



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.”

Matt. 2:2b

The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 10, 2016 (observed)

A Service of the Word

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

TLH 93 (red hymnal)

O Lord, We Welcome Thee

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

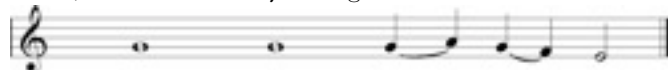
M Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.



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*



C A - - - men

INTROIT

Psalm 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 with the oil of gladness 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

Musical notation for the Gloria Patri, consisting of two staves. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line of text. The lyrics are: "Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men."

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

KYRIE ~ Lord Have Mercy

Mark 10:47

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS ~ Glory to God in the Highest

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

M The Lord be with you.

Luke 1:28

C **And also with you.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

C A - - - men.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

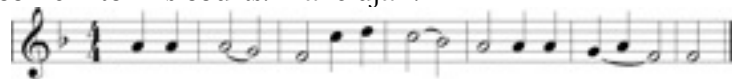
- 1 Arise, shine;
For your light has come!
And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.
- 2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,
And deep darkness the people;
But the Lord will arise over you,
And His glory will be seen upon you.
- 3 The Gentiles shall come to your light,
And kings to the 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.
- 5 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.
- 6 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.

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!

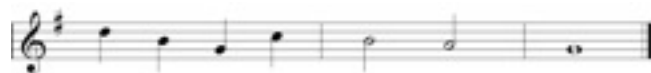
Give to the Lord the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts. Hallelujah!



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.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord!

Matthew 2:1-12

¹ 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.”

³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ And 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.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

CREED ~ The Apostles' Creed

**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 130:1-2,5-6 (red hymnal)

O Jesus, King of Glory

SERMON ~ based on the Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12
**Behold the Magi from the East
And Behold, There Is Christ**

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 Thy presence;



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

TLH 129 (red hymnal)

Hail, Thou Source of Every Blessing

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. *Brief silence.*

For another year of God's grace, that He would keep us from the evil one and by the gospel of Christ preserve us in the one true faith, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For the Church of God which dwells on earth, that He would reveal His glory among us in teaching, hearing, and confessing of His Word, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For those like Herod who are driven by greed and power, that God would cause them to suffer loss that they might despair of themselves and be led to

lay their treasures before Christ knowing He is the true treasure that cannot be taken away, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For those like the Magi who are wandering or lost in the confusion of their culture and the false religions of this world, that God would appear to them in His Word, and bring them to Christ to discover the truth of His coming, and so find truth, faith, love, and joy, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For families like Mary and Joseph who are oppressed by the evil that is plotting against them and trying to divide and destroy them, that God would care for them, driving the works of Satan away by drawing their attention to His voice and His word in their daily lives, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For this congregation as we consider a new year of ministry and service to God and our neighbor, that God's Spirit would cast out all sadness, bitterness, anger, fear, selfish thoughts, sinful living, and every evil that would threaten our faith, confession, or congregation, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For this congregation as we consider a new year of ministry and service to God and our neighbor, that God's Spirit would enliven us by His grace to rejoice with exceedingly great joy in all that we do and lead us by His Word to do that which pleases Him and glorifies His name, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For this congregation as we consider a new year of ministry and service to God and our neighbor, that the precious gospel of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection would remain the central focus of our preaching, ministry, and lives, teaching us to give thanks for the fullness of God's forgiveness and to deny ourselves for the sake of others, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For this congregation as we discuss our outreach efforts in Bible Class today, that we would not be burdened or distracted by the choice of method in outreach, but rather that God would keep us trusting, patient, and always aware that it is the gospel alone that saves and that God gives the increase according to His will, at times, without our knowing, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For those like Herod and the scribes who have been given a privileged position in the government or in the Church, that they would use their privilege not for selfish gain, but to serve and help others as God has called them, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For those who are sick or dying, that God would visit their pain or fear with the hope of Christ in His death and resurrection which promises peace with God and the full restoration of their bodies on the last day and, if it is His will, heal them and preserve their time of grace, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For these and all who have asked our prayers, we ask God's help, even as we join to pray together with Jesus,

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.



C A - men, A - men, A - - men.

CLOSING HYMN

TLH 96:1,4 (red hymnal)

Oh, Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly

Liturgical settings from The Lutheran Hymnal ©1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. License #000013678. Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations taken from the New King James Version ©1982 Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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: S. Libby Lead Usher: G. Libby
Minister: Pr. D. Pfeiffer