



The Epiphany of Our Lord
January 6, 2019

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Grant Park, IL**

Prayer Upon Entering Church: Father in heaven, I thank you for revealing your Son to me and all believers on the pages of sacred Scripture. Through him you have led me to see my forgiveness, peace for my heart, and the reason to live a life of joy and praise. As one who has seen the light, lead me to worship you with an undivided heart and guide me to put the lessons I learn today into my daily life. I pray not only for myself, but also for all who are gathered with me today. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn: Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun (CW 84)

**1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**2. To him shall endless prayer be made
And endless praises crown his head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.**

**3. People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Praise his great love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name.**

**4. Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
The pris'ner leaps, unloosed his chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blest.**

**5. Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Worship and honor to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen.**

Stand

Greeting and Dialogue for the Epiphany of our Lord

M: The glory of Christ is revealed. Let us worship him.

C: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

M: The almighty God did not forsake the world when it abandoned him. From ancient times he made the promise of his Christ shine before his people.

C: We have seen his glory.

M: The patriarchs and prophets longed to see the promise shine in their lives. The Spirit enlightened them to have full assurance of his coming.

C: We have seen his glory.

M: The heavenly host celebrated his birth; apostles and martyrs and the faithful throughout the ages have repeated the angel's song.

C: We have seen his glory.

M: Now with the Church on earth and in heaven we praise the promised Christ who came to live with his people. Our eyes have seen his salvation.

C: We have seen his glory.

M: The Son of God became poor so that we might become rich. He humbled himself and took on the form of a slave so that he might raise us to share his glory.

C: We have seen his glory.

M: We were in darkness, but he has given us light; we were without hope, but we have received from his fullness grace upon grace.

C: We have seen his glory.

M: Through the power of his Spirit he has made us people who serve him in holiness; he has given us honest hearts to hear his Word and empowered us to shine with his light in our world.

C: We have seen his glory.

M: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

C: We have seen his glory!

Confession of Sins

M: Dear friends: Because of what our Savior did for us, God now invites us to come into his presence and worship him without fear. In doing so, he also invites us to confess our sins to him, humbling our hearts and acknowledging our absolute need for his forgiveness. Therefore, we approach God in humility and confess our sins to him, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: 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: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. 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.

M: In the peace and joy of this forgiveness, let us praise the Lord, our Savior!

**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.**

**2. Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme,
And at Cana, Wedding Guest,
In your Godhead manifest;
Manifest in pow'r divine,
Changing water into wine.
Anthems be to you addressed,
God in man made manifest.**

Prayer of the Day

M: 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: Amen.

Be Seated

First Lesson and meditation: Isaiah 60:1-5

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you. Look, the darkness covers the earth, and deep darkness covers the peoples, but the LORD will dawn upon you, and his glory will be seen over you. Nations will walk to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Look up. Look all around and see! All of them are gathered. They come to you. Your sons will come from far away, and your daughters will be carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant. Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy. For the great riches of the sea will be delivered to you. The wealth of the nations will come to you. Caravans of camels will cover your land, young camels from Midian and Ephah. All of them from Sheba will come. They will carry gold and incense, and they will announce the good news of the LORD's praises.

Psalm: Psalm 72 (CW page 93)

Second Lesson and meditation: Ephesians 3:2-12

Surely you have heard of the administration of God's grace given to me for you, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly). When you read this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. This mystery was not made known to people in past generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and people who also share in the promise through the gospel.

I became a servant of this gospel, in keeping with the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. To me—even though I am the very least of all the saints—was given this grace: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God in the heavenly places might now be made known to the rulers and authorities. This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him. Alleluia. (Matthew 2:2b)

**C: Alleluia! Let praises ring!
Unto our triune God we sing;
Bless be his name forever!
With angel hosts let us adore
And sing his praises more and more
For all his grace and favor.
Singing, Ringing; Holy, holy,
God is holy. Spread the story
Of our God the Lord of glory! (CW 241 vs. 4)**

Confession of Faith

The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed and Martin Luther's explanation.

C: 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.

M: What does this mean?

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true!

Hymn: As with Gladness Men of Old (CW 83)

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.

2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior to your lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
You whom heav'n and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek your mercy seat.

