



THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
JANUARY 9, 2022

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040
Pastor John Moeller

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Director of Music Ruth Sievers

As We Gather

When the Magi arrived in Jerusalem, everyone was surprised and troubled. Few in Israel remembered God's promise through Isaiah that other nations would be attracted to them. They had forgotten that Gentiles would come bearing gifts to a future just and righteous King. Only after God worked faith in Saul/Paul's heart was the message clearly announced that all people share in the promise of Christ. Today, God's Word calls us not only to see the light of God's love in Christ but also to emulate the Magi. With joy, our faith moves us to follow where God leads and to worship our Lord, in whom alone we have boldness and access with confidence to the grace of God. That is, Epiphany is not only a celebration of the past but also a call to shine God's light in our lives today.

Prelude

"O Morning Star"

G. Miles

Opening Hymn

"O Morning Star"

#395 sts. 1, 3, 4 -5

1 O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God's own truth and light,
Aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's race, King David's son,
Our Lord and master, You have won
Our hearts to serve You only!
Lowly, holy!
Great and glorious,
All victorious,
Rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!

3 Lord, when You look on us in love,
At once there falls from God above
A ray of purest pleasure.
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food.
You are our dearest treasure!
Let Your mercy
Warm and cheer us!
O draw near us!
For You teach us
God's own love through You has reached
us.

4 Almighty Father, in Your Son
You loved us when not yet begun
Was this old earth's foundation!
Your Son has ransomed us in love
To live in Him here and above:
This is Your great salvation.
Alleluia!
Christ the living,
To us giving
Life forever,
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!

5 O let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gladly blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way—
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation!
Exultation!
Tell the story!
Great is He, the King of Glory!

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Invocation

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

C Amen.

Prophecy & Fulfillment

Isaiah 60:1, 5–6; Matthew 2:2, 10–11

- P** Arise, shine, for your light has come.
- C** **We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.**
- P** You shall see and be radiant.
- C** **They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.**
- P** They shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.
- C** **And they fell down and worshiped Him.**

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 124:8; 130:3, adapt.; Ephesians 3:11–12

- P** Our help is in the name of the LORD,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
- P** Although God has graciously showered the light of His love on us, we have not responded in lives of total devotion. But because He has graciously promised to forgive, let us go to Him in the name of “Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.”
- C** **Gracious heavenly Father, we confess that we have let the distractions of this world turn our eyes from seeing the true Light. We have not loved You with our whole hearts. Forgive us and renew in us hearts to see, follow, and worship You alone.**
- P** In the mercy of almighty God, our heavenly Father sent His Son to take all of our sins to His cross, and His Holy Spirit has graciously shined the light of faith in Christ into our hearts. I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Kyrie

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For peace shining down on us from above and for the salvation of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For peace so that the Church of God would more brightly shine the light of the Gospel in the nations of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who join us here to thank God for the unsearchable riches of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

- P** Let us pray.
O God, You led the Magi to see in the star the news of Christ's birth. We give thanks that You have enabled us to see Him as our Savior.
- C** **Grant us strength of faith to follow where He leads and to worship Him with all that we are and have;**
- P** through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 45:6–8a; antiphon: v. 17

- P** I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
- C** **therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.**
- P** Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;
- C** **you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.**
- P** Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
- C** **your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.**
- P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
- C** **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

Old Testament Reading

✠ The Future Glory of Israel ✠

Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift 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 carried on the hip. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned 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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem of Praise Solo

“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”

Hymn #369

Epistle

✠ The Mystery of the Gospel Revealed ✠

Ephesians 3:1-12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse

Matthew 2:2b

P Alleluia. Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?

