

January 8, 2023

Epiphany Sunday
Organ: Teresa Bernthal
Usher: Darrin Ream
Acolyte: Seth Bernthal

The Epiphany Light of Life



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WELCOME

*“Hail, Thou universal Savior! Gentiles now their offerings bring;
In thy temple seek Thy favor, Jesus Christ, our Lord and King;
May we, body, soul, and spirit, live devoted to Thy praise,
Glorious realms of bliss inherit, grateful anthems ever raise!”*

Welcome to all in the name of Jesus, the Christ!

This past Friday, January 6th, was “The Gentiles’ Christmas,” in celebration of the visit of the Wise Men from the East. The season of the church year which began January 6th celebrates both the Epiphany or “*showing forth*” of Christ as the Savior of the Gentiles and His glory as the Son of God.

“The people who walked in darkness (the Gentile nations) have seen a great light.” (Isaiah 9:2) Ever since the coming of Jesus Christ to be the Savior of the world, His light has gone out into the world to shine on millions of hearts through the preaching and teaching of His Word.

May the glory of the Lord appear also to us as it did to the shepherds and the wise men – in particular, the glory of His grace, His undeserved kindness toward sinners. May we be led to behold Him, receive Him, and walk in Him unto life everlasting!

Order of Divine Worship

NEW TESTAMENT READING – Matthew 2:1-12 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 [b]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.

Hymn: TLH #131 v.1-2 "The Star Proclaims the King Is Here"

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Pastor

C Congregation

INTROIT

Jeremiah 31:15-17

P Behold the Lord, the Ruler, has come:

C and the kingdom, and the power, and the glory are in His hand.

P Give the King Your judgments, O God:

C and Your righteousness unto the King's Son.

Hymn: TLH #98 v.2 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Oh, that Birth forever blessed! When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bare the Savior of our race,
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face, Evermore and evermore.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

P Dearly Beloved, the Word of our Lord declares that "God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (Jn 3:17) Therefore, let us come to the throne of grace, seeking forgiveness for all our sins in the Name of Jesus, the Christ, Who became Man in order to suffer and die for us, and so present Himself to His Father as perfect payment for the sins of all.

C O most merciful God, You have given Your Only-begotten Son to die for us. Have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us the forgiveness of all our sins. By Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, so that by Your grace through faith in Jesus Christ we may come to everlasting life; all this we ask in His saving Name. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and for the sake of the sufferings, death and resurrection of His dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, forgives us all our sins. On the basis of your sincere confession, and by the command of Christ, I declare unto you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Hymn: TLH #98 v.4

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

**Christ to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory, Evermore and evermore.**

P May our Lord be with you . . .

C and also with you.

P O LORD God, by the leading of a star You revealed Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. We give thanks to You that by Your grace, through Your Holy Servant Jesus and the enlightenment of Your Holy Spirit, we know You as the only true God, the Light and Life of the world. Grant that we may join the Wise Men and the Bethlehem Shepherds and gladly proclaim the only Name given under heaven by which man must be saved; and keep us also from returning to the darkness by forsaking the light of Your Word. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Numbers 24:1-17 Now when Balaam saw that it pleased the Lord to bless Israel, he did not go as at other times, to seek to use sorcery, but he set his face toward the wilderness. 2 And Balaam raised his eyes, and saw Israel encamped according to their tribes; and the Spirit of God came upon him. 3 Then he took up his oracle and said: “The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor, The utterance of the man whose eyes are opened, 4 The utterance of him who hears the words of God, Who sees the vision of the Almighty, Who falls down, with eyes wide open: 5 “How lovely are your tents, O Jacob! Your dwellings, O

Israel! 6 Like valleys that stretch out, Like gardens by the riverside, Like aloes planted by the Lord, Like cedars beside the waters. 7 He shall pour water from his buckets, And his seed shall be in many waters. "His king shall be higher than Agag, And his kingdom shall be exalted. 8 "God brings him out of Egypt; He has strength like a wild ox; He shall consume the nations, his enemies; He shall break their bones And pierce them with his arrows. 9 'He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?' "Blessed is he who blesses you, And cursed is he who curses you." 10 Then Balak's anger was aroused against Balaam, and he struck his hands together; and Balak said to Balaam, "I called you to curse my enemies, and look, you have bountifully blessed them these three times! 11 Now therefore, flee to your place. I said I would greatly honor you, but in fact, the Lord has kept you back from honor." 12 So Balaam said to Balak, "Did I not also speak to your messengers whom you sent to me, saying, 13 'If Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the Lord, to do good or bad of my own will. What the Lord says, that I must speak'? 14 And now, indeed, I am going to my people. Come, I will advise you what this people will do to your people in the latter days." Balaam's Fourth Prophecy 15 So he took up his oracle and said: "The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor, And the utterance of the man whose eyes are opened; 16 The utterance of him who hears the words of God, And has the knowledge of the Most High, Who sees the vision of the Almighty, Who falls down, with eyes wide open: 17 "I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult.

