



Grace Lutheran Church
Hastings, Michigan

Epiphany

January 3, 2021

The season of Epiphany begins January 6th (the 12th day after Christmas) and marks the revelation of the baby Jesus as the Son of God. The Epiphany season, therefore, celebrates the spread of the Good News from its source in the Jewish community to all nations on earth. The color is green, for growth, as Scripture texts explore the mission of the church in the world.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! Jesus invites us to use the gifts that we have been given to grow into a stronger servant. We should not just limp along with maintenance work. We should be diligent in sharing grace. We look forward to the day that we are celebrate our eternal salvation and worship God in the splendor in the heavenly realm with the gift of the Messiah among us now and forever.

Announcements

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Prelude

Ave Verum

by Joseph Hayden
Chris Bush, piano

Greeting

- ☐ The light of God given, experienced and shared be with you all.
- ☒ **And also with you.**



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray....O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star.

C Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

℣ A reading from *Isaiah*

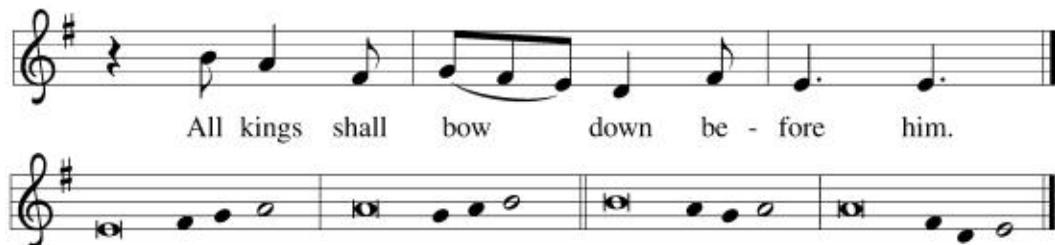
Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought 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 proclaim the praise of the LORD.

℣ The Word of the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

☒ = Refrain



Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
²that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;

**³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.**

**⁴Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. ☒**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

⁶Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.

**⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.**

**¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts. ☒**

¹¹May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.

¹²For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.

**¹³He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.**

**¹⁴From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight. ☒**

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

📖 A reading from **Ephesians**:

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
 2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
 3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
 in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
 falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
 In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
 Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
 of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
 heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
 dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
 mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
 dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
 you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.

Gospel Reading

John 1:1-14

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

☐ The Holy Gospel, according to **John**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

Message

Silence for reflection



1 The first Noel the angel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, o'er . . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Apostles Creed

Ⓐ We confess our faith as one body in Christ Jesus:

☒ **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers

*After each petition, the Assisting Minister will end **Radiant God**. The people will speak, **Let your light shine upon us**.... as the prayer response.*

Ⓐ Called to be light to the nations, let us pray for God's justice, peace, and healing for all creation.

A brief silence

Ⓐ Glorious God, fill your church with joy. Let your faithful people live as beacons of your redemption. Give wisdom and courage to your church that it may speak with boldness and confidence, even when words of mercy are met with scorn. Show strength and wisdom to our church leaders, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Immanuel Lutheran Church, Allegan; Middleville United Methodist, Middleville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken*. Radiant God,

☒ **Let your light shine upon us.**

A Show us your faithfulness in the rising and setting of the sun. Place wonder into the hearts of those who search the skies and explore the heavens. Curb waste and pollution, that all might have clean air to breathe. Radiant God,

C **Let your light shine upon us.**

A Bring all nations and rulers to the splendor of your dawn. Raise up advocates who champion the cause of exploited and vulnerable people. Inspire leaders to be generous with abundance, that all people might live in stability and freedom. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including: *Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Austin and Aaron Endsley, Alexis and Carlos Garcia (Burdicks), Brandon and Stevi Kay Miller (McManaway), Brady and Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas), Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls), and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads).* Radiant God,

C **Let your light shine upon us.**

A Come quickly with your healing power to all who seek love, support, and restoration. Dispel fears and shadows. Restore broken relationships and mend broken hearts. Bring relief to those who are sick or struggling, including *Vickey Argo, Walter Brown, Gary Burdick, Penny Burdick, Joyce Domire, Mike Fruth, Karl Golnek, Lisa Golnek, Don Granzow, Jerry Hansen, Larry Hansen, Joe Longcor, Carol Morgan Family, Ron Neil, Vicky Saucier, Mike Shoemaker, Tim Sullivan, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Traci Wales, Kristi Winick, and Eve Wright.* Radiant God,

C **Let your light shine upon us.**

A Send traveling mercies upon all who journey home by other roads. Guard refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers. Protect families fleeing conflict in their homelands or abuse in their homes. Tend to those who have no place to lay their heads. *(You may share your prayers at this time)*

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A According to the boundless riches of Christ, you draw all your saints, from the least to the greatest, to your heavenly places. As you created all things, make all things new again in the splendor of your glory. Radiant God,

C **Let your light shine upon us.**

P Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Offering of Gifts and Music

I Wonder as I Wander



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth.

