



"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."

*Matthew 2:2,
ESV*

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH and SCHOOL

The Epiphany Observed - January 3, 2021

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 3, 2021

Welcome to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

NURSERY AVAILABLE We have an unstaffed nursery for your convenience and privacy. The nursery has audio and video so you may hear and see the worship service while attending to your child.

Holy Communion is celebrated at the 8:30 service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and at the 11:00 service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

(P = Pastor, C = Congregation, A = Reader/Assisting)

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Theme: “The Mystery of Christ”

AS WE GATHER

We consider the mysteries highlighted by the Readings for the Feast of the Epiphany. The Wise Men, or Magi, mysteriously show up in Jerusalem, and these strangers are looking for the King of the Jews. The King of the Jews is mysteriously an infant, born to a humble family in Bethlehem, not in Jerusalem. And this King of the Jews mysteriously invites all people from all nations into His kingdom. These mysteries, hidden for the ages, is revealed in Jesus, the Light of the world.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

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 to Thee.

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 Heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every 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

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

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** Arise, shine, for your light has come!
C **Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.**
- P** All the nations shall come to the light of Christ.
C **Kings shall bring Him gifts.**
- P** For Christ reveals the mystery hidden through the ages,
C **that all nations are partakers of the promise in Jesus Christ.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Through the Gospel, all people are fellow heirs of salvation and members of the same Body. Yet there have been times when we have failed to live in unity, when we have failed to treat our brothers and sisters in Christ with respect and honor, when we have failed to share the mystery of Jesus with others. Our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

- P** Heavenly Father,
C **we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have created division and discord. We have hidden the light of Christ from others. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us with the light of Christ, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy sent His Son, Jesus, into our world to shine as a light for all people, including You. Jesus has died for your sins and is risen for your righteousness. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen. We are partakers of the promise. We are forgiven in Christ.**

SALUTATION

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known to the Gentiles Your only-begotten Son. 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.

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C And also with you.

✠ THE WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1–6 (ESV)

(All nations will come to Christ.)

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ² 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. ³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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

Ephesians 3:1–12 (ESV)

(The mystery hidden for ages)

¹ For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³ how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴ When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that He has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² 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.**

LAMBS LESSON

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1–12 (ESV)

(The Wise Men follow the star and come to worship Jesus.)

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹ 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 saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They 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.” ⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.”

⁹ 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.
¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ 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.
¹² 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.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN

“The Star Proclaims the King Is Here”

(tune: Oh, Blest the House)

The star proclaims the King is here; But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For He who offers heav'nly birth Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.

The eastern sages saw from far And followed on His guiding star;
And, led by light, to light they trod And by their gifts confessed their God.

For this Thy glad epiphany All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,
Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit evermore.

SERMON

“MYSTERY TREASURE”

Ephesians 3:1–12
Pastor Jim Sprengle

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(Our offerings are made as an act of worship, given in loving response to all that God has graciously given us, both materially and spiritually.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P As the Spirit calls us, let us approach the throne of light on behalf of all who sit in darkness and the shadow of death and that the people of God may walk in the light.

O blessed Lord, we give You thanks that the mystery once hidden has now been revealed and Jesus Christ is come for all people. Grant us boldness so that we may proclaim with confidence this saving Gospel and prepare the hearts of those who hear so that they may believe in Jesus Christ. Light of the world,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, there are many divisions in the church, divisions based on class, race, wealth, and age, divisions that need not exist. Bring unity where there is division, peace where there is discord, and reconciliation where there is conflict. Light of the world,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Loving God, Your Son came to claim all our ills and to grant us healing, comfort, and peace sufficient for all our needs. We especially pray for...that their suffering be relieved, their sorrows find comfort, and their hearts know the fullness of Your peace. Light of the world,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, we rejoice with those who are celebrating, especially...We give You thanks for all the blessings of this life and of the life to come. Light of the world,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant to us all things needful and keep from us all things harmful, O Lord, for we trust in Your goodness and in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord Jesus, Light of the world, grant us boldness and faith to pray as You have taught us:

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.**

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. *Numbers 6:24–26*
- C** Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please read the FYI in your bulletin for additional announcements and information.)