NEW TESTAMENT READING – 2 Corinthians 4:1-6 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. 2 But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. 5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. 6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

CONFESSION OF FAITH *Explanation to the 2nd Article of The Apostles' Creed*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. He has done this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules in eternity. This is most certainly true.

Hymn: TLH #130 v.1,2,5,6

“O Jesus, King of Glory”

SERMON – John 1:4 – “In Him was Life and the Life was the Light of men.”

John 8:12 – “I AM the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.”

Jesus Christ – The “Epiphany” Light of Life

1. As light is its own witness, so is Christ.
2. As light reveals itself, so Christ reveals Himself in His Word and in His followers.
3. The Light of Christ must shine against the darkness to bring His Life!

Hymn: TLH #128

“Bright and Best of the Sons of the Morning”

- OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS –

Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:

OFFERING: TLH #442:2

“Lord of Glory, Who Hast Bought Us”

- C** ♪ Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee- Gladly, freely, of Thine own; With the sunshine of Thy goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by Thee, at length believe That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

P 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 His peace.

C ♪ **Amen, amen, a – men.**

HYMN: TLH #127 v.1,4,5 "As With Gladnes Men of Old"

✠ Announcements ✠

Last Week: WH – 34 **Total Offering** = \$2658.25

General = \$2038.25 | Missions = \$20 | Rent = \$600

- ✠ **Jan 8** 8am Orlando service
10:15am WH service with
Pastor Fossum, Take down
decorations at church
- ✠ **Jan 15** 9:15am Bible Class
10:15 Communion service
with Pastor Fossum Annual
Voters' Meeting after church
- ✠ **Jan 22** 8am Orlando service
10:15am WH service
- ✠ **Jan 27** Science Fair at school
6:30pm
- ✠ **Jan 29** 10:15am WH service,
Sign Comm. and Church
Council meet after church

Sign Fund We are in the process of designing a new sign and preparing the area around the sign in front of church. The sign itself is being made by Cypress Signs, and volunteer labor will be installing it and landscaping the area around it. Stone posts will be added to give the area more of a presence. If you would like to help defray the cost of the sign, please mark your envelope "Sign Fund." Thank you for considering this need.

Paint Day Thank you to all who came to paint last Sunday. A lot got accomplished. Thank you to those who came throughout the week to get work done also. It is greatly appreciated.

Pastor Fossum Pastor Fossum will not be here for Sunday, January 1. He will be coming the week later for the January 8 service at 8am in Orlando and the Winter Haven service at 10:15am. Sunday, January 15 he will conduct Bible class at 9:15 am followed by the communion service at 10:15am. After church that Sunday there will be the Annual Voters' Meeting.

Cleaner (1/14): Naumann | **Acolyte (1/8):** Maxwell Kuehne

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; January 9 - January 14, '23

Mon Matthew 3:13-17 The glory of the Child of Bethlehem was revealed many times throughout His life. Here at the beginning of His ministry He came to John for baptism, not because He needed to repent but because it was the right thing for those He came to represent. The Spirit and the Father testified to His divine glory.

Tues 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 The apostle Paul also proclaimed the gospel which revealed “the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (v4). Through the gospel proclamation God has also shined in our hearts, giving us the gift of beholding God’s glory in the face of Jesus Christ (v6).

Wed Isaiah 2:2-5 Isaiah looks forward to the “latter days,” when people from all over the world come to worship in spirit and in truth. Truly these are the days of glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to men. Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Thurs John 1:35-42 John declares that Jesus is “the Lamb of God,” and two disciples of John follow Jesus, not because He looked so glorious, but because they heard John’s testimony. Jesus invites them to come with Him, and one of them, Andrew, goes and brings his brother to Jesus also.

Fri 2 Corinthians 6:14 – 7:1 To come and see Jesus (Jn1:39) is to be with God and to be His people. It is a wonderful thing that the Lord Almighty wants to be a Father to us, and this moves us to behave as His own children and to cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit.

Sat Psalm 122 “Let us go to the house of the Lord” has a wonderful sound because of whose house it is! He brings people together in thanksgiving and praise. In His house there is peace – peace with God and peace with one another. It is the peace of God that “will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”(Ph4:7).