G **Nourish us with your Word, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

Amen.

Sharing the Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

G **And also with you.** (*We share the peace of the risen Lord with one another.*)

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

G **Our Father in heaven, holy 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Blessing

P The God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of the holy Trinity, † one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.

G **Amen.**



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, 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.

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Be light for the world.

G Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

by J.S. Bach, arr V. Gumma

Cindy Olson, piano; Kim Domke & Anita Shaw, handbells

Another Word for Treasure Chest

Those magi traveled a long way, following a star only they understood. They knew that it was a divine epiphany leading them to the beginning of something new: the birth of a good king. They had saved their gold, frankincense, and myrrh for just such a “reigny” day when the reign of God’s peace-bringing ruler would come. These were gifts fit to honor a magnanimous leader, and with great joy they set out to honor Jesus.

We gather to give our praise and honor to Jesus whenever we come together as church to worship, to hear scripture, to sing, and to celebrate at the table of grace. What gifts do we have to offer to honor the good ruler named Jesus? Gold, frankincense, and myrrh are wonderful, but they do not seem to be the right way for us to pay homage.

Matthew tells us those magi opened their treasure chests. The Greek word in the New Testament for “treasure chest” is *thesaurus*. A thesaurus book is so named because it is a “treasure chest” of words. Sometimes you need just the right word to say what is important, or what is on your heart, or what needs a poetic flair. You might want to say that something is beautiful, but a thesaurus helps you say that it is exquisite or stunning.

As we come to worship the newborn king, who is also the crucified and risen Jesus present with us now, we open our own treasure chests, offering praise, thanks, and glory to God. Our songs of praise are our gold. Our prayers of gratitude are our frankincense. Our thanksgiving at the table is our myrrh. Like those traveling magi, we are overwhelmed with joy that we have been guided to this time and place to stop, pay homage, and see the good news right before our eyes.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
January 3, 2021

Stewardship Information

Views:161 Weekly Giving: \$2,285.00 Budget Amount: \$4,227.24

COMMUNION OF TWO KINDS arrives for those who desire to come to the fellowship hall. Thanks to a donation of grape juice (wine was not available) Grace will be able to enjoy communion with bread and “wine”. Thanks to Joe Longcor and Vickey Argo for the donation. *Private Communion is available by appointment.* Please contact the church office **269.945.9414** or Pastor Ken directly for a time and day.

Adult Forum will continue a study on the book of **Acts** today at 10:00 am. We will continue to meet in the Gathering Area for the study.

We need your plastic shopping bags! Grace is beginning a new ministry for the homeless. We are collecting shopping bags and a group is weaving them into mats. Please place your clean plastic shopping bags into a box marked shopping bags in the coat closet near the entrance and the office. Thanks for your ministry to those who can use these mats.

When you are in the building, we ask you to wear a mask. To help keep the larger community safe, we also ask that you maintain at least a 6-foot distance from those who are not part of your household. **Thank you for loving your neighbor.**

Grace Lutheran Church has suspended onsite worship. Please join us for **Sunday virtual worship** at www.grace-hastings.org. We hope that you are being blessed by our worship of God each week. The council will vote at a future date to reimplement onsite worship.

Assisting Minister – Ethan Scheck

Lector – Mark Anton

Cantor – Anna Scheck

Minister of Music – Cindy Olson

Musicians – Chris Bush, Kim Domke, Carla Neil, Cindy Olson, Anna Scheck, Ethan Scheck, Laura Scheck, Kristi Winick, Handbells, Chris Bush, Kim Domke, Anna Scheck & Anita Shaw

Pastor – Ken Scheck

DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, THE 2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES HAVE BEEN DELAYED. WE WILL NOTIFY YOU WHEN THEY ARE READY AND, IN YOUR MAILBOXES, HERE AT CHURCH.



The Wise still seek God!