

Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church
January 3, 2021 - Epiphany

Welcome

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *C: And also with you.*

Call to Worship

Arise shine inheritors of God's light, bearers of God's light to our world,

The light of God has come into our world

Arise shine, favoured ones, bow before God, not in shame but in awe,

All is visible in Christ's eternal light, In us God's light never goes out.

Arise shine, God's light has been revealed to us, It reaches across time and space,

We have come to see, We have come to follow,

Arise shine, God's light has been revealed to all people,

God's glory has been unveiled in all the earth,

May we go and tell, May we go and share God's light in our needy world.

Song – Brightest and Best of the Stars¹

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,

dawn on our darkness, and lend us your aid;

star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;

low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;

angels adore him in slumber reclining, maker and monarch and saviour of all.

What shall we give him, in costly devotion?

Shall we bring incense and offerings divine, gems of the mountain,

and pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation, vainly with gifts would his favour secure:

richer by far is the heart's adoration, dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,

dawn on our darkness, and lend us your aid;

star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Prayer of the Day

The Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
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.
Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

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.

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.

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

Psalm 147:12-20

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.

He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.

He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.

He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.

He hurls down hail like crumbs— who can stand before his cold?

He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.

He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances.

Praise the Lord!

The Word of the Lord

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.' When

King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"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." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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.' 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection

Song: Bright and Glorious is The Sky²

Bright and glorious is the sky, radiant are the heavens high
Where the golden stars were shining. All their rays to earth inclining,
Beckon us to heaven above, beckon us to heaven above.

Sages from the East afar, when they saw this wondrous star,
Went to the find the King of nations, and to offer their oblations
to the child, the newborn king, to the child the newborn king.

Guided by the star they found him whose praise the ages sound.
We too have a star to guide us, which forever will provide us
with the light to find our Lord, with the light to find our Lord.

And this star, as bright as day, that will never lead astray
with its message so appealing, is the word of God, revealing
Christ, the way, the truth, the life, Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

Prayers of the People

We pray: *Lord, in your mercy...* and respond: *Hear our prayer.*

Holy Communion (Zoom Only)

The Lord's Prayer

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

C: 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, and 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.

Benediction

Song – Angels from the Realm of Glory³

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: [*Refrain*]

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star: [*Refrain*]

All creation join in praising, God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in one. [*Refrain*]

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Christ is with us. *C: Thanks be to God*

¹ ELW hymn #303. In the public domain.

² ELW hymn #301, vs. 1, 3, 5, 6. Text: Nikolai F.S. Grundtvig tr. Jens Christian Aaberg. Music: Danish, 19th cent.. ©1958, Service Book and Hymnal, admin, Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #A736240. All rights reserved.

³ ELW hymn #275. In the public domain.