



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Epiphany Observed
January 7, 2024 9:30am

**REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER
PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, PRAY, AND READ THROUGH YOUR
WORSHIP FOLDER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.**



"Star of Bethlehem" by Burne-Jones 1887

**Risen Christ Lutheran Church
46250 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170
734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info**

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Non-Alcoholic Wine is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you “desire” a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

As We Gather – The Twelve Days of our Christmas celebration have come to an end. But the miraculous birth of the Son of God is only the beginning of the story. For though Jesus came as the fulfillment of all the promises to God’s chosen people Israel, the promise to Abraham was clear that by his seed “all the families of the earth” would be blessed (Genesis 12:3). This is the mystery Paul speaks of in Ephesians 3, how “the Gentiles are fellow heirs . . . of the promise in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 3:6). Anything hidden remains a mystery until it is revealed. No one, Jew or Gentile, can come to faith in Christ without the Gospel being revealed. Another word for “reveal” is “epiphany.” So today Matthew uses the word “behold,” showing what may seem a surprise to some. “Behold, wise men from the east” (Matthew 2:1). “Behold, the star that they had seen” (Matthew 2:9). Today we say, behold, Christmas is a much bigger thing than many have thought. It encompasses nothing less than all our Lord’s earthly ministry culminating in His suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit. It is nothing less than the gift of salvation to all who believe. This epiphany has invaded your darkness through the water and the Word of your Holy Baptism, through the Word of God preached in your hearing, and through the receiving of our Lord’s very body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar to sustain that gift, that epiphany of faith to the end of days. By faith you have made a very good beginning.

Preservice and Postlude Music by *Wenzel Schwarz*

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Call to Worship – Way Maker

1. You are here moving in our midst

I worship You I worship You

You are here working in this place

I worship You I worship You

2. You are here touching ev'ry heart

I worship You I worship You

You are here healing ev'ry heart

I worship You I worship You

***CHORUS: (You are) Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are***

3. You are here turning lives around

I worship You I worship You

You are here mending ev'ry heart

I worship You yeah I worship You Lord ***CHORUS***

TAG: That is who You are

That is who You are

That is who You are

That is who You are

BRIDGE: Even when I don't see it You're working
Even when I don't feel it You're working
You never stop You never stop working
You never stop You never stop working ***CHORUS***

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Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu
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Confession and Absolution

P I confess to almighty God,

C **before all the company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed through my fault, through my own fault, through my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray almighty God, for the sake of Jesus Christ, His Son, to have mercy on me, forgive me my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.**

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 to all of you. 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.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.
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Acknowledgments

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Prayer of the Day

P O God, today we recall wise men from the east who came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?" 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.

As with Gladness Men of Old



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.
There for-ev-er may we sing Al-le-lu-ias to our King.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

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

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 72:1–11; antiphon: v. 18

- L** Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.
Give the king Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to the royal son!
- C** **May He judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice!**
- L** Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!
- C** **May He defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!**
- L** May they fear You while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- C** **May He be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!**
- L** In His days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
- C** **May He have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!**
- L** May desert tribes bow down before Him and His enemies lick the dust!
- C** **May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render Him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!**
- L** May all kings fall down before Him, all nations serve Him!
- C** **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.
Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.**

Epistle

Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which 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. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of 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. ⁸To 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, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Verse

Matthew 2:2b

Alleluia. 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. Alleluia.

What Child Is This

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!
2. Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!
3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter. **C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "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."

We Three Kings

1. We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain moor and mountain
Following yonder star
2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever ceasing never
Over us all to reign

***CHORUS: O star of wonder star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light***

³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They 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."

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him Born the king of angels

***O come let us adore Him.
O come let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!***

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And 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.”⁹After 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.¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.¹¹And 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.

3. Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising all men raising
Worship Him God on high **CHORUS**

4. Myrrh is mine its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing sighing bleeding dying
Sealed in the stone cold tomb **CHORUS**

¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

5. Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and sacrifice
Alleluia alleluia
Peals through the earth and skies **CHORUS**

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Epiphany Sermon – “Where Is God Found?”

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.**

Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at www.RisenChrist.info – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a Worship Card so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

Prayer of the Church

P O God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God of our fathers in faith, and God of light, we praise You and give You thanks, above all for revealing Your gracious will of salvation through the lamp of Your Word, through the light of Your Christ. In Jesus, the light of Your salvation has shone in the hearts of people of all nations. Hear our prayers for the life and salvation of all people. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Lord, as the star spread the news of Your Son’s birth over distant lands, so make Your Church and her people to be a shining witness of the Gospel of salvation to all people, both near and far. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

P Extend Your reign, O Christ, over the whole earth so that oppression may be transformed to freedom and justice. Give wisdom to those who lead. Grant that they rule justly and with wisdom, according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Lord Jesus, bless all those who are ill, injured, or in mourning, [*especially...*]. Fill them with the assurance of Your promises and grant that we may be of help and encouragement to them. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord, accept our humble praise and thanksgiving for the blessings given to our brothers and sisters who rejoice this week. We acknowledge You as the source of all goodness and magnify Your name with all the gifts You give. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Savior of the nations, we thank You for the blessed memory of those who have died in the faith whom You have gathered into Your heavenly kingdom. Grant that we always look to the future with hope and confidence in the reunion that is ours when You transport us to that glorious place that is beyond all tears and sinning. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **C** **Amen.**

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.**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the-angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"</p> | <p>2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb,
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the-incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"</p> |
| <p>3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth,
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"</p> | |

Benediction