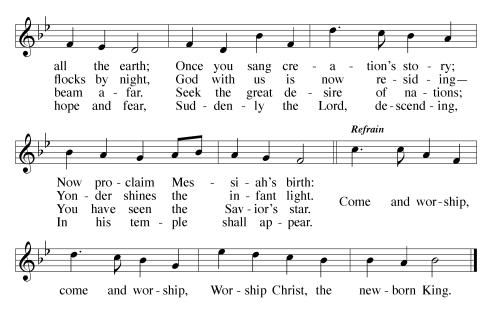
LORD, HAVE MERCY & Kyrie Eleison

Matthew 20:30; Mark 10:47; Psalm 6:2

- M In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
 - For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- M For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.
- C Christ, have mercy.
- For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- M Lord of Life, live in us that we may live for you.
- C Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS Angels from the Realms of Glory





Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, abr., alt.

Tune: REGENT SQUARE (87 87 87) Henry T. Smart, 1813-79.

SALUTATION

Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22

M The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY & Collect

M Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you made known your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Led 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.

¥ Be seated.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIRSTLESSON & Numbers 24:15-17a



ND HE TOOK UP HIS DISCOURSE AND SAID,

"The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened,

the oracle of him who hears the words of God, and knows the knowledge of the Most High, who sees the vision of the Almighty,

falling down with his eyes uncovered:

¹⁷ I see him, but not now;

I behold him, but not near:

a star shall come out of Jacob,

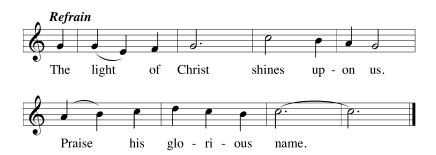
and a scepter shall rise out of Israel;

it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth.

M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

PSALM & Psalm 72





Refrain

Endow the King with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness.

He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy.

He will endure as long as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all generations.
He will be like rain falling on a mown field,
like showers watering the earth.

Refrain

All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him.

All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed.

May his name endure forever;
may it continue as long as the sun.
Praise be to the LORD God, who alone does marvelous deeds.
May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

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.

Refrain



dead?

OW I AM SPEAKING TO YOU GENTILES. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry 14 in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. 15 For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the

²⁸ As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, 31 so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. 32 For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

- M The Word of the Lord.
- \mathbf{C} Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY Matthew 2:2b

- M Alleluia! Alleluia! We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.
- \mathbf{C} Alleluia!



Please stand.

M The Holy Gospel appointed for the Festival of the Epiphany of Our Lord according to St. Matthew, chapter two.

C Praise be to you, O Lord!

OW AFTER JESUS WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM OF JUDEA in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² 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." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They 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."

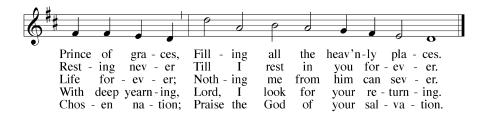
⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they 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. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

M The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to you, O Christ!

e Be seated.





Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, abr., adapt.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt. Tune: Wie schön Leuchtet (887 887 22 44 48) Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.

SERMON Romans 11:30-32

³⁰ For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

Epiphany Encourages Eyes of Faith

CONFESSION OF FAITH Nicene Creed

Please stand.

С	We believe in one God,	Dt. 6:4
	the Father, the Almighty,	2 Cor. 6:18
	maker of heaven and earth,	Is. 51:13
	of all that is, seen and unseen.	Col.1:16
	We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,	1 Cor. 8:6
	the only Son of God,	In. 3:18
	eternally begotten of the Father,	Heb. 1:2,5
	God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,	Jn. 1
	begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.	In. 10:30
	Through him all things were made.	In. 1:3
	For us and for our salvation,	1 Th. 5:9
	he came down from heaven,	In. 6:38
	was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary.	I.k 1:25

