

Epiphany Sunday (observed)
Dia de Los Tres Reyes Magos
January 9, 2022



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Welcome! 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.

This is a special bulletin for Grace Lutheran Church. This bulletin is designed to be used at home by anyone who is baptized serving as the Worship Leader or by following our online service. If you use this bulletin for worship, either by itself or alongside our service on YouTube, please fill out the Attendance Record Form on our website: GraceCLW.com.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

Congregation: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

Congregation: we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.

Rejoice in this good news: In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life.

Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

Congregation: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

The First Noel verses 1 & 3



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the

Refrain



night that was so deep.
tin-ued both day and night.
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

Congregation: Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Introduction to the Lesson: *Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

Reader: ¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

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

³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift 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.

⁵Then 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.

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 proclaim the praise of the LORD.

After the reading...

Reader: The word of the Lord. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

Introduction to the Lesson: *What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

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

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

Reader: The word of the Lord. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

We stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

Introduction to the Gospel: *God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

Worship Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew in the 2nd chapter.

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

⁶"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.'"

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

After the reading...

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit

GOSPEL MESSAGE—From Sundays and Seasons

Light for All

One of the most moving aspects of many Christmas Eve church services comes near the conclusion of worship, when the lights are turned off and the church is plunged into darkness, heightening the lateness of the hour. After a momentary pause, a single candle is lit. The nave is still dark. We cannot see the faces of the people around us—yet the difference in emotion, between full darkness and the light of just one candle, is striking. What relief, what hopefulness sweeps over us with only a single light piercing the dark.

The light grows brighter gradually, unevenly, as we help light one another's candles. This tradition brings to life the messages of today's readings: The light of Christ has come not to a select few, but to everyone. Shining over all the earth, Christ's light brightens the darkness for rich and poor alike, for the influential and the powerless, for people who gather for worship each week and for those who show up only once or twice in a year, or not at all. Everyone gets a candle; everyone receives the light.

And what does this light signify? The magi, following the light of the star, bow down and worship the child Jesus, bringing gifts that signify the roles Jesus will fulfill: gold for a king, incense for a priest, and myrrh, used to anoint the dead, because he has come to die and rise for us. Once the magi have been in the presence of the light of the world, they are transformed. They go home by another way, frustrating the aims of unjust King Herod.

Isaiah reminds us that the glory of the Lord disperses the darkness. Like the magi in our gospel reading, we are transformed by the light of Christ to do the work of justice and righteousness, not for a select few, but for all. Guided by the light, we are freed to work to bring about God's kingdom wherever we are, and for whomever we encounter.

SERMON

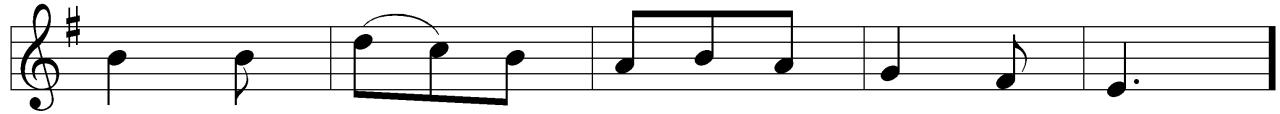
HYMN OF THE DAY *We Three Kings of Orient Are* (WOV 646) *verses 1, 2, & 4*



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.

Refrain



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.

Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Prayer Leader: God of wanderers, you sent the magi from afar to witness the mystery and majesty of your birth. Send us into the world with your will in our hearts and on our lips. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Prayer Leader: You created heaven and earth. Through your Spirit send your all-encompassing love over the cosmos. Bless the stars that guide our way and the night sky that invites the earth into slumber. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Prayer Leader: You sent the magi to follow the star into an uncertain future. May all leaders and peoples seek your face, especially when paths are not clear, conflicts rage, tyrants oppress, and fear abounds. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Prayer Leader: You sent your Spirit to dwell with Paul in prison. Send your Spirit to those who are imprisoned and enslaved, including by health and other personal issues, *especially* those on the prayer list of our congregation and those we name now with our lips or in our hearts Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Prayer Leader: You sent the holy family to seek safety in a new land. Protect all who make similar journeys. Send your guiding Spirit to asylum seekers, refugees, and all who journey toward safety. Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Prayer Leader: Your glory is shown to the saints. We give thanks for those whose earthly journey has ended and now dwell with you forever, especially those resting within our Memorial Garden. Give us signs of your continual presence until that day when we arise in you. Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Prayer Leader: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior .

Congregation: Amen.

OFFERING

*Offerings to the mission and ministry of Grace can be made online at GraceCLW.com (look for the “Donate” button), or by mailing a check to Grace Lutheran Church, 1812 N. Highland Ave. Clearwater FL 33755. Thank you for your continued financial support during these uncertain times. **You can also fill out an Attendance Form on our website.** If you’re new to Grace through our online services, please consider sharing some information about yourself through our Attendance Form.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Congregation: Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Worship Leader: O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Congregation: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray in the language closest to our hearts.

Congregation: 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.

Pastor: Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, or imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

BLESSING

Worship Leader: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Congregation: Amen.

SENDING SONG

Shine, Jesus Shine

ELW 671

We do not have permission to print the music or even just the words of this song. We apologize for the inconvenience.

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Together we have heard God's Word and shared and joined in prayer, we have given and have been forgiven. Now as this service of worship is ending, this week's service to the world is beginning! Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