HYMN

“The People That In Darkness Sat”

The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long. In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.

To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is giv’n,
And on His shoulder ever rests All pow’r in earth and heav’n,
All pow’r in earth and heav’n.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor, The God by all adored,
The God by all adored.

Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God!**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Scripture taken from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version* ®, Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Capitalization of pronouns referring to the Deity has been added and is not part of the original English Standard Version text.

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† ALTERNATIVES FOR HOMEBOUND WORSHIP

- Online Daily Devotions are on our Facebook page: Ascension Lutheran Church and School - Portland
- Radio: KPdq on 93.9FM Sunday mornings at 7:00am.
- alcpportland.org for Bible Studies and Worship Services

† ATTENDING SATURDAY SERVICE

Services will be recorded at 2:00pm. The official rule for religious services is maximum 25 people, including pastors and assistants, 6-foot distancing and masks are required. After the service is recorded, a brief communion service will be held for those in attendance.

Reservations: Contact office and speak to Michele.
Reservations for coming Saturday only (no multiple weeks)
If full that week, names go on next week's list

The procedure for coming is as follows:

1. Do not have ANY illnesses or symptoms.
2. Arrive prior to 2:00pm as the service is taped and disturbances after beginning are not good
3. Wear a mask when entering
4. Use hand sanitizer on the table and sign in on the sheet there
5. Social distance of 6 feet at all times
6. Enter the building through the Narthex Entrance
7. To enter the sanctuary, use the door at the hallway not the main sanctuary doors as they are blocked off due to filming.
8. No dwelling after church in the narthex. Please take conversations outside.

† ASCENSION HELP LINE – 971-715-1416**BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS**

Jeff Latter	1/5	Savannah Spencer	1/8
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BIRTHDAYS

Doug Lambert	1/3	Sheryl Maier	1/5
Linda Strefling	1/6	Bill Green	1/7

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Cody and Danielle Brown	1/5/2019
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PRAYER NEEDS?

Contact the church office with any requests at 503-665-8821 or e-mail: office@alcportland.org

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

The Family of Jack Webber, Carolyn Erdmann, Elly Brown, Mike Hatley, The family of Alejandra Gamboa, The Family of Randy Arronson, Mary Niska, Larry Hart, Bill Ritchie, Colleen Ek Yah, Esperanza Gutierrez, Brian Laxton, Virginia Hunt, John Eilers and Family, Marty Blankenburg, Richard Robertson, Lewis Eilers, The Family of Wayne Rippon, Rich Zahursky, Audrey Bauch, Alan Bauch, Leonard Murphy, Bruce Blubaum, Judy Blubaum, Ray Brown, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), Michele Sprengle
Ava Wentela (Sue Wentela's granddaughter), Carol Santorufo (sister of Sue Wentela),
*Ordena Laxton, *Barbara Schrader, *Dale Porath, All those suffering or infected with Covid-19.

**Home Bound.*

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:

Marie Cassetty Brown, Air Force — Ramstein Air Base, Germany AFB LA (sister-in-law of Wanda Cassetty);

Jaden Keup, Army – deployed (great-nephew of Karon Keup);

Jon Porath, Air Force — Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas NV (son of Dale and Sherry Porath);

Dakota Saunders, US Navy — Based in Cecilia Italy (godson of Carrie Graham);

Alex Williamson, Air Force, Reserve — Washington (grandson of Rebecca Williamson);

Michael Williamson, Air Force, Reserve — Texas (grandson of Rebecca Williamson);

Jamie Wong-Lopez, Marines — Annapolis MD (nephew of Kevin and Merci McInaney);

Clayton Wright Air Force – Yokota AFB Japan (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

Colton Wright, Navy — Assigned to USS Harry S. Truman (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

Tyler Young, Navy — Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).

Ascension Lutheran Church and School

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233

Church: 503-665-8821 · Childcare Center: 503-667-6750

Web Site: www.alcportland.org

Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

Our Mission Statement: Go and Share Jesus Christ

Our Vision Statement: Take part... Join Jesus on His mission

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God’s witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8): With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God—the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God’s Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

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