



Zion Lutheran Church

The Divine Service

Epiphany (Observed)

Welcome

Before Service Prayer

*Lord Jesus,
May your light
shine our way,
As once it guided
the steps of the
magi: that we too
may be led into
your presence and
worship you, the
Child of Mary, the
Word of the
Father, the King of
nations, the Savior
of mankind; to
whom be glory
forever.
Amen*

Frank Colquhoun

The narrative of Epiphany is the story of these two human communities: Jerusalem, with its great pretensions, and Bethlehem, with its modest promises. We can choose a “return to normalcy” in a triumphalist mode, a life of self-sufficiency that contains within it its own seeds of destruction. Or we can choose an alternative that comes in innocence and a hope that confounds our usual pretensions. We can receive life given in vulnerability. It is amazing—the true accent of epiphany—that the wise men do not resist this alternative but go on to the village. Rather than hesitate or resist, they reorganize their wealth and learning, and reorient themselves and their lives around a baby with no credentials.

Walter Brueggemann, "Off By Nine Miles," *The Christian Century*, December 19, 2001, p. 15

January 3rd, 2021

We are very happy that you are here today!

At Zion, the bulletin and Lutheran Service Book (LSB) are both used to lead us through our worship. To help guide you during the service, below are some helpful tips.

- For each section of the Divine Service, the page number in the hymnal is listed in the bulletin on the right side of the page, i.e., *LSB 184*, which is found towards the front of the hymnal. All responses are sung unless they are printed in the bulletin.
- **P** indicates sections spoken by the Pastor. **C** indicates responses by the Congregation and will be in **bold print**.
- All hymns are listed in the bulletin with the name of the hymn and page number, i.e., *Thy Strong Word LSB 578*. They are also shown on the Hymn board at the front of the church.
- The *red text* in both the bulletin and the hymnal shows when the congregation should stand or sit during the Divine Service. The Pastor may also provide direction.

A Special Welcome to Those with Young Children

At Zion we want families with children to feel at home.

- First, please relax and enjoy your time here. Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk a bit, so please don't feel embarrassed by it. Your children are welcome at Zion.
- To make it a bit easier on your family, please dare to sit toward the front where your children can easily see the front of the Church, note the colors, watch the pastor, wonder about the stained-glass windows above the altar and embrace the action at the altar. What Jesus does here promises to engage them.
- As we go, softly explain the Liturgy to your children, encouraging them to chime in on their parts: Amen! Lord have mercy! And with thy Spirit! I believe! Our Father! All of that belongs to them too.
- Be sure to sing and say and pray your parts too as you stand and sit. Your children learn by following your lead.
- If you and your child must leave, please hurry back. We want you and your children here very much.
- If you need a little help, just ask. There are lots of folks here who will lend you a hand.
- Please know that while you are caring for your children, the rest of us will be rejoicing in Jesus' words, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Luke 18:16).

We know that your children are a gift to the Church, so we will do our best to welcome, smile, encourage, help and bless you all. Welcome to Zion!



Responsive Prayer II

Opening Versicles

LSB 285

- L** O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.

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.

Psalm

Psalm 24; antiphon: v. 7

- L** 1The earth is the LORD's and the full- | ness thereof,*
the world and those who | dwell therein,
C 2for he has founded it up- | on the seas*
and established it upon the | rivers.
- L** 3Who shall ascend the hill | of the LORD?*
And who shall stand in his | holy place?
C 4He who has clean hands and a | pure heart,*
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear de- | ceitfully.
- L** 5He will receive blessing | from the LORD*
and righteousness from the God of his sal- | vation.
- C** 6Such is the generation of those who | seek him,*
who seek the face of the God of | Jacob.
- L** 7Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O | ancient doors,*
that the King of glory | may come in.
- C** 8Who is this King of | glory?*
The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in | battle!
- L** 9Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O | ancient doors,*
that the King of glory | may come in.
- C** 10Who is this King of | glory?*

**The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of | glory!**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

The Old Testament reading for Epiphany is from Isaiah, the sixtieth chapter.

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For 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.
And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
Lift 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.
Then 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.
A 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

The Epistle Reading is from Ephesians, the third chapter.

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which 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. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of 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. To 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, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

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, saying, “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.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“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.”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And 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.” After 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. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And 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. And 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 be to thee, O Christ.

Sermon

The Light has Come!

Isaiah 60:1-6

Prayer of the Church

Kyrie

LSB 285

L O Lord,
C have mercy.
L O Christ,
C have mercy.
L O Lord,
C have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.**

Versicles

LSB 286

- L** Hear my prayer, O Lord;
- C** **let my cry come to You.**
- L** In the day of my trouble I call upon You,
- C** **for You answer me.**
- L** Hide Your face from my sins,
- C** **and blot out all my iniquities.**
- L** Create in me a clean heart, O God,
- C** **and renew a right spirit within me.**
- L** Cast me not away from Your presence,
- C** **and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**
- L** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
- C** **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**
- L** Because Your steadfast love is better than life,
- C** **my lips will praise You.**
- L** For You have been my help,
- C** **and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.**
- L** Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;
- C** **unite my heart to fear Your name.**
- L** I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
- C** **and I will glorify Your name forever.**
- L** May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.
- C** **May those who love Your salvation say evermore, “God is great!”**
- L** Save Your people and bless Your heritage!
- C** **Be their shepherd and carry them forever.**
- L** Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
- C** **listen to my plea for grace.**

