

# EPIPHANY

I have made you a  
light for the Gentiles.

Acts 13:47 NIV

**THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

January 2 / 5, 2024

# Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

6430 Hwy. D

Allenton, Wisconsin 53002

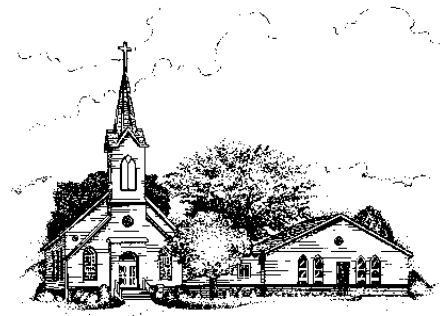
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## Welcome to God's House

On Christmas Eve the angel told the shepherds, "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people." One wonders if those words struck those Jewish shepherds as odd. For centuries, God had given special attention to *one* nation—Israel. There were Jewish religious leaders who taught that only members of that special people would be saved. Not according to the Christmas angel! The birth of the Savior was good news for all people.



Today we celebrate the Festival of the Epiphany. Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning "reveal." When the Savior was born, he was first revealed to Israelites: the shepherds, Simeon, Anna. Today, we see the Lord miraculously guides foreigners across countless miles so the Savior could be revealed to them as well. How did the magi respond? "They were overjoyed." The Festival of Epiphany is sometimes known as "The Gentiles' Christmas." We Gentiles (non-Jews) rejoice in the good news that this Jewish baby is not just a gift for the Jews. He is a gift for all people—the Savior of the world.

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

**Opening Hymn**

**As with Gladness Men of Old #372**

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.

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

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.

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.

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!

## **Invocation**

In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## **Confession**

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.  
**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,  
and we have not done those things that we should have done.  
Have mercy on us, Lord!  
Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,  
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*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.**

**Lord, Have Mercy**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the

Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

♪ 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.

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**

Let us pray.

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 your Son, Jesus  
Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **First Reading**

**1 Kings 10:1-9**

When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his  
relationship to the Lord, she came to test Solomon with hard

questions. <sup>2</sup> Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. <sup>3</sup> Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. <sup>4</sup> When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, <sup>5</sup> the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the Lord, she was overwhelmed. <sup>6</sup> She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. <sup>7</sup> But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. <sup>8</sup> How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! <sup>9</sup> Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the Lord’s eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness.”

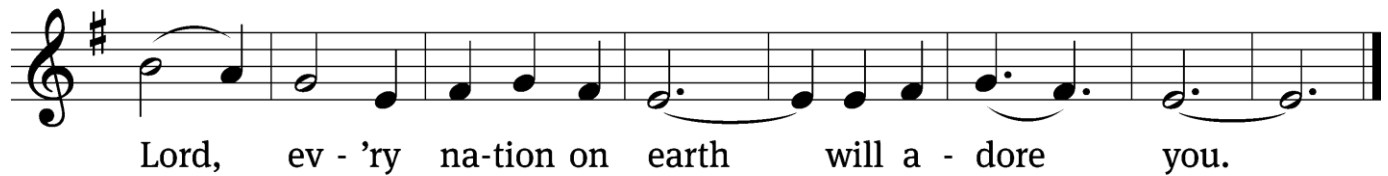
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



# Psalm of the Day Lord, Every Nation on Earth Will Adore You - 72A

## Refrain



## Tone



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 gener- / ations.

May he be like rain falling on a / mown field,  
like showers water- / ing 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 pre- / sent 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 be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

## **Second Reading**

**Acts 13:46-49**

<sup>46</sup> Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. <sup>47</sup> For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

“I have made you a light for the Gentiles,  
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>48</sup> When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

<sup>49</sup> The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## **Hymn Response**

**ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR**

♪ **Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,  
manifested by the star to the Magi from afar,  
branch of royal David's stem, in your birth at Bethlehem.  
Anthems be to you addressed, God in man made manifest.**



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> 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.”

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup> “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.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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.”

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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, 3, 5

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.

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.

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.

## Sermon

*Please stand*

## **The Apostles' Creed**

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.

*Be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

**You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.**

Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

**You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**

Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth.

Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

**Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.**

Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. [We pray especially for...] Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn.

**Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayers and special intercessions*

Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

**Amen.**

## **Offering**

*The members of Zion have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you are a visitor, please don't feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.*

## **Hymn**

**Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun #380**

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run;

his kingdom stretch from shore to shore  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made  
and endless praises crown his head;  
his name like sweet perfume shall rise  
with ev'ry morning sacrifice.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
Dwell on his love with sweetest song,  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
the pris'ners leap, unloosed their chains,  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring  
worship and honor to our King;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen.

### **Closing Prayer**

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

## 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                      Angels From the Realms of Glory #347:3, 5

Magi, leave your contemplations,

    brighter visions beam afar;

seek the great desire of nations,

    you have seen the Savior's star. *Refrain*

*Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

All creation, join in praising

    God the Father, Spirit, Son,

evermore your voices raising

    to th' eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

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**72A Lord, Every Nation on Earth Will Adore You**       Psalm 72A

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## **This Week at Zion**

<b>Today:</b>	7:30 / 9:45 a.m. Worship 8:30 / 8:45 a.m. Sunday School / Bible study
<b>Mon:</b>	6:30 p.m. Sunday School Teacher meeting
<b>Wed:</b>	6:00 p.m. Catechism instructions
<b>Thu:</b>	7:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
<b>Fri-Sun:</b>	Teen Retreat at Camp Phillip
<b>Sat:</b>	6:30 p.m. Percussion Concert at KML
<b>Sun:</b>	7:30 / 9:45 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 8:30 / 8:45 a.m. Sunday School / Bible study

**In Our Prayers** Kenn & Gail Kurtz, in thanksgiving to God on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary yesterday (Saturday); also the family of Duane Wipperfurth (Josh Ernisse's father-in-law) who passed away this past Wednesday.

**We thank** our accompanists who served at worship this weekend: Anna Bode on Thursday and Barb Olsen on Sunday.

**Undecorating Day** The 12 days of Christmas officially end on Epiphany, January 6<sup>th</sup>, so we'll be undecorating our church and fellowship hall **today** (Sunday) after the late service IF we have enough volunteers. Please consider donating 30-45 minutes to take down the lights, ornaments and decoration. Thank you.

**Pick up the** January editions of the *Forward in Christ* from the cabinets in the entryway, as well as the January church calendar and newsletters.

**Annual Meeting** Once a year our voters gather on a Monday evening in January to review the "state of the congregation." Join us on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for our annual voters meeting. The annual report will then be

available by the end of January.

**New Resolutions** Would you like to make a new year's resolution that will have a greater positive impact on your life than any other resolution you could make? How about resolving to participate in a bible study or two in the new year? Each Sunday morning we dig into God's Word, discuss on a practical level, and grow in our faith while doing it. Join us!

**Offering Envelopes** for 2025 that were not picked up from the fellowship hall have been placed in the church mailboxes. Please check your box today. Even if you use the auto -withdrawal option for your contributions, you should have a box with your name on it.

**Percussion Invitational Concert** This Saturday, January 11, enjoy a percussion concert featuring the ensembles of Wisconsin Lutheran and Kettle Moraine Lutheran High Schools. The concert will be held in KML's Performing Arts Center starting at 6:30 p.m. and will also be livestreamed at [www.kmlhs.org/stream](http://www.kmlhs.org/stream).

**Marriage Enrichment Evenings** – All married couples are invited to “Marriage Keys”, the Marriage Enrichment Series held at Christ Alone Lutheran Church – Thiensville. It will be held three Sunday evenings - January 19, February 16, and March 16 (each session is a different topic and a different leader!), meeting 6:25 PM to 7:40 PM in the church fellowship hall. Free event! Childcare available! Snacks and beverages provided. Questions? Call 262-242-4710. Signup deadline for registration is Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4CA9AD2AAoFE3-53870257-marriage#/>

**After Christmas Sale** Merry Christmas! Until January 18, 2025, save big on select books, cards, decorations, and more for a limited time while supplies last in the NPH After Christmas Sale. Go to [www.nph.net](http://www.nph.net) for details.