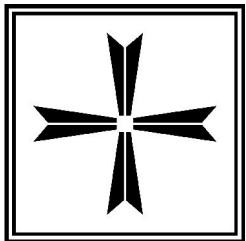




JESUS APPEARS AS THE SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS

*THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
JANUARY 5, 2014*



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

JANUARY 5, 2014 - *THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word. If you are a guest, please fill out a Connection card found in our entryway. You can place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor or an usher as you leave.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Sound / Music: Erik Roberson

Ushers: Erik Roberson, Bob Holbrook

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

Church Office: (205) 677-8642

Cell: (205) 478-6843

Email: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY



The Epiphany of our Lord is Christendom's second oldest festival. To the churches of the East, Epiphany is the festival of Christ's birth; in the western church, the day of Epiphany stresses the visit of the Magi. The word "epiphany" means, "to reveal." Thus, the visit of the Magi reveals that Christ came to earth to be the Savior of all people. Then, throughout the season of Epiphany, which opens with the festival, God's Word offers a rich and varied message of the person of Christ and his work. He is revealed as the Savior of all people!

BEFORE WORSHIP

As you prepare to worship your Lord today, spend a few quiet moments in prayer before the service. Review the lessons, the service notes, and pray this prayer:

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.

FOR THE CHILDREN

Children's Activity Sheets give activities and lessons pertaining to the Scripture lessons for the day. Ask an usher at the door into the sanctuary.

If your little one needs a moment, there is a speaker and window in our entryway that will allow you to see and hear the service.

Children's Church is a special place for younger children to hear a Bible story, sing some songs, learn a prayer, and do a craft. You can escort your child to our children's church just before the sermon as noted in the service folder.

INFORMATION

Bathrooms are located at the end of the end of the hallway as you exit the sanctuary.

Looking for more information? If you would like to learn more about Our Savior Lutheran Church, check out our information table in the entryway, speak with Pastor Kratz after the service, send him an email at: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com, or call the church office at (205) 677-8642.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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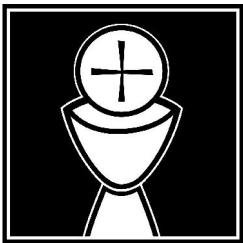
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DIVINE SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

#80

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

~PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.

(L)eader: In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

(C)ongregation: Amen.

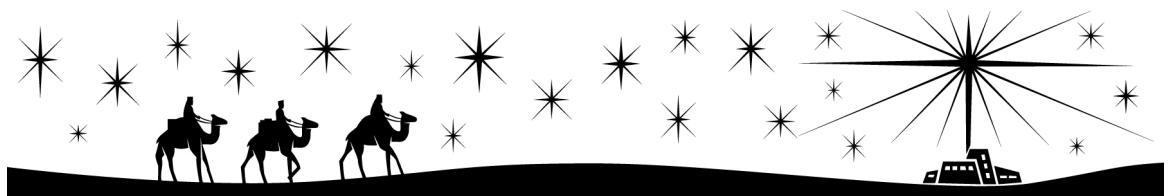
CONFESSON OF SINS

The use of the keys (the power to forgive sins) is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sinners (See John 20:21-23).

L: As we prepare to worship God and have our faith fed through Word and Sacrament, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for personal confession and reflection



LORD, HAVE MERCY ~ *KYRIE*

Musical notation for the Kyrie hymn, featuring two staves of music in G clef and common time. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us. A - men."

"Kyrie" is the Greek word for "Lord." The expression "Lord, have mercy" is one of the oldest responses in the Christian church.

L: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

L: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

GLORY BE TO GOD ~ *GLORIA IN EXCELSIS*

Musical notation for the Gloria in Excelsis hymn, featuring five staves of music in G clef and common time. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the

Christians praise God by proclaiming the great things he has done to accomplish our rescue from sin. "Glory to God in the Highest" has been a Christian song of worship since the fourth century.

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re -

ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Glo - ry to God, glo - - ry to God!

SALUTATION

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

This greeting has deep roots in Christian worship and marks the beginning of the Word and the Sacrament sections of the service.

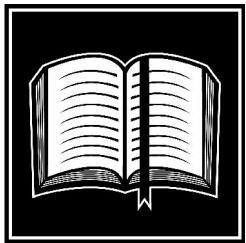
PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: Amen.

~PLEASE BE SEATED



Isaiah proclaims the coming of the Savior in terms of light that is showered on all people.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 60:1-6 (PG. 1155)

- 60** "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 arm.
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.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 72

*The Church sings
praise to him "who
alone does
marvelous deeds."
To him the kings of
the earth must bow.
The nations declare
him blessed.*

REFRAIN

Lord ev'-ry na-tion on earth will a - dore you,
and all peo-ple shall walk by your light.

*God, may your judgment come dwell in your king, your justice to each son and daughter;
Oh show forth your justice, your mercy to the poor. **Refrain.***

*Justice shall flourish, and peace forevermore,
From the seas to the ends of the earth. **Refrain.***

*For he shall rescue the poor when they cry, the weak and the helpless he shall save;
His mercy will shine on the poor and needy souls. **Refrain.***

SECOND LESSON

EPHESIANS 3:2-12 (PG. 1820)

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 men 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 God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable 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 which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Through the Church, the "unsearchable riches of Christ" are to be declared to all nations by means of the Word and sacraments.

VERSE OF THE DAY

MATTHEW 2:2

The musical notation consists of two staves of music. The top staff is in G major, common time, with a treble clef. It features a melody line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia," are written below the staff, corresponding to the melody. The bottom staff continues the melody, also with the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia," and concludes with a final exclamation mark over the last note.

