
THE DIVINE SERVICE

OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

05 JANUARY 2020



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

tgslcms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive”

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 - ❖ Mr. Mark Thorn, Subdeacon
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 - ❖ Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
 - ❖ Mr. Matthew Meilner, Congregational President

Welcome to our Divine Service! We are pleased that you are with us.

*The entire service, including the **rubrics** of when to sit and when to stand and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.*

Worship Notes

Thoughts to Ponder Before the Divine Service

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know about our beliefs and practice, please see the pastor. He will be happy to visit with you at your convenience. *Please see our statement on Holy Communion on p. 14.*

Synod Sentences for **Second Sunday after Christmas: Jesus Is the Perfect Israel**



Israel and all his family went and dwelt in Egypt (Gen. 46:1–7). God made a great nation of him there, but that nation would prove unfaithful to the Lord. Therefore, the New Israel came. In fleeing the murderous Herod, our young Lord goes to Egypt (Matt. 2:13–23), that the prophecy might be fulfilled, “*Out of Egypt I called my Son*” (Hos. 11:1). Jesus brings to perfection what old Israel could not. He is the faithful Israel, the embodiment of the people of God. He offers His perfect and holy life in place of our own. He submits Himself to persecution and suffering in order to save us. Therefore, we should not think it

strange when we who are in Christ experience trials because of the faith (1 Pet. 4:12–19). Rather, we rejoice to share in Christ's sufferings, knowing that we will also share in His glory.



We will un-decorate the Church for Christmas after Divine Service TODAY!

Plan to stay after and help a little or a lot: many hands make light work!

Cover art: *Rest on the Flight into Egypt*, Luc Olivier Merson, 1879

Upon entering the nave, silence should be observed in order to allow all to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the LORD and the reception of His gifts.

From East to West, from Shore to Shore

Ernst Pepping (1901-1981)

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

370 What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

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

Exhortation

LSB 184

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

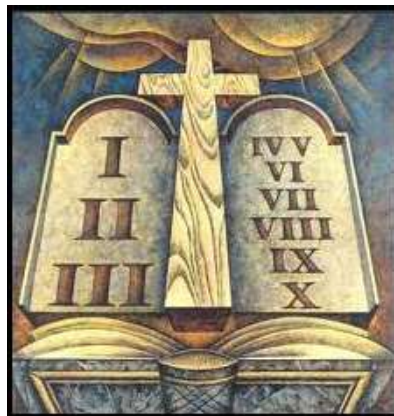
Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**



Absolution

LSB 185

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 8:1, 4–6; antiphon: v. 2

Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because |
of your foes,*
to still the enemy and the a- | venger.
*O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in | all the earth!**
You have set your glory above the | heavens.
*What is man that you are mind- | ful of him,**
and the son of man that you | care for him?
*Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly | beings**
and crowned him with glory and | honor.
*You have given him dominion over the works | of your hands,**
you have put all things under | his feet.

Gloria Patri

LSB 186



☐ Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Kyrie

LSB 186



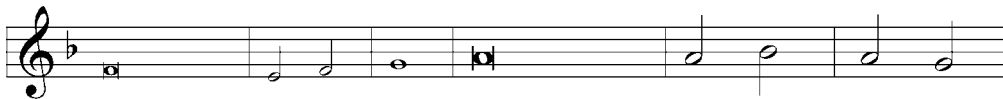
☐ Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

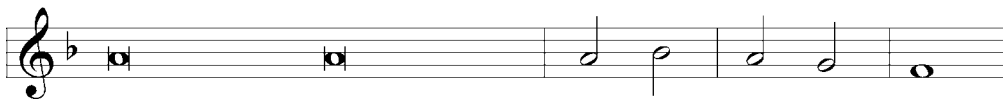
LSB 187



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



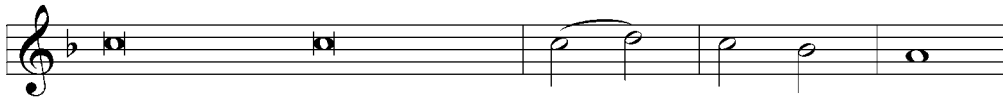
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



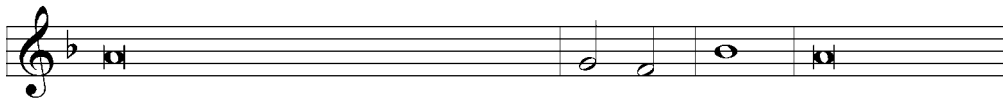
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

P Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 46:1-7

¹So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. ²And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here am I." ³Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for

there I will make you into a great nation. ⁴I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes."

