

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

JANUARY 3, 2021

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Hermiston, Oregon



The Lord be with you! The Lord's Supper is celebrated this morning in the confidence that, as He says, Jesus gives us not only bread and wine, but also His very body and blood to eat and drink (Matthew 26:26-28). This meal is given to us for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Christ and our love for one another.

Because the Scriptures tell us that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner are doing themselves great harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29); and because Holy Communion is a sharing in the faith confessed at this altar, the following are asked to consult with the pastor before taking communion:

- any who are not yet instructed in the Christian faith;
- those who hold a confession differing from that of Bethlehem and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

If you are visiting us this morning and would like to receive a blessing at the altar we invite you to come forward. To let those serving communion know you would like to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest and bow your head – see image to the right.



HYMN #412 “The People That in Darkness Sat”

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 72 antiphon vv. 18-19 NIV

P: Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who alone does marvelous deeds.

**C: Praise be to His glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with His glory.
Amen and Amen.**

P: Endow the king with Your justice, O God, the royal Son with Your righteousness.

**C: He will judge Your people in righteousness,
Your afflicted ones with justice.**

P: The mountains will bring prosperity to the people,
the hills the fruit of righteousness.

**C: He will defend the afflicted among the people
and save the children of the needy;
He will crush the oppressor.**

P: He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.

**C: He will be like rain falling on a mown field,
like showers watering the earth.**

P: In His days the righteous will flourish;
prosperity will abound till the moon is no more.

**C: He will rule from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.**

P: The desert tribes will bow before Him

C: and His enemies will lick the dust.

P: The kings of Tarshish and of distant shores will bring tribute to Him;
the kings of Sheba and Seba will present Him gifts.

**C: All kings will bow down to Him
and all nations will serve Him.**

P: For He will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help.

C: He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death.

P: He will rescue them from oppression and violence,
for precious is their blood in His sight.

C: Long may He live!

P: May gold from Sheba be given Him.

**C: May people ever pray for Him
and bless Him all day long.**

P: Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who alone does marvelous deeds.

**C: Praise be to His glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with His glory.
Amen and Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

P: We confess, Almighty God, that like lost sheep we have erred and strayed from Your ways.

C: We have followed the desires of our own hearts.

We have offended You by disobeying Your laws.

We have fallen short of Your expectations and demands.

P: We have not done that which we ought to have done; and we have done that which we ought not to have done.

C: In the midst of this assembly I confess to You that I am a sinner.

P: During this Holy time of the year it is wholly appropriate that we acknowledge that it was because of our sin that Jesus “emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,

C: even death on a cross!”

We pause to reflect on our sin AND on the Lord's mercy

P: O Lord, have mercy;

**C: O Christ, have mercy;
O Lord, have mercy.**

P: Lord, spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

**C: And grant, for His sake, that we may live sober,
upright, and godly lives,
to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you 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.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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. 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples!

**For great is His steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;
bring an offering, and come into His courts!**

EPISTLE

Ephesians 3:1–12

For 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**These things are written that you may believe that
Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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, 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.

NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by Whom all things were made;
Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
Whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
Who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

HYMN #397 “As With Gladness Men of Old”

SERMON

PRAYERS

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, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

CHRISTMAS SANCTUS sung to “What Child is This”

The angels round the throne do sing Their praises loud to God our King,
“Holy, Holy, Holy is God; Let all creation praise Him.”
Death reigned until His birth, The Savior deigns to come to earth.
Bless, bless His holy name, The Babe, the Son of Mary.

The angels in the skies do sing, “All glory be to God the King;
And peace on earth, goodwill to men, To you has come a Savior!”
Sing, sing “Hosannas” loud, To Him to Whom the angels bowed.
Bless, bless the Holy One, The Babe, the Son of Mary

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh.

We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER sung to: "Away in a Manger"

Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your name!
Your Kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and an-gels. Come, Lord, reign alone:
Oh, hear us and bless us From heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver Your children most dear.

For Yours is the Kingdom; o'er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.
To You be the glory, resounding a-gain
From all of creation, Forever! A-men!

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

#367 "Angels From the Realms of Glory"

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.

HYMN #399 “The Star Proclaims The King is Here”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENTS an Epiphany Doxology
verse 3 will be sung a cappella

The One and Only Son of God
In mortal form on earth did trod.
We saw God’s glory in His face;
‘Twas full of love and truth and grace

Apostles saw Christ’s glory bright
A Morningstar ‘mid black of night
And this they testify is true.

“God sent His Son to die for you.”

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here be-low;
Praise Him above ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen!

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