

St. Johns Lutheran Church

*“Where is he who has been born
king of the Jews?*



*For we saw his star
and have come to worship him.”*

AS WE GATHER

Throughout the ages, the Gospel story of Christ has been shared in spoken, written, and sung words. Each season of the Church Year is blessed by those sacred words. The Epiphany season recalls a journey by Magi to visit and worship the infant Jesus and to bring Him gifts. This day we have made a journey to this place to do the same. With the Magi of old we share the wonder of the Epiphany, as God with us—Immanuel—is shown forth.

RINGING OF THE BELLS WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME GUESTS

We're glad you are here! Make it a point to introduce yourself to the pastor. Please take to fill out an attendance card and drop in the basket during the offering.

PREPARATION

HYMN “The People That in Darkness Sat” *LSB 412*

The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.

To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness,
The gath'ring nations come;
They joy as when the reapers bear
Their harvest treasures home,
Their harvest treasures home.

To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulder ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n,
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored,
The God by all adored.

His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.

Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTiON

The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him,
in those who hope in His steadfast love.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.

Merciful Lord,
We poor sinners plead guilty before God of all sins: sins of thought, word, and deed, of evil done and of good not done. We

have lived as if God did not matter and as if we mattered most of all. We have not honored the Lord's name. Our worship and prayers have faltered. We have not loved God with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We pray the Lord to forgive us all our sins for the sake of Jesus Christ and to grant us the Holy Spirit to amend our sinful lives and live in the joy of our salvation. Amen.

Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only 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 forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **†** Son and of the Holy Spirit. May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

WORD

INTROIT

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His * glory,

glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of * grace and truth.

Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises * to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is * fitting.

Great is our Lord, and abund * dant in power;

His understanding is beyond * measure.

But the LORD takes pleasure in those who * fear Him, in those who hope in His * steadfast love.

Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O * Zion!

Glory be to the Father and * to the Son and to the Holy * Spirit;

as it was in the be * ginning,

is now, and will be forever. * Amen.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His * glory,

glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of * grace and truth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

Amen.

MEMORIZED WORD

Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!...The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Psalms 98:1-2

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 60: 1-6*

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. **2** 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. **3** And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. **4** 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. **5** 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. **6** 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

To us a child is born, to us a son is * given;
and the government shall be upon his * shoulder.
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, * Mighty
God,
Everlasting Father, * Prince of Peace.
Sing to the Lord a * new song,
for he has done * marvelous things!

EPISTLE *Ephesians 3:1-12*

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— **2** assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, **3** how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. **4** When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, **5** 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. **6** 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. **7** 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. **8** 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, **9** and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, **10** so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. **11** This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, **12** in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Alleluia. 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. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 2:1-12*

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY O Morning Star, how fair and bright LSB 395

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!

Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,
And deep within our hearts now shine;
There light a flame undying! In your one body let us be
As living branches of a tree, Your life our lives supplying.
Now, through daily Earth's deep sadness
May perplex us And distress us,
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.

Lord, when You look on us in love,
At once there falls from God above
A ray of purest pleasure.
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food.
You are our dearest Treasure!
Let Your mercy Warm and Cheer us!
O draw near us! For You teach us God's own love through
You has reached us.

Almighty Father, in Your Son
You loved us when not yet begun
Was this old earth's foundation!
Your Son has ransomed us in love
To live in Him here and above:

**This is Your great salvation.
Alleluia! Christ the living,
To us giving Life forever,
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!**

**O let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gladly blending! For Christ goes with us all the way
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day! His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the Story!
Great is He the King of Glory!**

**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!**

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

See Back cover of Hymnbook

OFFERING St. Johns Choir “O Savior of Our Fallen Race”
LSB 403

OFFERTORY

LSB 176

**What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the
name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O
Jerusalem.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray, Celebrating that the Lord is revealed in our midst, we pray for an increase of the Word that we rejoice in sins forgiven in Christ alone. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

As the Magi brought their gifts to the place where the child Jesus was, direct us, O Lord, to love the place where Your presence dwells and to cherish the fellowship of faith and love that we enjoy as God's holy people. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Remembering the journey of the Magi as they were led by the star, grant that we be led throughout our lives in ways that lead us to Your presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

On this day of reflection and of celebration, we also make our petitions for the sick, the shut-in, and all who at this time are in need of our intercession, [*especially . . .*], that their prayers soon be answered and that they be supported by God's people with care in the name of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

As we bring forth our gifts, grant that we also offer the gift of ourselves and our lives, that we be directed by the Holy Spirit to do the work of God. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

See back cover of Hymnbook

BENEDICTION

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.

Amen.

**The star proclaims the King is here;
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For He who offers heav'nly birth
Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.**

**The eastern sages saw from far
And followed on His guiding star;
And, led by light, to light they trod
And by their gifts confessed their God.**

**Within the Jordan's sacred flood
The heav'nly Lamb in meekness stood
That He, of whom no sin was known,
Might cleanse His people from their own.**

**And oh, what miracle divine,
When water reddened into wine!
He spoke the word, and forth it flowed
In streams that nature ne'er bestowed.**

**For this Thy glad epiphany
All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit evermore.**

Preacher	Pastor Michael Tanney
Liturgist	Pastor Michael Tanney
Elders	Al Bohannon, Ban Le, Bhim Mangar
Organist	Suzanne Manelli
Ushers	Don Osiek, Ruth Evers, Joan Potvin, Ben Thomas
Children's Message	Pastor Michael Tanney
Acolytes	Thao-Vy Truong, Tra-Mi Truong
Greeter	Ruth Trauth
Worship Screen	Thao-Vy Truong, Tra-Mi Truong

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Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week
January 5-January 12

Sunday	8:00am Vietnamese Worship 9:00am Worship 10:30am Bible Study 10:30am Nepalese Worship
Monday	3:30pm Compass 5:30pm Scouts 7:00pm Elders
Tuesday	3:30pm Compass Chapel
Wednesday	3:30pm Compass 6:30pm ESL 6:30pm Pre-Seminary Training 6:30pm Choir
Thursday	2:00pm Ridgewood Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Confirmation
Friday	8:00am Bible Study
Saturday	8:30am Food Pantry
Next Sunday	8:00am Vietnamese Worship 9:00am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Study 10:30am Nepalese Worship