⁵Then Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. ⁶They also took their livestock and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him, ⁷his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters. All his offspring he brought with him into Egypt.

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 106:47; Isaiah 63:16b

Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the | nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory | in your praise.
You, O LORD, are our | Father,*
our Redeemer from of old | is your name.*

Epistle

1 Peter 4:12-19

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And



"If the righteous is scarcely saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



☐ Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:13-23

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



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud
lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her
children;
she refused to be comforted,
because they are no more.”



Massacre of the Innocents, woodcut, Gustave Dore

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land

of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

P The Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day

385 From East to West



1 From east to west, from shore to shore Let ev - 'ry
2 Be - hold, the world's cre - a - tor wears The form and
3 For this how won - drous - ly He wrought! A maid - en,
4 And while the an - gels in the sky Sang praise a -
 Δ 5 All glo - ry for this bless - ed morn To God the



heart a - wake and sing The ho - ly child whom
fash - ion of a slave; Our ver - y flesh our
in her low - ly place, Be - came, in ways be -
bove the si - lent field, To shep - herds poor the
Fa - ther ev - er be; All praise to You, O



Mar - y bore, The Christ, the ev - er - last - ing king.
mak - er shares, His fall - en crea - tures all to save.
yond all thought, The cho - sen ves - sel of His grace.
Lord Most High, The one great Shep - herd, was re - vealed.
Vir - gin - born, And Ho - ly Ghost e - ter - nal - ly.

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon

Pr von Hindenburg

Votum

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- C** Amen.

Offering

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church

Response to petitions is, 'hear our prayer.'

- P** Let us pray to the Lord on behalf of His Church, our nation, the causes of peace and justice, the needs of the sick, and all people according to their needs.

Brief silence (In Christian freedom, you may kneel, stand, or sit during the Prayer)

O Lord, to Solomon You granted wisdom and a discerning mind. Give to Your people such wisdom from Your Word and a mind to discern truth from error, that we may know Jesus Christ and not depart from Him amid the winds of change and doubt that challenge our faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** O Lord, You have blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places and cleansed us, that we might be holy and blameless in Christ. Give us conviction and courage, that we may live out faithfully this baptismal

grace and be led by Your Holy Spirit to love You above all and to serve You with all that we are and all that we have. Lord, in Your mercy,

- ❏ O Lord, You have made known to us the mystery of Your saving will and purpose in Christ, our Savior. Grant to us faithful pastors who will preach faithfully this Gospel and administer to us in His name the Holy Sacraments. Give to us willing ears to hear and hearts to heed the teaching of Your Word, and through it raise up those who will serve us as pastors and church workers in all the days to come. Lord, in Your mercy,
- ❏ O Lord, You set apart kings and governments to safeguard Your people. Bless, we pray, our president; the Congress; our governor; our legislature; and all those who make, administer and judge our laws. Make them wise, and give them a discerning heart in the pursuit of justice for the offender, peace between the nations, and protection for the unborn and those least able to defend themselves. Lord, in Your mercy,
- ❏ O Lord, Your own Son was incarnate for us and grew from childhood into maturity filled with wisdom, and Your favor was upon Him. Grant to parents and the children in their care the wisdom and courage to know You as Savior and Redeemer and to gather at Your bidding around Your Word and table. Help us to form within our children the knowledge of and the will to do all that is right and good according to Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,
- ❏ O Lord, though the numbers of people are great, You know their needs and show Your mercy to each one. Give healing to the sick, strength to the weak, peace to the troubled, consolation to the grieving and comfort to the dying, *especially Abai, Alice, Bonnie, Charles, Clinton, Cynthia, Dalton, David, Debra, Deneice, Ed, Gerald, the family of Harry, Irmgard, James, Janice, Jod, Johnathan, Katheryn, Ken, Kevin, Lois, Lucy, Lynette, Marc, Maria, Marie, Marilyn, Marion and her family, Marjorie, Martin, Michele, Naomi, Olivier, Philip, Rodgers, Royce, Stephen, Stephen K, Susan, and Tuomo* that all who cry to You in need may be encouraged by Your presence through their trials and Your promise to grant the ultimate healing of eternal life through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- ❏ O Lord, until we acquire full possession of everlasting life, You have granted to us Your Spirit as the guarantor of the inheritance to come. Guard us throughout our days, that we may be faithful unto death and be raised on the Last Day to enter into our eternal rest with those who have gone before us with the sign of faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- ❏ O Lord, Your servant Solomon stood before the ark of the covenant and gave offerings of thanksgiving for Your mercy. Give to us such a heart of gratitude, that with thanksgiving we may receive Your gifts and use them

