

## Sunday, January 3, 2021 – Celebrating Epiphany Second Sunday of Christmas, Year B

**Prelude**                                      *Go Tell It on the Mountain*                                      Piano played by Krista Giltner

Announcements

**After Announcements**                      ELW #275 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

### **Introduction**

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who was in the beginning,  
who makes a dwelling among us,  
who covers us with justice and mercy.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of goodness and lovingkindness,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you  
and our neighbors.**

**We have turned away from your invitation to new life.**

**We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.**

**In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,  
those we know and those known only to you,  
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!

God forgives us all our sins,  
not through our own work,  
but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people.

With all who come to the manger,  
rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

**Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. 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.**

### First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift 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.

<sup>5</sup>Then 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.

<sup>6</sup>A 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.**

### Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,  
and your righteousness to | the king's son;

<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your | people righteously  
and the | poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,  
and the | hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**

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

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

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

<sup>10</sup>**May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.**

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

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

<sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,  
and preserves the lives | of the needy.

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

## **Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I, Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In 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: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of 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. <sup>8</sup>Although 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, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see, what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so 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. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord.           **Thanks be to God.**

**Music**           ELW #815 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

## **Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>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.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>“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.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then 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.” <sup>9</sup>When 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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On 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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of Our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day**           ELW #308 *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

P: Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: 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.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. We pause now to mention those on our heart (pause).  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

**Music** ELW #294 *In the Bleakwinter*

### **Offering Prayer**

Gracious God,  
you came to us as one unknown,  
bringing joy and salvation to the earth.  
Nourish us at your banquet table,  
that with all who welcome your birth  
we may proclaim your peace,  
revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

### **Words of Institution**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Invitation to Communion**

The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.  
Come meet Christ in this meal.

#### **Prayer after Communion**

We give you thanks, gracious God,  
that you have once again fed us from your very self  
with the body and blood of Christ.  
Through this mystery, send us forth  
to proclaim your promise to a world in need,  
through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

#### **Blessing**

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 you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.  
**Amen.**

**Music**            ELW #314 *Arise, Your Light Has Come*

#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Thank you to Worship Leaders  
Pastor Rita Augsburger  
Krista Giltner  
Milt Scott  
Rick Strine  
Jeremy Hahn