



Epiphany

January 5, 2025

Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church

Crossville, TN

TODAY'S WORSHIP

“Epiphany” is a Greek word that means “appearance.” As the wise men, or, “Magi,” from the east came to worship Jesus in Bethlehem, we witness Jesus appear as the Savior of the world and not just of a particular race. In some ways Epiphany could be seen as a greater celebration than Christmas. For today, we celebrate that Jesus is the Light of the World, bringing light to *our* souls.

SILENT PRAYER

Lord, use your Word to lead us to you that we may worship you today. Amen.

SUGGESTED READING BEFORE WORSHIP

Ephesians 3:2-12. Biblegateway.com is an excellent, easy tool for your phone.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED MEMBERS

Get to know ***Vance & Vicki Brandt*** and ***Bryan & Karyn Vaughn*** on the announcement monitor in our lobby.

HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATED TODAY

The meal Jesus gave us that we call “Holy Communion” is unique. If you don’t understand what it is or have never had it thoroughly explained to you, it would be wise to refrain from receiving it until you know what it all involves. Feel free to talk to Pastor Qualmann for more details.

TODAY'S SONGS

Today we’ll sing from *Christian Worship* (blue songbook): 372, 347, 940

OUR GUESTS

- ***Thank you*** for choosing us. Please make yourself at home
- ***Coffee, tea, & water*** are available in our lobby. Please, help yourself.
- The materials on our ***guest welcome table*** in the lobby are for you
- ***Restrooms*** are easily accessible – in our lobby and fellowship hall

Visit our Facebook page or www.ascntn.org

John Qualmann, pastor

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God's People Gather

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

ALL SING

“As With Gladness Men of Old”

Christian Worship 372

**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 be led by thee.**

**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.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at your cradle, rude and bare,
so may with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heav'nly King.**

M Because we are sinful creatures, we cannot stand in the glory of God's light and expect to live. Therefore, let us humbly and honestly confess our sins before our holy and glorious God, asking for his mercy:

C **Holy and merciful Father, we confess to you that because we are sinful by nature, we have not always hailed your light with joy. We haven't always sped to your lowly bed with joyful steps. We haven't always bent our knee before you. We haven't always offered you our costliest treasures, bringing them to you with holy joy.**

For these and all our sins, we deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But we are truly sorry. By the light of your Word, you have shown us our Savior, who took our sins away, with his perfect life and innocent death in our place. Trusting in him, we pray: “Have mercy on us.”

M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us. He gave his Son Jesus to be the Savior of all. Through Jesus, the darkness of your sin has been removed. Therefore, as a called 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.

C Amen.

ALL SING

**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.**

**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!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M We pray together:

C 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. Amen.

God's Word

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

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.
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.
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.”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Acts 13:46-49

Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

“I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.

RESPONSIVE SONG

“Savior, More Than Life”

Music by Sarah Lambrecht



- 1) Sav - ior more than life to me, I am cling - ing close to Thee;
- 2) Thru this chang - ing world be - low, Lead me gent - ly as I go;
- 3) Let me love Thee more and more Till this fleet - ing life is o'er;



Let Thy pre - cious blood, app - lied, Keep me ev - er near Thy side.
Trust - ing Thee, I can - not stray, I can nev - er lose my way.
Till my soul is lost in love In a bright - er world a - bove.



Ev - 'ry day and ev - 'ry hour, Let me know Thy cleans - ing pow'r;



May Thy ten - der love to me Bind me clos - er, Lord, to Thee.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 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.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 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. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

“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.”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 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.”

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. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

HYMN OF THE DAY**“Angels from the Realms of Glory”**

Christian Worship 347

MESSAGE “The Wise Woman Visits the Wise Man” 1 Kings 10:1-10a

When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the LORD, she came to test Solomon with hard questions. Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.

She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD’s eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness.”

And she gave the king 120 talents of gold, large quantities of spices, and precious stones.

NOTES FOR PERSONAL MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

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Our Response to God's Word

CONFESSION OF FAITH

"We All Believe in One True God"

Christian Worship 940

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

"Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts." - Matthew 2:11

*Guests, please do not feel obligated to give a gift, but we would be honored if you would fill out your **Connect Card**. Simply place it in the offering plate.*

*To **give a gift electronically**, simply **use the QR code** on your phone and it will take you to our secure online giving platform.*



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR EPIPHANY

- 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** **Use 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 so 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.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Holy Communion

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.

Because God tells us in his Word that Holy Communion is a sign of believers' unity (1 Corinthians 10:17), we practice "Close Communion" as the Christian church has always done.

We respectfully ask that only those who have a common confession of faith with us come forward.

Do you have questions about Holy Communion? See p.2

COMMUNION MEDITATION

What do you think was the reaction of the Magi's family and friends when they heard about the long journey they were taking? Have you ever had family or friends surprised at your dedication to your Savior?

How much of the salvation story details do you think the Wise Men understood? How does that compare to your knowledge of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection?

No doubt the Magi told their family members first about Jesus, and we trust they believed in Jesus also. How long do you think that chain of generation-to-generation believers lasted until it was broken?

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

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

C **I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

BLESSING

from Numbers 6

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Please join us for coffee & treats!

Immediately after dismissal, everyone is welcome to stay for coffee and treats in our Fellowship Hall.

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“Starting Point” - begins January 11, 10:00 a.m.
Got questions? Get answers.

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GriefShare - begins January 14, 1:00 p.m.
Do you know someone grieving? Are you grieving?
Find friendship, support, comfort.

There is no cost to attend.

See Pastor Qualmann or Rolf Weeks for more details.