well for the support of those in our care, for the extension of Your Kingdom, and for the glory of Your holy name. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** O Lord, as blessed Mary treasured all things in her heart, grant us to know what is worthy of our attention and what will pass away, that approaching the table of our Lord we may be well-prepared to receive with repentance and faith His flesh for the life of the world and His blood that cleanses us from all our sin. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** All these things we pray, O Lord, in confidence of Your mercy, trusting that You will grant to us all things needful and prevent all things harmful to our faith, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

PASTORAL CARE AND HOLY COMMUNION: At The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Altar every Lord's Day. In this Sacrament, we joyfully receive Christ's true Body and Blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins.

As we celebrate the Sacrament, we also give public confession of our unity in the Christian faith (1 Cor. 10). Members in good standing of congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and congregations in which the LCMS is in Altar/Pulpit fellowship are asked to announce themselves to the pastor prior to the service. All others are invited to speak with the pastor regarding preparation for communion fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Those who are baptized but not receiving communion are invited to come forward for a blessing, kneeling with arms crossed at your heart.

Please be assured that we do so not out of spiritual arrogance, but rather in a sincere desire to be faithful to our Lord's command and the apostles' teaching. For more information, please take one of the trifold brochures in the Narthex entitled, "Why?" Sacraments and Closed Communion. For scriptural reference regarding our Communion practice, please see the laminated cards located in the hymnal/Bible holder on the back of the pew.

Preface

LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 194

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197



P Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,



and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the



dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † bod - y, which is giv-en for you.



This do in re-mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so



He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it



to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in



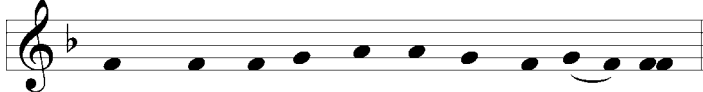
My † blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.



This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



☐ A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



☐ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

Responses when receiving the true body and very blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and when your table is dismissed are:

LSB 199

Amen, Amen, and Amen.

When all have communed, you will be invited to stand, and the following is said:

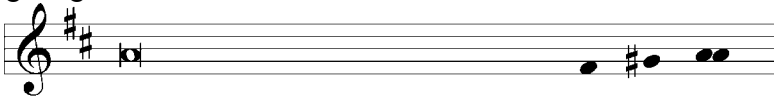
The Dismissal

LSB 199

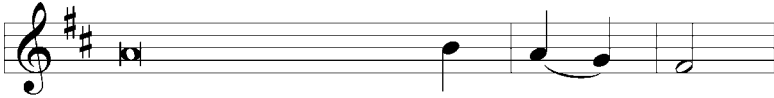
☐ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God,
that You have refreshed us through
this salutary gift, and we implore You
that of Your mercy You would
strengthen us through the same in
faith toward You and in fervent love
toward one another; through Jesus
Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives
and reigns with You and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Salutation

LSB 201



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



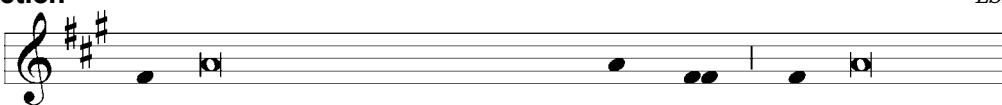
A Bless we the Lord.



