

For God so
loved the world,
that he gave his only Son,
that *whoever*
believes in him should
not perish but have
eternal life.

John 3:16, ESV

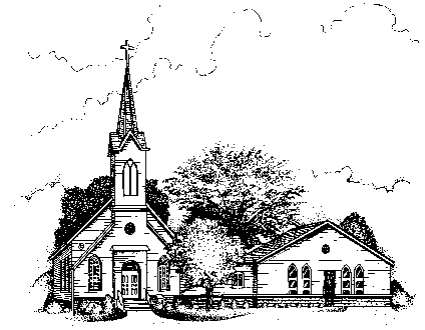


THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

JANUARY 5 / 8, 2023

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

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The twelve days of Christmas culminate with the celebration of the Epiphany of our Lord. We commemorate the day when magi from afar worshiped the Christ Child. Before that day, Jesus had been worshiped by individuals of Jewish descent: the shepherds, elderly Simeon, the prophetess Anna. But Scripture said the coming Savior would be God's gift to *all nations*. Epiphany proves that God keeps his promises, as he miraculously led foreigners to worship their Savior. Thus, Epiphany is sometimes called the Gentile Christmas.



Epiphany continues to play out to this very day. God has controlled time and space to bring you into the presence of your Savior—for Christ's glory and your blessing. Thus, the magi were only the first in a long line of Gentiles who would join Israel in worshiping Jesus as King. Indeed, a Savior is born for all the nations! Come, let us adore him!

Opening Hymn

Rise Up and Shine #376

1 Rise up and shine! Your light has come;
God's glory breaks like dawn.
For though the earth be cloaked in night
and gloom shrouds ev'ryone,
yet over you the Lord will rise,
with glory gleaming clear,
till nations turn to seek your light
and humbled kings draw near.

2 Fling wide your gates, both day and night;
no more keep watch or guard.

You will be called God's holy hill,
the city of the Lord.

No sound of strife will plague your land,
nor harm besiege your ways;

"Salvation" will you name your walls,
and all your portals "Praise."

3 No more will you implore the sun
to shed by day its light,

nor will you need the changeful moon
to glisten through the night.

Your glory then will be your God,
whose light will never cease.

Rise up and shine! Your light has come
to give you joy and peace.

Invocation

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

Amen.

Confession of Sins

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just

and will forgive us our sins

and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.**

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

- 1 Glory be to God in heaven,
 peace to those he loves so well.
On the earth let all his people
 speak his grace, his wonders tell:
Lord, we praise you for your glory,
 mighty Father, heaven's King;
hear our joyful adoration
 and accept the thanks we bring.
- 2 Only Son of God the Father,
 Lamb who takes our sin away,
now with him in triumph seated—
 for your mercy, Lord, we pray:
Jesus Christ, most high and holy,
 Savior, you are God alone
in the glory of the Father
 with the Spirit, Three in One!

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

² See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.

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

⁴ “Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.

⁵ Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.

⁶ Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.

And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

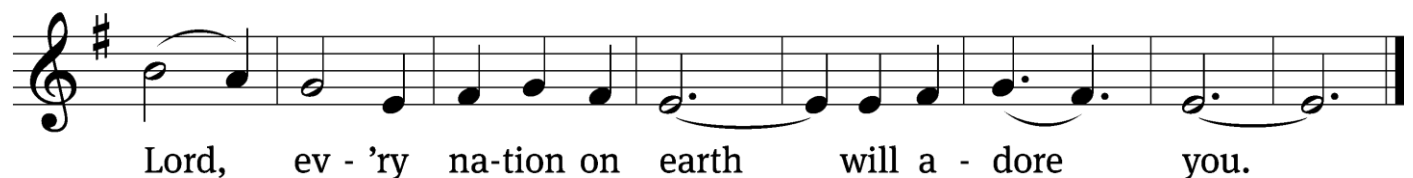
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Every Nation on Earth Will Adore You - 72A

Refrain



Lord, ev - 'ry na-tion on earth will a - dore you.

Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.

**May he endure as long as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all generations.**

May he be like rain falling on a mown field,
like showers watering the earth.

**In his days may the righteous flourish
and prosperity abound till the moon is no more. *Refrain***

May all kings bow down to him
and all nations serve him.

**Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be given him.
May the kings of Sheba and Seba present him gifts.**

May people ever pray for him
and bless him all day long.

**Then all nations will be blessed through him,
and they will call him blessed.**

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,**

as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen. *Refrain*

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-12

² Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2:2



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?

We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Refrain

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star #370:1-4

1 How lovely shines the Morning Star!

The nations see and hail afar

the light in Judah shining.

O David's son of Jacob's race,
my Bridegroom and my King of grace,

for you my heart is pining.

Lowly, holy, great and glorious,

O victorious Prince of graces,
filling all the heav'nly places.

2 O highest joy by mortals won,

true Son of God and Mary's son,

the highborn King of ages!

In your blest body let me be,

e'en as the branch is in the tree,

your life my life supplying.

Sighing, crying for the savor

of your favor, resting never

till I rest in you forever.

3 O mighty Father, in your Son

you loved me ere you had begun

this ancient world's foundation.

Your Son has made a friend of me,

and when in spirit him I see,

I joy in tribulation.

What bliss is this! He is living,

to me giving life forever;

nothing me from him can sever.

4 Oh, joy to know that you, my friend,

are Lord, beginning without end,

the first and last, eternal!
And you at length—O glorious grace—
will take me to that holy place,
the home of joys supernal.
Amen, amen! Come and meet me,
quickly greet me! With deep yearning,
Lord, I look for your returning

Sermon

Isaiah 60:1-6

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the Gentiles and glory of Israel, as you once revealed yourself as the light of the world to the Wise Men with a star, enlighten our hearts with your holy Word.

We pray to you and bless your name all day long.

People near and far live in the darkness of sin, fear, anger and shame. Reveal your glory also to them, and call them out of the darkness into the light of your grace, love, peace and forgiveness.

We pray to you and bless your name all day long.

Bless missionaries who proclaim your gospel near and far. Give them courage to speak your Word boldly. Give them a spirit of love and compassion as they speak your Word of grace and bring healing to the nations.

We pray to you and bless your name all day long.

King of all, govern and guide the rulers of all nations, that people everywhere may enjoy peace and safety, and that your gospel may spread and bring your spiritual kingdom to the hearts of many.

We pray to you and bless your name all day long.

Let your healing light shine on the hearts of those who are hurting, who are troubled, or who are waiting for healing of mind or body [especially...]. Relieve pain, give peace, heal and restore as it fits your plan and will.

We pray to you and bless your name all day long.

Silent prayers and special intercessions

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the brightness of your faithful people, and you have let your light shine to all nations. Fill the world with your glory, and let your light, love and peace enlighten and warm the hearts of all. You live and reign with your Father and the Holy Spirit, truly God and truly human, now and forever.

Amen.

Offering

The Sacrament

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

#167

♪ **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts:**

heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he, blessed is he,

blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of

death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

#169

♪ **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. Amen.**

Distribution Hymn

As with Gladness Men of Old #372

- 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!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift.
We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our
love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star #370:5

5 Lift up the voice and strike the string,

let all glad sounds of music ring

in God's high praises blended.

Christ will be with me all the way,

today, tomorrow, ev'ry day

till trav'ling days are ended.

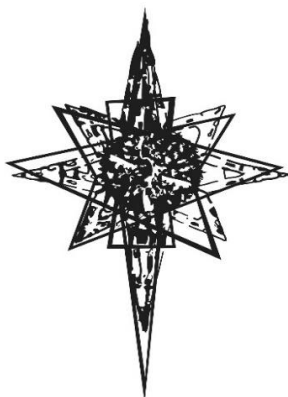
Sing out, ring out triumph glorious,

O victorious chosen nation;

praise the God of your salvation.