Collect of the Day

- L** Let us pray.
- O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles.
Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence;

through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

Benedicamus

LSB 287

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Blessing

LSB 287

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

The Prayers of the Church

Persecuted Christians in:

Egypt
Uzbekistan
Myanmar
Laos
Vietnam

Partner Church

The Lutheran Church of
Uruguay

Comfort, Health, and Recovery

Amy Villalobos (*sister-in-law of Katie*)
Glenda Schrock
Bob Allen
Susan Allen
David Knoerschild
Peggy Flatt (*friend of Susan Colles*)
Angela Jones (*friend of Phyllis Campbell*)
Janice Conley (*friend of Delores McDaniel*)
Bo Rowe
Barbara Smith
Astasha Lamar
John Kuretsch
Virginia Ralston

Homebound

Dorothy Birkhahn
Betty Bocksnick
Nettie Grant
Gwen Hale
Tom Harms
Kenneth Hottinger Sr.
Helen Rick
Glenda Schrock
Lawrence Steuber

Catechumens

Emmett Schlittenhart
Gavin Rion
Tatum Rion
Alison Waldo
Alivia Waldo
Chance Paylor

Serving in the armed forces

Logan Kremers
Matthew Allen
Brian Rutledge
Trent Hale
Josh Immie
Dale Ozment

*When hospitalized, sick, needing prayer or absolution,
contact Pastor Ralston anytime at 501-454-0581.*

ZION Life Together



Epiphany (Observed) January 3, 2021

The Fruits of Our Faith 12/27/2020

Present in Worship: 39

Adult Sunday School: 5

Children's Sunday School: 4

Offering (12/27):

General: \$1,830

Food Pantry: \$250

Weekly Budget Offering Needed: \$2,620

Prayer Requests

In efforts to keep current with those in need of prayer, we will keep names on the Prayers of the Church list on a 4-week rotation. If someone needs to be put back onto the prayer list, email Pastor Ralston at rev.jralston@gmail.com or Phyllis Campbell at officeassistant.zlc@gmail.com.

Praise the Lord with Flowers

The 2021 Altar Flower Chart is now ready for you to select a Sunday or special service to place flowers on the altar. Thank and praise the Lord by remembering a loved one, celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or another special day, or just for all that God has done for you. If you need assistance with getting the flowers, talk with Susan Colles.

The flowers today are given by the Ralston's in honor of their god-daughter's baptismal birthday.

Christmas Tree

We will be taking down the Christmas Tree on Sunday, January 10th after the second service. If you are planning to come and help, we'll start at 12:30.

Special Voters Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the scheduled district conventions for summer 2021 are most likely not to happen for all districts. Their business needs to be conducted before the Synodical Convention in the Summer of 2022. To allow for Districts to safely have conventions before the next Synodical Convention, the District and Synodical Conventions are needing to be pushed back a year. This issue needs to be voted on by congregations of the LCMS. District President Roger Paavola has requested Mid-South congregations to participate.

To vote on this matter, we will hold a special voters meeting in between services on **Sunday, January 10th at 10:30 AM**. The only motion to be voted on is as follows:

Shall the Synod add a year to the current 2019-2022 triennium, allowing districts to hold their conventions in either 2021 or 2022, and moving the upcoming national Synod Convention from 2022 to 2023? [Thereafter, the triennium cycle will continue forward from 2023 in three-year increments, as before (i.e., with district conventions held in 2025, 2028, etc., and Synod Conventions held in 2026, 2029, etc.).]



Zion

Lutheran Church

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The Reverend Joshua Ralston
Pastor

Rusty Dorn
Congregational President

Jeff Schlittenhart
Head Elder

Diane Ragsdale
LWML President

Nikki Dorn
Treasurer

Angelia Paylor
Assistant Treasurer

Phyllis Campbell
Office Assistant

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**If calling for a Pastoral Emergency,
contact Pastor Ralston directly:**

Cell.....501-454-0581
Church.....479-331-3277

Restrooms

Restrooms are located in the Narthex outside of the Sanctuary and in the basement Fellowship Hall. Please see an usher if you need assistance.

Nursery

The Nursery is located in the Narthex outside of the Sanctuary.

Congregational Membership

New members are received by Baptism, Confirmation, Transfer, or Profession of Faith (after receiving Pastoral instruction). Please speak with Pastor Ralston for more details.

Pastoral Consultation

Pastoral Consultation based on the Holy Scriptures is available from the Pastor. Please speak with Pastor Ralston to make an appointment.

Sick and Homebound

The sick and homebound are visited regularly by the Pastor with the Scriptures and Sacrament. Please contact Pastor Ralston if you know of any parishioner in need of pastoral visitation.

Pastor's Bible Study, Teen, and Children's Sunday School

Sunday School begins at 11:45 am. Anyone from confirmation age on up is welcome to attend Bible Study. Teen and Children's Sunday School is held **every Sunday** in the basement Fellowship Hall/Family Center (Ages 0 and up).

Listen to Lutheran Radio

Listen: Issues, Etc. is talk-radio for the thinking Christian. Listen 24/7 at www.IssuesETC.org *The Lutheran Hour* is broadcast on KARV 610 AM/101.3 FM every Sunday at 7:30AM.