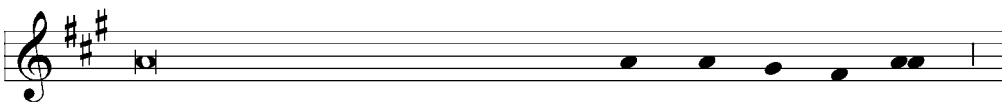
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

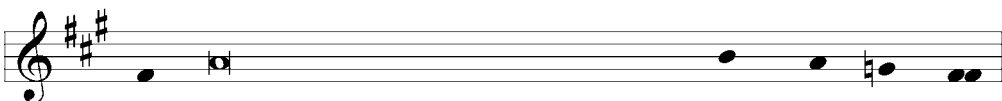
LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



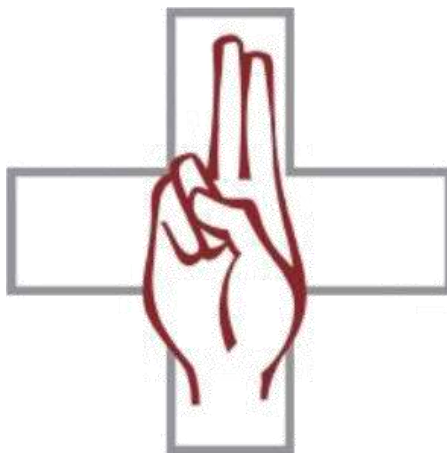
His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.





1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
 bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He
 con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to
 from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
 is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,
 us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion
 You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
 We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts
 That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that
 Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
 that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,
 shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
 con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
 here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
 here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
 let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

As the postlude is played, all are invited to follow Pastor down the center aisle to the narthex as we greet one another there.

God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen

Aaron Shows (B. 1989)

Acknowledgments

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Parish Announcements

+ Christian Education +

WE GATHER TO HEAR GOD'S WORD—“Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O Lord! Teach me Your statutes.” (Psalm 119:11-12.) Each week the faithful gather to receive the Word of their Lord.

In addition to our **Divine Service** on Sunday at 10 am, and **Matins** on Tuesday at 11 am, we have opportunities to gather and study God's Holy Word:

Adult Bible Classes: Sunday at 8:30 and Tuesday at 11:30

Sunday School (ages 3+): Sunday at 8:30

Confirmation and Membership Classes: As requested

Matins will resume the 14th of January.

STEWARDSHIP

Offerings for December 29: \$1275 12/25: \$482 \$12/24: \$408

Attendance 12/29: 27 Adult Bible Class/SS Attendance: 10

A Stewardship Thought for the Second Sunday after Christmas

1 Peter 4:17 – “For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?” The Gospel had freed us from all fear. God the Father loves us to the ends of love, and He has sent His Son to die for us and call us into His kingdom through the rebirth of water and Spirit. Saint Peter views this not as an excuse to sin but as encouragement for godly living. The judgment of the Lord is a real event, and it applies to the household of God. As members of His household, we desire to serve Him.

A Stewardship Thought for The Feast of the Epiphany – January 6

Matt. 2:11 – “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.” For the wise men and for us, worship and offering gifts go together. How could this not be since our God is the great Giver of gifts? We receive His gifts in worship, and then, being conformed to the likeness of His image, we imitate His generosity.

You may notice we have an extensive prayer list. **It is our joy to pray for you!** Check out the **Picture Board in the Narthex** of those for whom we are praying, to put faces to names. If you'd like someone to be added, or one of yours removed, just let Karina know.



We Pray For . . .

Abai: *friend of Pr&K* – peace of mind, clarity, direction (K)
Alice – recovering from surgery
Bonnie: *Pr's cousin* - liver cancer
Charles: *Pr's brother* – heart issues
Charlotte: *Jamesetta's mother, wife of Pr. Kollie* – financial, strength (L)
Clinton – recovering from surgery; grieving
The Conrad Family – *our missionaries in Mexico*
Cynthia – our TGSLC shut-in
Dalton – chronic sciatica
David - DD shut-in
Debra: *Jod's cousin* - recovering from cancer
The DeGroot Family and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church – *our missionaries in Albuquerque*
Deneice – breast cancer recovery
Rev. Ed Killian – recovering from systemic bacterial infections
Gerald: *friend of Marlene* – cancer; strength and comfort in the loss of 2 sons
Family of Harry S Wilson: *friend of Pr&K* – died 12/29/19 in his 98th year
Irmgard: *friend of Pr&K* – 89 y.o. with heart, lung, and vision issues
Rev. James Kollie: *Jamesetta's father and our Missionary in Liberia;* wisdom and strength (L)
Janice: *member at St Philip Compton* – breast cancer recovery
Jod – peace of mind, attacks from the Enemy, recovery from auto/bike accident
Johnathan – strengthening of faith
Katheryn: *Karina's mother* - various health issues

