

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD OBSERVED



**Soaked and Bloody:
Our Lord and You
January 12, 2025**

Everyone is asked to silence or put their **cell phones** on vibrate.

AS WE GATHER

Have you ever received a surprise present, one that was out of your own price range to get? That, in a nutshell, describes Epiphany. The Wise Men came to give presents, and instead received one their wealth could not have bought. We are included in this. We are baptized for the forgiveness of sins by His blood on the cross that covers our sins, once for all. That water and blood give us the greatest—and most expensive—gift in the world. Here we see Jesus revealed, manifested, in a star, in the coming of the Magi and the gifts they bring.

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.

Text and tune: © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000196

INVOCATION

- Pastor: In the name of the Father,
People: who called Abram and promised him and his heirs a land flowing with milk and honey;
- Pastor: and of Jesus, His Son,
People: who was offered once for all as a sacrifice for our sins;
- Pastor: and of the Holy Spirit,
People: who calls people through Word and Sacrament to believe in Jesus and gives them a place to live beyond all imagination. Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Colossians 1:15–20

- Pastor: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
People: For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him.
- Pastor: And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

People: And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.

Pastor: For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

People: and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.**

Pastor: Do you recognize the truth—that you have not loved God with your whole heart nor loved your neighbor as yourself?

People: **I confess that I have failed to keep the two great commandments by what I have done and what we have failed to do. Heavenly Father, I don't deserve Your forgiveness, but ask for it because of the greatest love shown at the cross.**

Pastor: Hear the great news: God has used two common earthly elements—water and blood—to forgive your sins and make you His very own. Through the cross of Christ and the blood of Jesus shed there, and because you have been baptized, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Thank You, Lord, for revealing Your mercy and grace to me on this great day of Epiphany.**

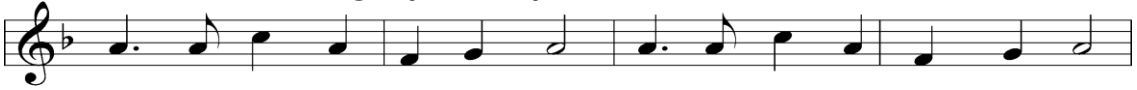
Pastor: Lord Jesus, thank You for shedding Your blood and giving us the waters of Holy Baptism,

People: **by which You sacrificed Your life for ours and made us a part of Your family forever. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

LSB 394



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest-ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
Christ will then like light - ning shine, All will see His glo - rious sign;
Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
All will then the trum - pet hear, All will see the Judge ap - pear;
That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
Thou by all wilt be con - fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.
And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, on this day of Epiphany, we ask that You would shine forth upon our hearts, that we may be renewed by Your grace; this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit is one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Ephesians 3:1–12

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of 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,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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

2 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."

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.” 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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
 People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB 383



1 A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:
 2 The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,
 3 While thus they sing your Mon-arch, Those bright angelic bands,
 4 Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored,
 5 All idols then shall perish And Satan's lying cease,



The virgin bears the infant With virgin honor pure!
 And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky.
 Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands.
 The infant born in Bethl'em, The Savior and the Lord.
 And Christ shall raise His scepter, De-cree-ing end-less peace.

Refrain



Pro-claim the Savior's birth: "To God on high be



glory And peace to all the earth!"

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, You revealed Your Son to Gentiles on the day of Epiphany.

People: **Use us, we pray, to bring light and peace where there is none right now.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, You were willing to shed Your blood on the cross for our forgiveness and have given us the hope of salvation.

People: **Thank You for shedding Your blood and giving us the waters of Holy Baptism to make us Your own sons and daughters through faith in You.**

Pastor: As You cared for the sick and still do, we remember before Your throne those among us who are sick and in need of Your care.

People: **As You did in Your earthly ministry, continue to love, care, touch, and heal them according to Your will.**

Pastor: For Your kingdom, invisible to human eyes yet so very real, we lift up our voices in prayer.

People: We pray that You would use us by the working of Your Holy Spirit to open hearts and eyes to Your love and see Your kingdom.

Pastor: Merciful Father in heaven, You hold all authority and power in Your hands. Use those whom You have installed as rulers over us for our good and not our harm.

People: Use them to bring about blessing to those who are bringing justice and peace to our lands and to stop evildoers in their tracks.

Pastor: We also remember those who are persecuted for Your name.

People: For those who have to endure torture and persecution, give them the hope of their eternal reward.

Pastor: Almighty God, You are the fountain of all wisdom. You know what we need before we ever ask, even when we do not know what to ask or even how to ask.

People: We are but mortal men and women, but You are immortal, invisible, and wise. Look upon us with compassion, care for us, and meet our needs.

Pastor: These things we ask, almighty God, in Your name, trusting that in Your mercy and according to Your will, You will not only hear our prayers but answer them.

People: Amen.

OFFERING / OFFERTORY

LORD'S PRAYER

People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. 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.**

HYMN

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

LSB386



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text and tune: Public domain

For with you is the fountain of life;



in your light we see light. Psalm 36:9

Fountain of Life Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod

Phone: (623) 933-8246

Website: www.suncitylutheran.org

Pastor Emeritus: Thomas R. Daly

Cell: (480) 522-0777

Email: pastor@suncitylutheran.org

Office Email: execsecretary@suncitylutheran.org

Prayer Requests: Mary Ann Lowell 623-670-6870

Service Times

Sunday

Chancel Choir	8:30 am
Sunday Worship	10:00 am
Bible Study	11:15 am

Tuesday

Mid-week Bible Study	10:00 am
3 rd Tuesday Men's Breakfast/Royal Cafe	8:30 am

Wednesday

Quilters	9:00 am
----------	---------

Thursday

1 st & 3 rd week <i>Permission to Grieve Group</i>	10:00 am
1 st Thursday <i>Ladies Lunch Bunch</i>	11:30 am

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday (9am-2pm)

****Closed Friday****

Fountain of Life Lutheran Church