

Worship in the Home

Epiphany of Our Lord

January 6, 2021 (Observed January 3)



In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

Epiphany offers an occasion for a blessing for a home. Following the prayers, an order for blessing is included that you may use in your own home.

Prelude

Announcements

Greeting

Glory to God in the highest, **and peace to God's people on earth.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

We Three Kings of Orient Are

WOV # 646



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
 owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray...Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

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 the glory of the LORD will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and rulers 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.

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Hymn of the Day

Brightest & Best of the Stars

ELW 303



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
 3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
 5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
 Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,
 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
 dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
 gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
 rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
 Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
 mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
 myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
 guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Reflection

Herod has a way to see the world: it is centered on himself, his power, his privileges, his city. He is willing to lie and kill to keep the world that way. And he consults religious authorities to try to augment this view; after all, he thinks religion has promised that Jerusalem will be the center to which all the nations shall come. We may often be like Herod, centered on ourselves, using religion only for our own purposes. But, if we will listen, this story reconstructs our world. The magi, representing those many nations, do come. But the light they see leads them finally not to the city, but to a village; not to a palace, but to a house; not to a king, but to a child; and their gifts foretell this child's death. The child, grown to be our crucified and risen Lord Jesus, the very mystery of God revealed, draws us and all things into God. There is the center: Jesus Christ, the presence and glory of God. That center is present wherever this word is heard: every house of the church in all the world, when we can gather; our very own homes, when the scripture is read and we pray for all the nations; the places of our needy neighbors, with whom Christ identifies. Let the star of these texts lead you. They will show you a whole new way to see the world, one centered on God, not on us. Arise, shine, for your light has come.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray that everyone will receive the blessings of Epiphany. For all the baptized, that even in hardship we grow deeper into your mystery, for believers in all the world's religions, that you welcome also their devotion, O God, greater than the church, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For the earth, that each season provide sustenance for plants and animals, O God, preserver of creation, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For scientists, that they probe what is both beyond and within what we see, O God, keeper of all knowledge, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For the leaders of nations, that they strive for peace and justice, for the Congress of the United States, that God grant it wisdom for its tasks, O God, guidance for government, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For all persons who have means, that they assist those who have little, for victims of injustice and prejudice, that their cries be heeded, for children, that they be protected from harm, O God, loving parent, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For all who are suffering from the coronavirus, that they come to health and wholeness, for those who have asked for our prayers, and for those we too often forget, O God, refuge of the downhearted, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

For each of us, that as if with a star you guide us throughout the journey of life...O God, light of holiness, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for all who have died in the faith, that at our end we join them in life eternal with you, O God, goal of our days, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

That you will receive these prayers, for the sake of the divine infant before whom we kneel, we pray, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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. 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.

Closing Hymn

As with Gladness Men of Old

ELW 302



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Benediction

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless us this day + through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

Blessing for a Home

In “normal” years, I offer to visit to bless houses using a rite similar to this one. Although I am unable to be with you in person this year, it is the tradition in some congregations for homeowners and households to bless the home themselves even under regular circumstances. (This is not a sacrament—no ordained minister required). If you want to bless your home as a sign of hope for the year ahead, this brief blessing is included for you. +Pastor Traci

We heard in Matthew’s gospel that when the magi saw the shining star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. In the home, Christ is met with family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome.

*For gatherings of families, each member may take turns in parts of the blessing. Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing may be inscribed with white chalk above the main door; for example, 20 + CMB + 21. The numbers change with each new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedicat*, which means “Christ, bless this house,” or the legendary names of the magi (*Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar*).*

May peace be to this house and to all who enter here. By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. (*Proverbs 24:3-4*)

As we prepare to ask God’s blessing on this household, let us listen to the words of scripture.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being, and the life was the light of all people. 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. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (*John 1:1-4, 14, 16*)

This inscription may be made with chalk above the entrance: 20 + C M B + 21

Write the appropriate character (left) while speaking the text (right). The magi of old, known as C Caspar, M Melchior, and B Balthasar, followed the star of God’s Son who came to dwell among us 20 two thousand 21 and twenty-one years ago. + Christ, bless this house, + and remain with us throughout the new year.

O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that you bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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Schedule

Meetings

Monday Worship & Music at 6 pm via Zoom

Thursday Staff Support at 6:30 pm via Zoom

Online Worship

Sunday: Service of the Word Livestream 9:30 AM

Online Study

Tuesday & Thursday Morning & Evening Prayer 9 AM & 9 PM

Wednesday Holden Evening Prayer 7 PM with Bible Study immediately after on Zoom

Serving God and Us Today

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Pianist – Dr. Adam Smith

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Bill Brown

Our Audio/Video Tech – Jacob Orczeck

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

First Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*Local Needs*”

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Shirley Acker, Carl & Dawn Alexy, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Clyde Claycomb, Betty Helsel, Doris Henderson, Gene Henry, Jere Hess, Gerald Hoover, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Nancy Uber, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns:, John Aljets, Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Helena Bassler, Diane Cappel, Todd Chipperfield, Dwight Ciccotelli, Greg Comer, Greg Dick, Brian Fleck, Jim Freyer, Amy Haffling, Erika Hallam, Dan Hershberger, Audrey Hite, Jeff Hoenstine, Marilyn Horton, Amber Itle, Jenny, Darren Kreutzer, Kristen Malloy, Rick McIntyre, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Nathan, Jim Negley, Aunt Mica, Deb Peters, Alana Rhodes, Paul Ruth, Barbara Smith, Drew Smith, Luther Steele, Michael Sutton, Joyce Taylor, Cindy Thomas, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Lyndsay Yon, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

Our college students: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jacob Orzeck.

Specialist Training in the Army: Nathan Smith

Prayers and Christian Sympathy are asked for Vivian Beach and family upon the death of her husband, Gerald, on Tuesday, December 22, 2020. Gerald was Shanda Imler's father and Leah Park's grandfather.