Ken: *friend of Pr&K* - wisdom
Kevin – at university
Lois: *friend of Marlene* – strength and comfort
Lucy – peace of mind, strength, resettlement process (K)
Lynette – strengthening of faith
Marc – complications with diabetes
Maria: *friend of Marlene* - recovery from gall bladder surgery
Marie – recovering from surgery
Marilyn: *Stephen's mother* - various health issues
Marion and her family – various health issues around the country
Marjorie: *mother of Pr. Rob't Green* – 87 y.o. in final stages of bladder cancer
Martin: *friend of Karina* – financial, various health (K)
Michele: *friend of Pr&K* - strength
Naomi: *seminary student* – chronic heart issues (K)
Olivier: *seminary student* – chronic headaches, exams
Philip: *friend of Marlene* – metastasized colon cancer
Rodgers: *friend of Pr&K* – employment (K)
Royce – health issues
Stephen – COPD, other health issues
Stephen K: *friend of Karina* – prostate cancer
Susan: *friend of Pr&K* – financial, good health (K)
Tuomo Simojoki: *our LHF missionary in Kenya* – severe attacks from the Enemy as he shares the Word in East Africa (K)

(K) – person living in Kenya

(L) – person living in Liberia

An Epiphany Devotion by Rev. Wm. C. Cwirla (Sr Pr, Holy Trinity, Hacienda Heights)

Wise men came from the East to worship Him. His first worshippers were Bethlehem's shepherds. Now it is Babylon's astrologers who have come to see and worship. Jesus is Lord and Savior of all. A light to give light the Gentiles, and the glory of His people Israel. They followed a well-worn path from the East. Centuries before, the Queen of Sheba had come from the East to pay homage to David's son Solomon in all his splendor. These wise men came to see David's greater Son and to pay their homage with similar gifts fit for a king – gold, frankincense, myrrh. The Israelites had once gone into exile in Babylon; now Babylon goes to Israel to inquire, "Where is he who is born king of the Jews?"

Before there were astronomers, there were astrologers. Before Copernicus and Galileo and Kepler and the Hubble telescope and Voyager satellites there were Magi, star gazing astrologers who studied the stars not for mechanisms and models but for meaning and mystery. A star had caught their eye, a light signaling the birth of a king in Judea. God is good and gracious as He is resourceful. He uses something that would catch the astrologer's eye and serve as a pointer – a star. Where the shepherds heard the preaching of an angel, the wise men were given a star. The Israelites get an angelic preacher; the Gentiles get a star.

They followed their reason and the star to the reasonable place, Jerusalem, the king's city, and the palace of Herod, the king of the Jews, expecting to find the baby. But there was no king born to Herod's household. Reason and observation can point you in the right direction, but it can't get you to God or His Son. Science can teach us of the Genetic Code but it can know nothing of the Genetic Coder. Science can gaze at the stars and conceive of the Big Bang that began all things in the beginning, but it cannot know of the One who called all things out of nothing by His Word.

For that one must have the Word. The prophet Micah pointed to Bethlehem and the star confirmed it. There they found the Child with His mother, no longer in a manger, now in a house. Filled with joy, the bowed down and worshipped Him with their gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh.

They came seeking a king; they encountered the King of kings. They came because of a star; they encountered the Morning Star. They came as wise men; they encountered the One who is God's Wisdom come down from above. They came seeking a child; they encountered God's Child, His



The Magi in the House of Herod, James Tissot, 1886-1894

only-begotten Son, the Savior of all. They came having seen a light in the heavens; they encountered the One who is the Light and Life of all.