This Week at Zion

Today:	7:30 / 9:45 a.m. 8:30 / 8:40 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School & Bible class Undecorating Day at church
Mon:	1:00 p.m.	OWLS meeting at St. Peter's Lutheran – Fond du Lac (c.f. newsletter)
Tue:	7:00 p.m.	Council Budget meeting
Wed:	6:00 p.m.	Catechism Instructions
Thu:	7:00 p.m.	Worship
Sat:	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Singles event in Weyauwega (cf. newsletter) Pans / Percussion Concert at KML
Sun:	7:30 / 9:45 a.m. 8:30 / 8:40 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School & Bible class Commissioning Service for Pastor Jonathan Bare at Christ Alone Lutheran, Mequon



EPIPHANY

In Our Prayers Sandy Eichsteadt, who suffered a recent heart attack and is at St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac; the family of Naomi Engeleiter (Keith & Kevin Bartelt's aunt) and the family of Gordon Rosenthal (related to a number of Zion members, both of whom passed away earlier this week. For those interested, Naomi Engeleiter's funeral will be at Good Shepherd (W.B.) on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. (visitation from 2 – 5:15 p.m.). We trust and take comfort in Jesus' promise: "Because I live, you also will live."

Holy Communion We believe that the Lord comes to us visibly and tangibly in the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. Participation in this Sacrament is a statement of agreement in this teaching and also our unity in the faith (1 Corinthians 10:17). For these reasons, if you are not yet a member of Zion or a sister congregation of the WELS or ELS, we respectfully ask you to refrain from receiving the Lord's Supper until we have had an opportunity to explain this wonderful gift in more detail.

Sunday School / Bible Study Begin the new year with God by spending more time with him in his Word. Our Sunday School resumes this morning (Sunday) at 8:30 a.m. in the church proper and the adult bible study meets in the fellowship hall at 8:45 a.m. Join us!

Thank you to Barb Olsen who served as our organist for all the worship services this weekend.

KML Sunday Next Sunday Pastor Randy Hughes, campus pastor and instructor at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, will serve as our guest preacher for the weekend. As a KML Federation congregation, we support KML as they educate, encourage, and equip students for life and eternity.

Christmas Undecorating Today right after the late service we plan to undecorate the church and take down the trees. Your help would be appreciated.

Envelopes Envelope boxes for 2023 are available on the table in the entryway. If you have questions or can't find your box, please contact our financial secretary, Gene Salzman, at 262-323-1990.

Please pick up a copy of the January *Forward in Christ* and the church calendar, available on the cabinets in the entryway. The cover article from the *Forward* focuses on Pastor Aaron Strong, a former son of this congregation, who was given his heavenly homecoming after a sudden accident back in October.

Commissioning Service Rev. Jon Bare will be commissioned as the new president of Asia Lutheran Seminary at a special service next Sunday, January 15th at 3:00 p.m. at Christ Alone Lutheran Church, Thiensville. You are warmly invited to come and add your prayers to the many that go up to heaven on behalf of him, his wife Kim, and their children as they follow the Lord's special calling. A dinner reception will follow.

Pans and Percussion Concert This Saturday, January 14, at 6:30 PM, you are invited to enjoy a pans and percussion concert featuring the ensembles of Wisconsin Lutheran and Kettle Moraine Lutheran High Schools. The concert will be held in KML's PAC auditorium and also livestreamed at kmlhs.org/stream.

Praise Concert & Sing Along Come join the KML Echoes, KML Chapel Band, and [Unworthy](#) for a free praise concert and sing along on Wednesday, January 25, at 6:30 PM in the KML PAC auditorium. This is a free concert - no tickets needed! Warm your hearts with the joy of the Gospel as we sing praises to our Savior together! There will be a free will offering at the event to support the Echoes for their band/choir trip to Memphis and Nashville.