

WELCOME TO ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him. Mt. 2:2b

The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 11, 2015

A Service of the Word

Setting adapted from TLH p.5 – the Order of Morning Service VISITORS: TLH (hymns 1-660) is the RED book, WS (hymns 701-800) is the TAN book (If you have difficulty standing, please feel free to remain seated as needed)

Preservice Devotion: Psalm 72, forepart of TLH p.138

OPENING HYMN

WS 718

O Jesus, King of Glory

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19

Minister (M) In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



Congreg. (C) A - - men

M Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.



C Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

M I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.



C And Thou forgavest the iniquity of

my sin.

Psalm 32:5

- M Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us

true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will, and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

M Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Mark 16:16; John 1:12



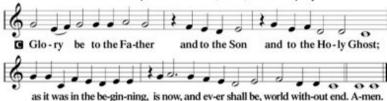
INTROIT Ps 45:6–8,17

- M Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;
- C A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.
- M You love righteousness and hate wickedness;
- C Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You
- M With the oil of gladness

 \mathbf{C}

- C more than Your companions.
- M All Your garments are scented with myrrh and aloes and cassia,
- C Out of the ivory palaces, by which they have made You glad.
- M I will make Your name to be remembered in all generations;
- C Therefore the people shall praise You forever and ever.
- M Glory be to God...

GLORIA PATRI ~ Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit





M The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

M Let us pray ... one God, now and forever,



Luke 1:28

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine;

For your light has come!

And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

- For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,
 And deep darkness the people;
 But the Lord will arise over you,
 And His glory will be seen upon you.
- The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.
- 4 "Lift 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 nursed at *your* side.
- Then you shall see and become radiant,
 And your heart shall swell with joy;
 Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
 The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.
- The multitude of camels shall cover your *land*,
 The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
 All those from Sheba shall come;
 They shall bring gold and incense,
 And they shall proclaim the praises of the Lord.

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 3:1–12

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—² if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, ³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, ⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), ⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: ⁶ that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, ⁷ of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who

created all things through Jesus Christ; ¹⁰ to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, ¹¹ according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

GRADUAL Ps. 117:1-2a; 96:8

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples! For His merciful kindness is great toward us, And the truth of the Lord endures forever. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

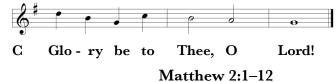
Give to the Lord the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts. Hallelujah!



C Halle - lu - jah! Halle-lu-jah! Halle-lu - - jah!

GOSPEL LESSON (rise)

M And this is eternal life, that we know the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.



Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

³When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

⁵ So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

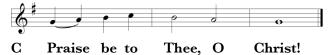
⁶ But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

⁹ When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. ¹¹ And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

M These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, we may have life in His name.



CREED ~ The Apostles' Creed

 \mathbf{C} I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN **TLH 129**

Hail, Thou Source of Every Blessing

SERMON ~ based on the Gospel lesson of the day

Matthew 2:1-12

A Magi Miracle Is Manipulated In Our Lives

- 1. Not by scheming and lying
- 2. Not by wisdom or worthiness
- 3. But according to His own gracious will, God reveals the Christ when and where and to whom He will.

M The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:7*





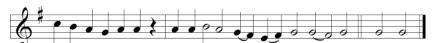
C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right



spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from Thypresence;



and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the



joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spir-it. A-men.

HYMN

WS 717

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

GATHERING OF OUR THANK OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the Church of God and for all people according to their needs.

For the revelation of God's Son made known to Israel in the appearance of the Child in Bethlehem that we too would behold with joy and awe the manifestation of Jesus Christ for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy**.

For the Church of God which proclaims the living Word that the light of the gospel would rise upon her and draw all nations to her dawning through the washing of holy baptism, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy**.

For ministers of the Gospel, including our pastors, teachers, and missionaries, that they would make no exceptions in the preaching of condemnation and put no restrictions on the preaching of salvation so that Christ would be known as Savior to all, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy**.

For conflicts within the Church of Christ, that divided church bodies would come to reconciliation, through repentance and belief in the truth, and that personal divisions within would also be mended out of love for Christ, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy**.

For those threatened by the schemes of the devil, that just as God protected the magi and led them by faith, so He would protect all His chosen from tribulation and persecution and strengthen them to overcome every temptation, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy**.

For those who face the dark pale of sickness or death, that the morning star of Christ's resurrection would rise in their hearts, giving them hope in the midst of sorrow and that, if it be according to God's will, they would be spared from further pain, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy**.

For these petitions and all who have asked our prayers, we commit ourselves into the hands of our Father, even as we join to pray,

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

Numbers 6:24-26

M 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

TLH 127

As with Gladness Men of Old

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Welcome! We wish a warm welcome to our guests this morning. It is our mission to share the good news that God gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him has eternal life (John 3:16-17). May that good news go with you. Feel free to sign our guest book in the entry way. For more information about our church see the visitor comment cards and brochures in the entry way or visit our website at AscensionBatavia.org. We hope to see you again!

Participating in this Service of the Word

Music Asst.: [] Lead Usher: []

Minister: Pr. David Pfeiffer