



Epiphany Sunday
January 9, 2022



God's Light to the World

Bethel Lutheran exists to serve all people with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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Hymn**90****The People that in Darkness Sat**

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

2 To us a child of hope is born,
To us a son is giv'n,
And on his shoulders ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.

5 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us yours alone,
For you are with the Father and
The Spirit ever one, The Spirit ever one.

Invocation

P: Father most holy, merciful, and tender;
Jesus, our Savior, with the Father reigning;
Spirit of comfort, Advocate, Defender,
Light never waning;

C: **Maker of all things, all your creatures praise you;
All for your worship were and are created.
Hear us, Almighty, hear us as we give you
Our adoration. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

P: **Let us pray...** Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. For this reason, we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL: **O most merciful God, who has given your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will and true obedience to your Word, so that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given his only Son to die for us and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To those that believe on his name he gives power to become the children of God and has promised them his Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

ALL: **Lord, grant this to us all. Amen.**

Song of Praise

CW: 82

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,
Manifested by the star To the Magi from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem, In your birth at Bethlehem.
Anthems be to you addressed, God in man made manifest.

5 Grant us grace to see you, Lord, Mirrored in your holy Word.
May our lives and all we do Imitate and honor you
That we all like you may be At your great epiphany
And may praise you, ever blest, God in man made manifest.

Prayer of the Day

P: Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (spoken) **Amen.**

First Lesson

Isaiah 60: 1-6

“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

2 See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.

3 Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 “Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.

5 Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.

6 Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.

And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 72

Refrain: Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.

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: Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.

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.
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: Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.

Second Lesson Ephesians 5: 1-20

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no one deceive you

with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7 Therefore do not be partners with them.

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord. 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. 14 This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. 18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

C: (sung) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
These words are written that we may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Lesson Matthew 2: 1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn

94

O Jesus, King of Glory

1 O Jesus, King of glory, Both David's Lord and son!
Your rule endures forever; In heaven is your throne.
Help that in earth's dominions, From pole to farthest pole,
Your reign may spread salvation To each benighted soul.

2 The eastern Magi, coming Their gifts of love to bring,
Bear witness to your glory And worship you, their King.
To you the star is pointing And the prophetic Word;
So joyously we hail you: Our Savior and our Lord.

4 Oh, look on me with pity Though I am weak and poor;
Admit me to your kingdom To dwell there, blest and sure.
I pray, Lord, guide and keep me Safe from my bitter foes,
From sin and death and Satan; Free me from all my woes.

5 Then let your Word within me Shine as the fairest star;
Keep sin and all false doctrine Forever from me far.
Help me confess you truly And with all Christendom
Here hail you King and Savior And in the world to come.

Sermon Theme:

Pastor Cox

Leave The Light On

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Prayer to Help Us Share Christ's Love

The Blessing

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: (spoken) **Amen!**

Closing Hymn

83

As with Gladness Men of Old

1 As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore your followers be.

4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds your glory hide.