and became fully human.	Gal. 4:4
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.	Mk. 15:15
He suffered death and was buried.	1 Cor. 15:3-4a
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.	1 Cor. 15:4b
He ascended into heaven	Ac. 2:33-34
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.	Heb. 1:13
He will come again in glory	Mt. 25:31
to judge the living and the dead,	2 Tim.4:1
and his kingdom will have no end.	Lk. 1:33
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,	Job 33:4
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,	In. 15:26
who in unity with the Father and the Son	In. 4:24
is worshiped and glorified,	
who has spoken through the prophets.	2 Pet.1:25
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.	Mt. 16:18; Eph. 2:19-20
We believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.	Eph. 4:5; Ac. 2:38
We look for the resurrection of the dead	1 Cor. 15:21-22
and the life ₹ of the world to come. Amen.	Rev. 22

¥ Be seated.

OFFERING

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to give an offering.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Please stand.

This evening each petition of the prayer will be prayed and then concluded in this way:

- M ...Lord, in your mercy,
- C Hear our prayer.

The final petition of the prayer will be concluded in this way:

- ...who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

M The Lord be with you.

Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22

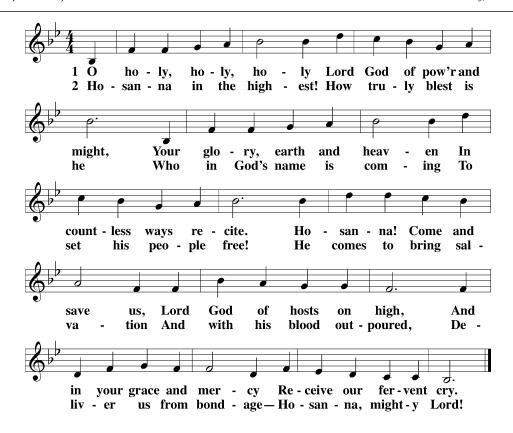
- C And also with you.
- M Lift up your hearts.

Lamentations 3:41

- **C** We lift them up to the Lord.
- M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalm 136

- C It is good and right so to do.
- It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and 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 all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All glory and splendor, thanks and praise are yours, O Lord, heavenly Father. You pierced the gloomy darkness of sin and unbelief with the brilliant light of your Son. You guided the Magi to worship the Christ and revealed the mystery of your eternal plan to save both Jew and Gentile. You declared Jesus your beloved Son at the Jordan River and, with your Spirit, you anointed him to be the Savior of all people.

Bless our reception of your Son's body and blood that we may shine with the joy of faith. Use this most Holy Sacrament to illumine our lives and minds with Christ's forgiveness, peace, and comfort. Refresh our faith, and help us to reflect his truth and grace to the world. We ask this that you may receive endless honor, glory, and praise from every tribe and language and people and nation.

LORD'S PRAYER & Pater Noster

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver *us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & Verba

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

THE PEACE OF THE LORD A Pax Domini

John 20:19

- M The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

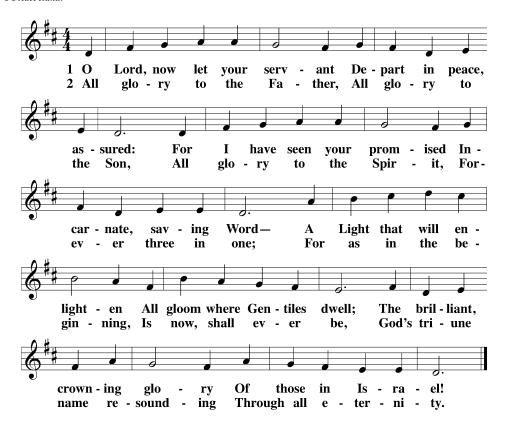


¥ Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Those who will be receiving Holy Communion today may wish to read **Personal Preparation for Holy Communion**, found on page 156 in the front section of the hymnal. This page helps us put into practice what the Bible encourages: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." (1 Corinthians 11:28) **Prayer suggestions** for before and after receiving the Lord's Supper can be found in the hymnal on pages 10-11 and 134-139.

Please stand.



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

M 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.

e Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN & As with Gladness Men of Old



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.

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