L: Refrain.

C: **Refrain.**

L: We have seen his star, his star in the east, and have come to adore Christ the Lord.

C: **Refrain.**

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 2:1-12 (PG. 1497)

The congregation stands and speaks words of acclamation out of respect for the word of Christ, our King.

The Magi come to worship the Savior of the nations.

~PLEASE STAND

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

2 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 in the east 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 Christ 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 be the shepherd of 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 make a careful search 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 in the east 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 and of incense and of myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



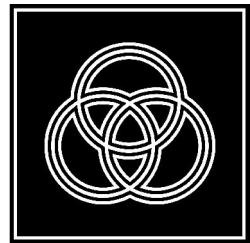
Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

NICENE CREED ~ *CREDO*

C: 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 fully 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.



Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christian's composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.

** The original text here reads "catholic," a word meaning "universal." The Church consists of all believers in heaven and earth, of every time in history.*

~PLEASE BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children are invited to assemble at the front for a children's message.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

During the singing of the hymn, parents may choose to escort their young child(ren) to our children's church, where they will hear a Bible story, sing songs, learn a prayer, and do a craft.

HYMN OF THE DAY

#79

The Hymn of the Day is assigned to this day because of its rich content and connection to the day's Gospel.

HOW LOVELY SHINES THE MORNING STAR

SERMON

EPHESIANS 3:2-12

~PLEASE STAND

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

Cre - ate in me a
pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
pres-ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

~PLEASE BE SEATED

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

~PLEASE STAND

L: 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.

C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

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

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

L: 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:

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

L: 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. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

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

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

L: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

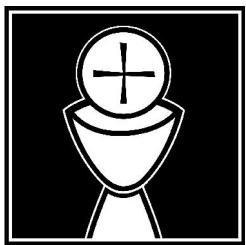
L: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: Amen.

The Lord invites our prayers and asks that Christians pray for many people and circumstances.

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.**



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The opening words of the communion liturgy mark the beginning of the Sacrament section of the service and lift the worshipers' hearts in praise. The opening sentences are among the oldest in the Christian liturgy.

PREFACE

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

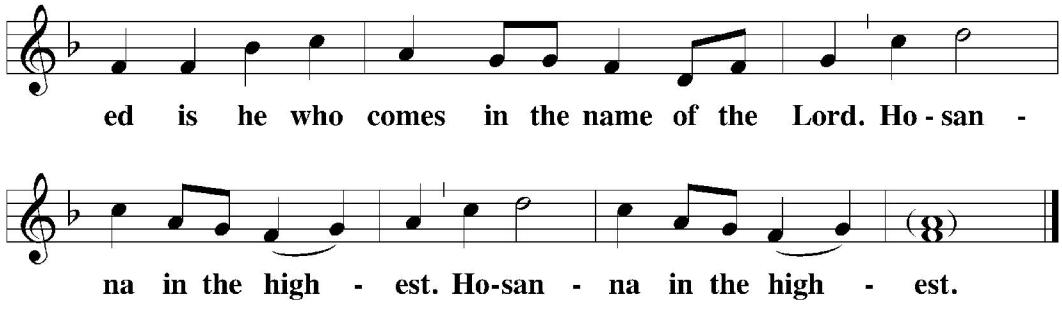
C: **It is good and right so to do.**

L: 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 ~ *SANCTUS*

"Sanctus" means "holy." Used possibly as early as the second century, this canticle was in wide use among Christians in worship by the fourteenth century.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless -



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: 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."

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

As he speaks the Words of Institution, the pastor both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death.

THIS IS MY
BODY
THIS IS MY
BLOOD



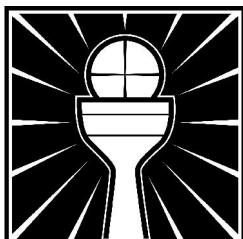
LAMB OF GOD ~ *AGNUS DEI*

Jesus is God's Lamb (Agnus Dei), who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.

The musical score consists of six staves of music in G clef, common time. The lyrics are placed below each staff. The lyrics are:

O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

~PLEASE BE SEATED



The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another who are united around a common confession of faith.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Savior Lutheran Church practices "Close Communion" and asks that only members come forward to receive the sacrament.

There is a Personal Preparation for Communion available on page 156 in the red hymnal.

THANKSGIVING

SONG OF SIMEON ~ *NUNC DIMITTIS*

~PLEASE STAND

In peace, Lord, you let your
servant now depart according to your word. For my
eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for
every people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles and the
glory, the glory of your people Israel.

The "Nunc Dimittis" ("Now dismiss") is also known as the "Song of Simeon." Through God's Word and Sacrament, we have seen Jesus Christ, and like Simeon we find divine peace and comfort through faith in the Savior.



L: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

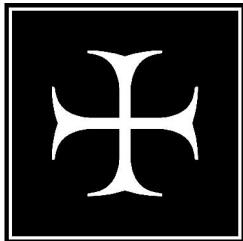
C: And his mercy endures forever.

L: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

L: The Lord has refreshed us with His Word. Let us head into this new week equipped for lives of service.

C: Our mission is to worship God, to spread his Word to our community and to all nations, and to nurture all believers to prepare them for lives of Christian service.



BLESSING

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them"
(Numbers 6:27).

L: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

C: Amen.

~PLEASE BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN

#82

SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE





OURSAVIORBIRMINGHAM.COM