God's pointers are all around us, if we dare to look. The Divine Suspect has left His fingerprints all over His creation. The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the works of His hands. Through telescope and microscope, wise men still seek Him, not knowing whom they seek or why. Stars can bring you to Jerusalem, but the Word must guide you to Bethlehem. Reason and observation can bring you to the threshold, but only God's revelation in His Son can bring you through the door where Christ is mangled for you in the water of Baptism, the mouth of the preacher, the bread and wine of the Supper.

2Pet. 1:19 And we have the prophetic word made more sure. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Herod was threatened and wanted to kill the Child. Warned in a dream, the wise men wisely went home by another way. They arrived in the way of King Herod, they returned in the way of King Jesus. Having seen and worshipped the King, they cannot walk the old way again. Old Adam is always threatened when his throne is threatened. Herod must die; Christ must rise. We must decrease, He must increase, each and every baptismal day until the morning dawns and the Day breaks forth in light.

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

In the Name of Jesus,
Amen

Epiphany: The Christmas of the Gentiles

The Festival of the Epiphany of Our Lord is one of the four major festivals of Christ in the church year. The other three are Christmas, Easter, and Ascension. The word "epiphany" means "manifestation." The theme of the Festival of the Epiphany, which commemorates the visit of the Magi to the boy Jesus, is the *manifestation* of Christ to the gentiles.

God had established his chosen nation from the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But most of us who are reading this article are, according to our ethnicity and family heritage, gentiles. The patriarchs of Israel are not our ancestors. But this does not mean that God forgot about our forbears, or about us. When the Messiah of Israel was finally sent, he was sent also for us.

When Jesus was born, the angel announced to the Jewish shepherds outside of Bethlehem that their Savior had been born. And they then walked the few miles that they needed to traverse, to find him and worship him. But Jesus came into the world not only for those who were close to him – religiously, culturally, and geographically. He came also for those who were far away. He came also for our ancestors, and for us.

The story of Epiphany is the story of the star announcing to the Magi in the East – many, many miles from Bethlehem – that also *their* Savior had been born. And so they launched out on a major trek, traversing deserts and plains, crossing rivers, and exposing themselves to all kinds of danger, so that they could find, and worship, the Redeemer of the entire human race. Epiphany is, in a sense, the Christmas of the gentiles. It is, in a sense, *our* Christmas.

Those in the world today, who are invited by the story of Epiphany to come and worship Christ today, are indeed often very far away from him when they receive that invitation. Their hearts are enslaved by the fear of death. Their minds are darkened by the satanic lies they believe. Their wills are perverted by a self-destructive yearning after sin. Their consciences are twisted by a hatred for that which is their only hope. But these gentiles of today are nevertheless invited by the star of Bethlehem to come and find Jesus, and to worship Jesus, as he makes himself available to us today in his Word and sacraments. Even if they must come, as it were, from a great distance, they are still invited to come. The star of the gospel draws them, and energizes them, to come. That star invites all gentiles – and all Jews as well! – to receive Christ into their hearts, minds, wills, and consciences. The star offers to all gentiles – and to all Jews! – the liberation, the enlightenment, the purification, and the peace that only Jesus can give.

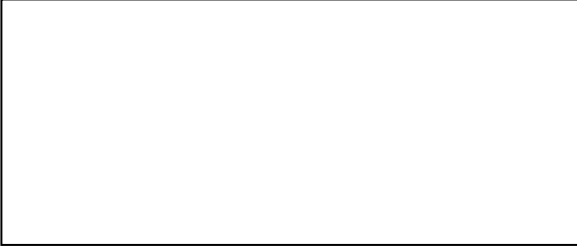
The visit of the Magi was an important event in the life of Christ on earth. The Festival of the Epiphany is, accordingly, an important observance in the church year for us. Especially if you are a gentile, go to church on Epiphany. Worship the Savior who was sent for you, and who has been manifested to you. This is your festival! This is your Christmas! – *Pr. David Jay Webber, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Scottsdale, AZ*



