



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

737 BARRACKSVIEW ROAD

ST. LOUIS, MO 63125-5409

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021

7:00 PM

The Mystery of Christ

As We Gather

We consider the mysteries highlighted by the Readings for the Feast of the Epiphany. The Wise Men, or Magi, mysteriously show up in Jerusalem, and these strangers are looking for the King of the Jews. The King of the Jews is mysteriously a child, born to a humble family in Bethlehem, not in Jerusalem. And this King of the Jews mysteriously invites all people from all nations into His kingdom. These mysteries, hidden for the ages, are revealed in Jesus, the Light of the World.

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY

PREACHER: PASTOR JON C. FURGESON

LITURGIST: PASTOR ROBERT M. BROWN

ORGANIST: BURNELL HACKMAN

VOCALS: CHANCEL SCHOLA

ELDER: KEN WERKMEISTER

USHERS: MIKE RENNER, VERN BOLLMAN, TIM DRIER, GREG HARD
JOE KARASEK, MARK MULLEN, DOUG SCHLECHTE, DALE WATSON

THE ORDER OF VESPERS

P = Pastor

* = Stand

C = Congregation

Opening Voluntary

*Hymn of Invocation

LSB 397 As with Gladness Men of Old



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-at-ed light;

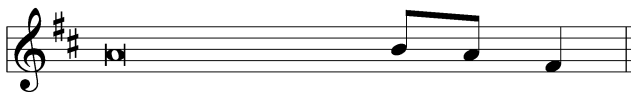


As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, 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.

L O Lord, open my lips,



C and my mouth will de-clare Your praise.

L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



Psalmody

Psalm 72

*Refrain: We, too, bow down, In one voice we raise,
Ever to sing unending praise.*

*All hail to God's anointed, Great David's greater Son!
All hail, in time appointed, Your reign on earth begun!
You come to break oppression, To set the captive free,
To take away transgression And rule from sea to sea. Refrain:*

*You shall come down like showers Upon the fruitful earth,
And love, joy, hope, like flowers, Spring in your path to birth:
Before you on the mountains Shall peace, the herald, go,
And righteousness in fountains From hill to valley flow. Refrain:*

*The rulers bow before you, And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore you, Your praise all people sing;
To you shall prayers unceasing And daily vows ascend;
Your rule is still increasing, Your rule is without end. Refrain:*

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned 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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

P O Lord, have mercy on us

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

P O Lord, have mercy on us

C Thanks be to God.

*Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶“‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P O Lord, have mercy on us

C Thanks be to God.

Office Hymn

LSB 395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
2 Come, heav'n - ly Bride-groom, Light di - vine, And deep with - in
6 What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love



own truth and light, A - glow with grace and mer - cy!
our hearts now shine; There light a flame un - dy - ing!
is first and last, The end and the be - gin - ning!



Of Ja - cob's race, King Da - vid's son, Our Lord and mas -
In Your one bod - y let us be As liv - ing branch -
He will one day, oh, glo - rious grace, Trans - port us to



ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on - ly!
es of a tree, Your life our lives sup - ply - ing.
that hap - py place Be - yond all tears and sin - ning!



Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, All vic - to - rious,
Now, though dai - ly Earth's deep sad - ness May per - plex us
A - men! A - men! Come, Lord Je - sus! Crown of glad - ness!



Rich in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
And dis - tress us, Yet with heav'n - ly joy You bless us.
We are yearn - ing For the day of Your re - turn - ing!

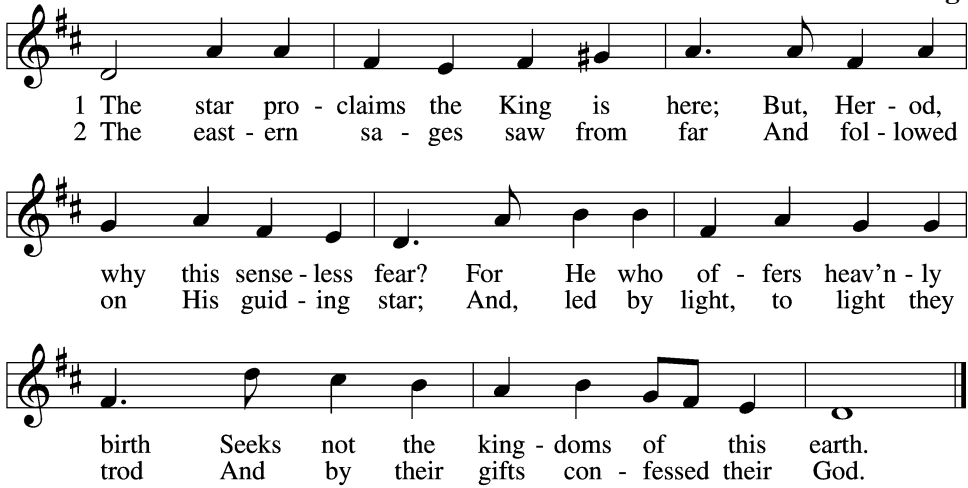
Sermon

"A Moment with Jesus"

(Matthew 2:1-12)

***Hymn**

LSB 399 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here



1 The star pro - claims the King is here; But, Her - od,
2 The east - ern sa - ges saw from far And fol - lowed

why this sense - less fear? For He who of - fers heav'n - ly
on His guid - ing star; And, led by light, to light they

birth Seeks not the king - doms of this earth.
trod And by their gifts con - fessed their God.

***Prayer of the Church**

- P** Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Light of the world,
C **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**
- P** Lord, there are many divisions in the church, divisions based on class, race, wealth, and age, divisions that need not exist. Bring unity where there is division, peace where there is discord, and reconciliation where there is conflict. Light of the world,
C **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**
- P** Lord, comfort all those who are suffering or grieving, [*especially . . .*]. Comfort them with Your presence and healing, hope and promise of the resurrection to eternal life. Light of the world,
C **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**
- P** Lord, strengthen all marriages, encourage those who are single, and help us to recognize the value of each person, for Your redemption stretches to all people. Light of the world,
C **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**
- P** Lord, bless all pastors, teachers, church planters, missionaries, musicians, and servants in Your Church. Embolden them as they seek to reflect Your light to all the nations. Light of the world,
C **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**

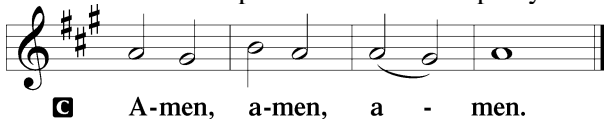
- P** Lord, shine Your light of hope upon all those who are caregivers. Send them rest and peace, knowing that in You their labor is not in vain. Light of the world,
C **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**
- P** Lord, we commend all of these things to Your caring hands, trusting in Your mercy to all people. Light of the world,
C **dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.**

*The 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**

*Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



{Closing hymn on next page}

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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***Hymn to Depart**

LSB 411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



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



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 I want to look at Je - sus.
 I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
 Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
 When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 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.

***Silent Prayer**

Closing Voluntary