C For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

✠ The Visit of the Wise Men ✠

Matthew 2:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." ⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

✠ Confession of Faith ✠

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came
 down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the
 virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius
 Pilate. He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according
 to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge
 both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together
 is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and
 apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the
 remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

#397

- 1 As with gladness men of old
 Did the guiding star behold;
 As with joy they hailed its light,
 Leading onward, beaming bright;
 So, most gracious Lord, may we
 Evermore be led by Thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,
 Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
 There to bend the knee before
 Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
 So may we with willing feet
 Ever seek Thy mercy seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare
 At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
 So may we with holy joy,
 Pure and free from sin's alloy,

- All our costliest treasures bring,
 Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.
- 4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
 Keep us in the narrow way;
 And when earthly things are past,
 Bring our ransomed souls at last
 Where they need no star to guide,
 Where no clouds Thy glory hide.
- 5 In the heav'nly country bright
 Need they no created light;
 Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
 Thou its sun which goes not down;
 There forever may we sing
 Alleluias to our King.

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Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Installation of Officers and Board Members

see back of bulletin

Offering—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Those worshipping at home may continue to mail or drop off offerings at the church office, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at www.stpauloaklawn.org. For information about regular electronic giving, please contact the church office.*

Offertory Meditation

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

- P** Hear us now as we pray together in His name,
C **Our Father who art in heaven...**

Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

✠ DISTRIBUTION of the SACRAMENT ✠

“Hail, O Source of Every Blessing”

#409

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Hail, O Source of ev'ry blessing,
Father of our human race!
Gentiles now, Your grace possessing,
In Your courts obtain a place.
Grateful now, we fall before You,
In Your Church rejoice to live,
See Your glory and adore You,
Thankful for the grace You give. | Now revealed to eastern sages,
See the Star of Mercy shine,
Myst'ry hid in former ages,
Myst'ry great of love divine. |
| 2 | Once far off but now invited,
We approach Your sacred throne,
In Your covenant united,
Reconciled, redeemed, made one. | 3 Hail, O all-inviting Savior!
Gentiles now their off'rings bring,
In Your temples seek Your favor,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.
May we, body, soul, and spirit,
Live devoted to Your praise,
Glorious realms of bliss inherit,
Grateful anthems ever raise. |

Text: Public domain

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Sent forth by God’s blessing,
Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take
leave.
The Supper is ended.
O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching,
Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us
To work for God’s kingdom and answer His
call.</p> | <p>2 With praise and thanksgiving
To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev’ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing,
In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and
race.
With Your feast You feed us,
With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we
bear.</p> |
|--|---|

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Communion Blessing

- P** The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

Closing Prayer

- P** My soul, give thanks to the Lord; all my being, bless His holy name.
- C** **My soul, give thanks to the Lord, and never forget all His blessings.**
- P** It is He who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion, who fills your life with good things, renewing your youth like an eagle’s. Give thanks to the Lord, all His works, in every place where He rules.
- C** **My soul, give thanks to the Lord! Give praise to the Father Almighty; to His Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord; to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts, both now and forever. Amen.**

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

Dismissal

- P** Go in peace as You serve the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn

“Arise and Shine in Splendor”

#396

1 Arise and shine in splendor;
 Let night to day surrender.
 Your light is drawing near.
 Above, the day is beaming,
 In matchless beauty gleaming;
 The glory of the Lord is here.

3 The world’s remotest races,
 Upon whose weary faces
 The sun looks from the sky,
 Shall run with zeal untiring,
 With joy Your light desiring
 That breaks upon them from on high.

2 See earth in darkness lying,
 The heathen nations dying
 In hopeless gloom and night.
 To you the Lord of heaven—
 Your life, your hope—has given
 Great glory, honor, and delight.

4 Lift up your eyes in wonder—
 See, nations gather yonder
 From sin to be set free.
 The world has heard Your story;
 Her sons come to Your glory;
 Her daughters haste Your light to see.

