

Epiphany of our Lord

January 7, 2024

The Sunday On Christmas Eve the angel told the shepherds, “I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people” (Luke 2:10). One wonders if those words struck those Jewish shepherds as odd. For centuries, God had given special attention to one nation—Israel. There were Jewish religious leaders who taught that only members of that special people would be saved. Not according to the Christmas angel! The birth of the Savior was good news for all people.

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning “reveal.” When the Savior was born, he was first revealed to Israelites: the shepherds, Simeon, Anna. But today, the Lord miraculously guides foreigners across countless miles, so the Savior could be revealed to them as well. How did the magi respond? “They were overjoyed” (Matthew 2:10). Epiphany is sometimes known as “The Gentiles’ Christmas.” We Gentiles (non-Jews) rejoice in the good news that this Jewish baby is not just the Savior of Jews. He is for all people—the Savior of the world.

Hymn

Angels from the Realms of Glory CW 80



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; Brigh - ter vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in



all the earth; Once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry;
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing—
beam a - far. Seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
Yon - der shines the in - fant light. Come and wor - ship,
You have seen the Sav - ior's star.
In his tem - ple shall ap - pear.



come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, abr., alt.

Tune: REGENT SQUARE (87 87 87) Henry T. Smart, 1813–79.

Stand



**MORRISON
ZION
LUTHERAN**
Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to
Glorify God
as we

Gather

around the Gospel
to help people

Grow

in the **Gospel**
and

Go

with the **Gospel**

Welcome! We thank
God that you have
joined us at worship
today.

Restrooms are
located in the
basement. Hearing
loop headphones and
Large Print Hymnals
are available from an
usher.

If your children
need to leave worship,
please take them to
the basement. A TV
broadcasts the service
in the basement.

Today we gather
together in the
presence of God. He is
present among us in a
special way through
his Word and
Sacrament. We
acknowledge our sin
and rejoice in the
good news of
forgiveness through
the life and death of
Christ. This is the
focus of our worship.

L O Lord, o - pen my lips.

C And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.

L Hasten to save me, O God.

C O Lord, come quickly to help me.

L Give glory to God, our light and our life.

C Come, oh, come, let us wor - ship.

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Come, Oh, Come Let Us Sing To The Lord

Pastor will sing the verses. The congregation will sing the refrain.

Refrain

1
Come, oh, come, let us sing to the Lord,

2
let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;

3
come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,

Repeat for use with canon
come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.

Verses

1. You are a great and a won - drous God,
 2. Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,
 cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.
 kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.
 You made the hills and the moun - tains high,
 You are the God whom we call our own,
to Refrain
 you made the seas and the dry land.
 we are the flock that you shep - herd.

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Be Seated

First Lesson

Numbers 24:15-17a

God compels the heathen magician Balaam to prophecy that out of the nation of Israel would come one who would shine like a star for all peoples to see.

¹⁵ Then he spoke his message:

“The prophecy of Balaam son of Beor,
 the prophecy of one whose eye sees clearly,

¹⁶ the prophecy of one who hears the words of God,

who has knowledge from the Most High,

who sees a vision from the Almighty,

who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened:

¹⁷ “I see him, but not now;

I behold him, but not near.

A star will come out of Jacob;

a scepter will rise out of Israel. (NIV)

Refrain

The light of Christ shines up - on us.
Praise his glo - ri - ous name.

Psalm Tone

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

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.

May his name endure forever;
may it continue as long as the sun.
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

Second Lesson

Romans 11:13-15,28-32

Paul writes about his passion for sharing the good news with all people.

¹³ I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry ¹⁴ in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ¹⁶ If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.

²⁸ As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, ²⁹ for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. ³² For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all. (NIV)

Seasonal Response

M: Alleluia. 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. Alleluia. (Matthew 2:2)

Hymn of the Day

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star CW 79



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see and
 2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won, True Son of God and
 3 O might - y Fa - ther, in your Son You loved me ere you
 4 Oh, joy to know that you, my Friend, Are Lord, be - gin - ning
 5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, Let all glad sounds of



hail a - far The light in Ju - dah shin - ing.
 Mar - y's Son, The high - born King of a - ges!
 had be - gun This an - cient world's foun - da - tion.
 with - out end, The first and last, e - ter - nal!
 mu - sic ring In God's high prais - es blend - ed.



O Da - vid's Son of Ja - cob's race, My Bride - groom
 In your blest bod - y let me be, E'en as the
 Your Son has made a friend of me, And when in
 And you at length— O glo - rious grace— Will take me
 Christ will be with me all the way, To - day, to -



and my King of grace, For you my heart is pin - ing.
 branch is in the tree, Your life my life sup - ply - ing.
 spir - it him I see, I joy in trib - u - la - tion.
 to that ho - ly place, The home of joys su - per - nal.
 mor - row, ev - 'ry day Till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.