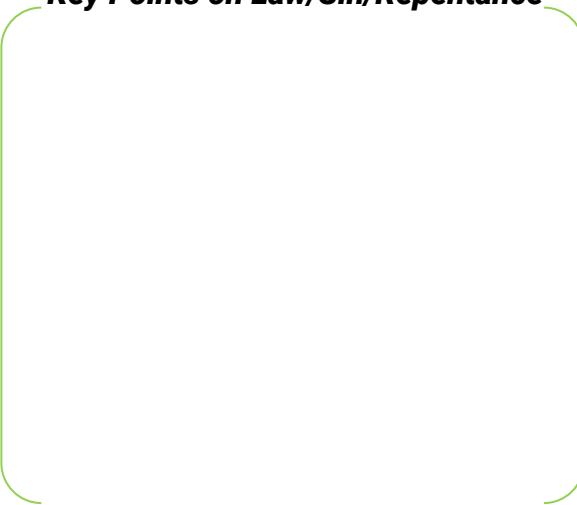
The Adoration of the Magi, Edward Burne-Jones, 1885-1890

Sermon Notes

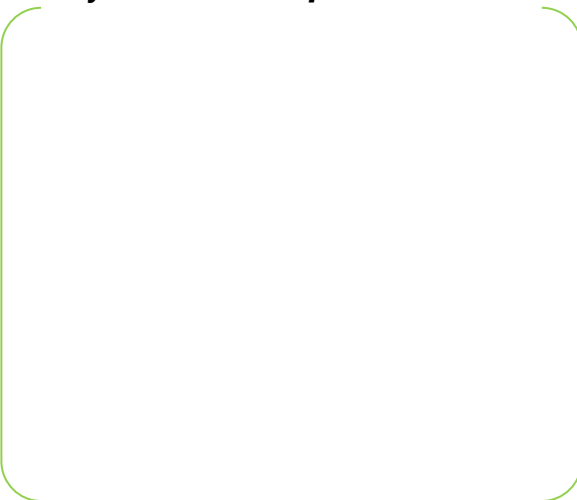
Scripture Text



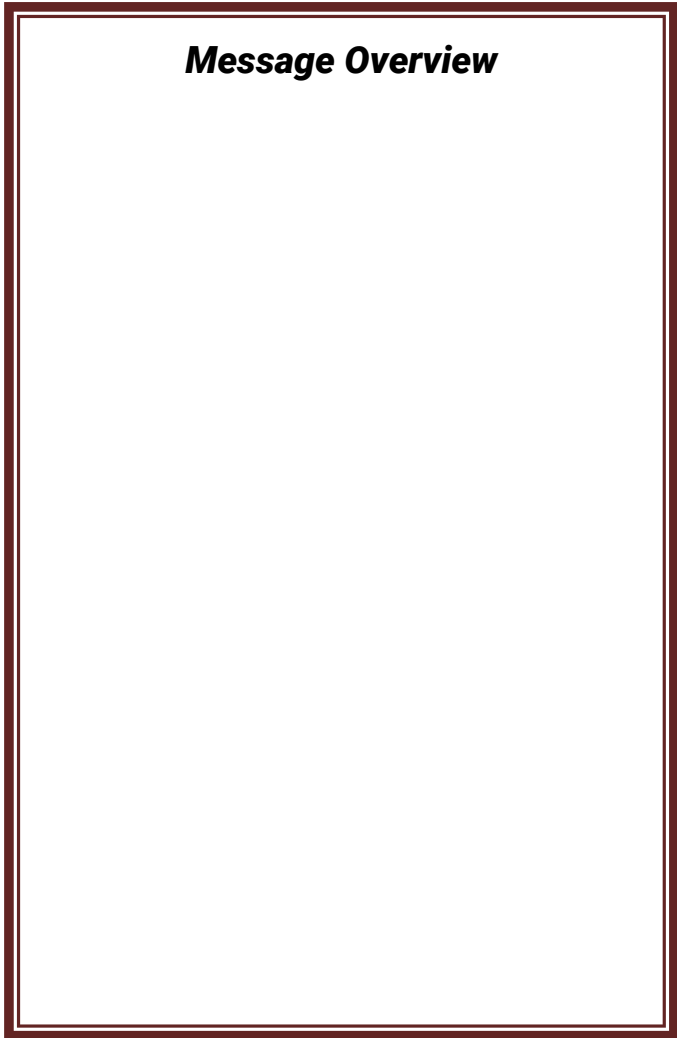
Key Points on Law/Sin/Repentance



Key Points on Gospel/Grace/Love



Message Overview



Things to Study Further