3. As they offered gifts most rare
At your cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heav'nly King.

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.

5. In the heav'nly country bright
Need they no created light;
You its light, its joy, its crown,
You its sun which goes not down.
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King!

Gospel Lesson and meditation: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. He gathered together all the people's chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel." Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him."

After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him

gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

Stand

Hymn: Songs of Thankfulness and Praise (CW 82 vs. 4,5)

**4. Sun and moon shall darkened be;
Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee.
Christ will then like lightning shine;
All will see his glorious sign.
All will then the trumpet hear;
All will see the judge appear.
You by all will be confessed,
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.**

Be Seated

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

M: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

M: Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: Amen.

The Sacrament

Preface

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: 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, who came as the Light of the world so that the world may have light and life through him. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power. By his incarnation, he became one with us. By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will. By his innocent death, he overcame hell. By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven. Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Words of Institution

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 be with you always.

C: Amen.

The People that in Darkness Sat

**3. 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.**

Be Seated

Distribution

(The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith.)

Communion Hymn: How Lovely Shines the Morning Star (CW 79)

Communion Hymn: Arise and Shine in Splendor (CW 81)

Stand

The People that in Darkness Sat

4. 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.

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.

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

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.

Closing Hymn: Let All Things Now Living (CW 260)

1. Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving
To God the Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, Protected and stayed us,
Who still guides on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o're us; His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Till shadows have vanished And darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.

2. His law he enforces; The stars in their courses
And sun in its orbit obediently shine.
The hills and the mountains, The rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.
We, too, should be voicing Our love and rejoicing.
With glad adoration a song let us raise
Till all things now living Unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

Announcements

Welcome in Jesus' name to any and all guests and visitors here with us today. It is a joy to be able to worship with you. Help us to remember your visit by signing our guest book. Ask an usher if you need help finding the book. Please come again!

Weekly Preview next Sunday is the first Sunday after Epiphany. Our readings are from 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Titus 3:4-7 and Luke 3:15-17, 21, 22. Our sermon will be based on 1 Samuel 16:1-13 with the theme, "The Lord's Anointed."

Hospitalized/Homebound members/members to keep in your prayers: Rebecca Cryan, Carol Luft, Marcia Graf (home), Becky Herz, Bob Jacobs, Colleen Johnson, Gloria Martens, Rev. John Zickuhr, Patty Rosenbrock (Heritage Village) and Janet Lawrence.

Bible class goodies have a sheet out. Please continue signing up.

150th anniversary committee will be looking to have a planning meeting sometime during the week of January 13. Please let pastor know which night (Monday, Tuesday or Thursday) works for you.

New Bible Study opportunities we will be starting a new Bible study on Thursday mornings at church. Our opening study will be on Bible Stories They Didn't Teach You in Sunday School. The time for this class is 9am. Pastor will also be doing the same Bible study at Trinity in Crete on Wednesday evenings at 7pm until the Lenten season. Please feel free to come to either class!

2019 annual meeting will be held on January 13 after church. We are accepting nominations for the positions of treasurer, elder, finance committee chairman, finance committee members (two) and head usher. Please speak to Tom Gunderson or Pastor Micheel if you have a nomination.

Council will meet this Tuesday. The time is 7pm.

December 2018 Financial Report: Current \$7,996.00, Mission \$1,205.00 Christmas \$1,077.00, WLCFS \$50.00, ILHS \$50.00, Total: \$10,378.00

Communion Service In the Lord's Supper, our Savior offers unworthy sinners a personal pledge of forgiveness of sins through his body and blood. As he draws repentant sinners to himself, he also draws them into a special bond of fellowship with one another. In the WELS, we demonstrate this special fellowship bond in what is called "close communion." Thus, if you have never communed with us before, we ask that you first speak with our pastor. He will share with you the steps toward establishing communion fellowship. Thank you for respecting our practice.

This week at St. Paul

Today: Worship with communion 9am
Sunday School after church
Bible Study after church

Tuesday: Council 7pm

Wednesday: Bible Study at Trinity 7pm

Thursday: Bible Study 9am

Sunday: Worship 9am
Annual Meeting after church

Organist: Thank you to Michelle Micheel

Last Week's Attendance: Worship 43

St. Paul Evangelical (Gospel Centered) Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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