Low - ly, Ho - ly, Great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
 Sigh - ing, Cry - ing For the sa - vor Of your fa - vor
 What bliss Is this! He is liv - ing, To me giv - ing
 A - men, A - men! Come and meet me, Quick - ly greet me!
 Sing out, Ring out Tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious



Prince of gra - ces, Fill - ing all the heav'n - ly pla - ces.
 Rest - ing nev - er Till I rest in you for - ev - er.
 Life for - ev - er; Noth - ing me from him can sev - er.
 With deep yearn - ing, Lord, I look for your re - turn - ing.
 Chos - en na - tion; Praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

TEXT: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, abr., adapt.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.
 TUNE: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET (887 887 22 44 48) Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.

Sermon

Matthew 2:1-12

Magi from the east are miraculously led to their Savior, and they worship him.

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.”^[Micah 5:2,4]

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. (NIV)

Be Seated

You Are God; We Praise You *Te Deum*

Pastor will sing the verses. The congregation will sing the refrain.

Refrain



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you.



To you, O Fa-ther ho - ly, all cre - a-tion of - fers praise.

Verses



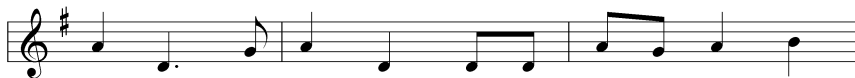
1. With the an - gels in heav - en,
2. Cre - a - tor of all things, **We praise you, we**
3. O Christ, King of glo - ry,



praise you! With the cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
O Je - sus Christ, the Son of God, **We**
You be - came a man to set us free;



praise you, we praise you! With a - pos - tles and proph - ets,
O Spir - it, most ho - ly, **We**
You have ris - en to free us;

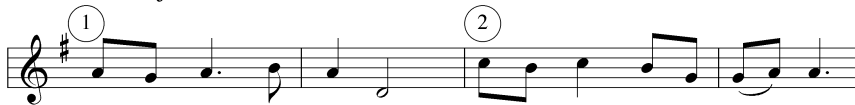


praise you, we praise you! With the mar - tyrs and your
To the Trin - i - ty most
And with all your saints in



ho - ly Church, *to Refrain*
bless - ed, **We sing in end - less praise!** *to Refrain*
glo - ry, *to Final Refrain*

Final Refrain



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you.



To you, O Fa - ther ho - ly, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise,



all cre - a - tion of - fers praise, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise.

Be Seated

Offering

Stand

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four lines of music with lyrics underneath. The first line begins with a 'L' in a box. The second line continues the melody. The third line begins with a 'C' in a box. The fourth line concludes the piece with a double bar line.

L In the morn - ing, O Lord, I call to you;
be mer - ci - ful to me and hear my prayer.
C Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Prayer for Grace

M: Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



L Let us praise the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Blessing



L The Lord bless and keep you.



C A - men.



L The Lord's face ev - er shine up - on you.



C A - men.



L The Lord grant you peace for all your days.



C A - men.

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Be Seated

Closing Hymn

As with Gladness Men of Old CW 83



1 As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to your
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At your cra - dle,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright Need they no cre -



star be - hold, As with joy they hailed its light,
low - ly bed, There to bend the knee be - fore
rude and bare, So may we with ho - ly joy,
nar - row way; And, when earth - ly things are past,
a - ted light; You its light, its joy, its crown,



Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, So, most gra - cious
You whom heav'n and earth a - dore, So may we with
Pure and free from sin's al - loy, All our cost - liest
Bring our ran - somed souls at last Where they need no
You its sun which goes not down. There for - ev - er



Lord, may we Ev - er - more your fol - lowers be.
will - ing feet Ev - er seek your mer - cy seat.
treas - ures bring, Christ, to you, our heav'n - ly King.
star to guide, Where no clouds your glo - ry hide.
may we sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt.

Tune: DIX (77 77 77) Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872, alt.

Questions/Comments about Zion? Contact:

Pastor James Enderle	mobile: 949-1038; email: james.enderle@mzls.org
President: Randy Loppnow	864-7584; randyloppnow@yahoo.com
School Board: Kurt Heling	(920) 378-4716; KHQH@new.rr.com
Principal: Jacob Geidel	(262) 353-2859; jacob.geidel@mzls.org

School Faculty: Hillary Geidel, Brenda Kuchenbecker, Michaela Hagenow, Katie Muchka, Jacob Geidel

Website: www.mzluth.org **Synod :** www.wels.net

Custodians: Ron and Cindy Beyer 864-7427 Abbey Ossmann 203-8627

Secretary: Nancy Pantzlaff 470-7334

Church and School Office: 864-2349 **Church and Parsonage:** 864-2348

Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service Appleton (WELS counseling)
Kathleen Jasman 731-9798

Living Hope Counseling Ministries De Pere (WELS counseling)
Dr. John Johnson, Director, 338-8699

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2. Join the YouVersion reading plan. This app will remind you what to read each day. It also lets you listen to the sections of scripture. There is a space for you to discuss what you read.
3. Sign up to receive daily text messages of what to read, including links to listen or read to the section of scripture.
4. Join the facebook group to discuss what you read. Share thoughts or questions with others. Find resources to learn more about what you read.

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or scan the QR Code to sign up