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Postlude

“Arise and Shine in Splendor”

J. S. Bach



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

Vocalist: Jan Gensch

Lector: Audrey Mitchell

Altar Care: Cheryl Horan

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Please pray for these members of our St. Paul family:

Betty Kruckow	Cathy Kumke
Sue & John Lilja	Helen Bonder
Janice Przybycien	Kevin Hickey
Mary Ann Colander	Art Hornburg
Melva Smith	Laverne Abraham
Carol Small	Mike Degidio
Norma Silinski	Beverly Sellers
Lenore Curran	Betty Beegle
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Jane & Freddie Giacobbe	Marge Rochlitz
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Kurt Seehofer	The Polezoes Family
Lincoln & Parker Alex	Patricia Murdoch
Gloria Crook	Lois Kaminske
Patty Sellers	Janet Varnagis
Dawn McNicholas	Julie & Larry Gurga
Cathy Gleason	Mark Martinovich

Special prayer requests for friends of the congregation:

Guillermo Ramirez (friend of Linda Kosary), Mark Martinovich, (Liz Kosary-Graca's son), Frank Coglinae Jr., related to the Frank family, The Carl Hoppe family, Doris Potts, and Rev. Matt Gunia.

For those who grieve:

For Rachel Leise-Schuette, their 3 children, and all the family and friends of her husband, Dan, called from this life on Jan. 6;

For the family of Rev. M. Charles Groth, called from this life on January 5th. Services were held on Saturday.

Announcements & Notes:

- A New Member Information Class began Saturday, January 8 for those interested in learning about the Lutheran faith or becoming a member of St. Paul. It's not too late—If interested, talk with Pastor John or just join us Saturday morning at 9:00 in the St. Timothy Room;
- Sunday Morning adult Bible Class resumes today in the Timothy Room.
- Offering envelopes can be picked up in the narthex; *Note: envelopes have been renumbered for 2022.*

Please pray for these friends and family of our members:

Andrew Mrochen	Vern Howe
Eugene Marcinkowski	Roberta & Carlos Owens
Denise DeLaurentis	Dorothy Kroll
Anthony Krcelic, Jr.	Eric Kessling
Bob Hessert	Georgiana Easton
Jackie Plichta	Patricia Paulsen
Ken Kruckow	Janet Trierweiler
Alan Hecke	Kim Lamberth
Matt Favero	Sandra Wilson
Michelle Mitchell	Al Silinski
Pam Palhegyi	Carol Milazzo
Rich Huscher	The Lamberth Family
Jerry Gross	Brenda Gurgel
Gloria Folsom	Autumn Kessling
Elizabeth Hoefler	Alan Iversen
Ron Lunt	Christopher Kosary
Sandy Plath	Iris McCoy
Shirley Demyres	Raquel Rameriz
Nick & Bridget DeAngelo	Henry Bonder
Kim & Shawn Skelton, Sr.	Kyle Hughes
Elaine Hoffstetter	Fred Raddatz
Selma & John Carmichael	Allyson Seehofer
Bernadette & Rich Trusk	Dana Kahn
Donald Hakanson	Carl Hoppe
Paul Noffke	Sue Sortino
Pam Brown	Lisa Sanders
Shawn Harland	Ann Herold
Barb Potter	Wayne Volk
Charley Heitz	Sharon Bryant
Doris Potts	Brad Benfield
Doreen Holford	Janice Hernandez
Donna Santi	Judy Collins
Paul Sowa	Maryann Krieg (Wilke)
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.	Knox Christensen
Cathy Becker	Lois Kiefer
Al Zirbel	Heather & Josh Turro
Donna Patri	Skip Sorensen
Joe Thomas	Patrick Pasqua Sr.
Logan Bliss	Debbie Guarascio
Phyllis Hicks	Sue Dever
LaNell Koenig	Justin & Ashley Fasel
Nora Maculitis	Sandra Mitchell & Fam.
Beckham Klintworth	Sophia Salus
Kimberly Rooney	Barb & Emily Feehan
Gina Arns	Guillermo Ramirez
Simeon Hoppe	The Carl Hoppe Fam.

Please let the church office know when your need for our congregational prayers is over (708) 423-1040.

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS
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