

Epiphany of Our Lord



Messiah Lutheran Church
January 3, 2021

(440) 331-2405
MessiahChurchFairview.org

To our Guests: Welcome!

Worship Patterns in Pandemic Days

God be praised for every person here this morning and for all who are with us in spirit as they watch and pray at home. God strengthen us all through his word and promise in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The continued threat of coronavirus infection requires us to change our habits during the time we spend together. Please follow these rules to keep each other safe:

On entering—

- Masks are required. Please be sure to wear one.
- Sit only in pews marked with a bow.
- Keep the spacing rod between you and your family and the person or family at the other end.
- Greet each from a distance.

During the service—

- Refrain from singing. Instead, listen to the singers in the balcony and follow the words in the bulletin.
- When we share the Peace, do not hug or shake hands except with members of your own family. Wave or bow to the people around you.
- Offering plates will not be passed. If you missed the basket on your way in, place it there when you leave.

During communion—

- Keep a safe distance from the person in front of you as you approach.
- Hold out your cupped hands for the host. The pastor will not place this in your mouth or extended fingers.
- For the wine, take a plastic cup from the top of the music stand, and hold it steady as the pastor fills it. Deposit the plastic cup in the receptacle as you return to your place.

As you leave—

- Unless you need the elevator, exit through front doors only.
- Feel free to gather on the front lawn for conversation, keeping safe distances.

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*The congregation is invited to participate at the places marked with **bold** type*

Prelude

“We Three Kings,” Gordon Young

Stand as you are able

Gathering Hymn

“As with Gladness Men of Old,” #302



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 - a - ted 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.

Greeting

L In the beginning was the Word,

C and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

L In the Word was life,

C and the life was the light of all people.

L The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth. John 1

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

Gloria

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



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.



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;



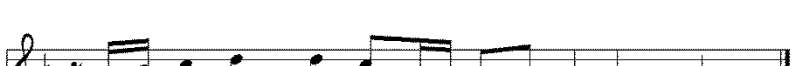
you are scat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



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. A - men.

and the | hills, in righteousness.

**⁴Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

**⁶Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace
till the moon shall | be no more.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able

Songs of thankfulness and praise,
 Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
 manifested by the star
 to the sages from afar,
 branch of royal David's stem
 in thy birth at Bethlehem:
 anthems be to thee addressed,
 God in flesh made manifest.

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

At the announcement of the Gospel:

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

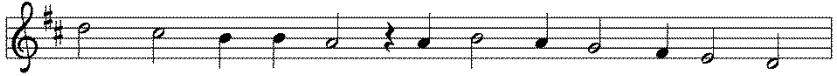
Hymn of the Day

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright,” #308

stanzas 1-3



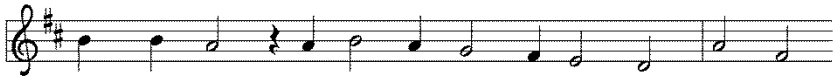
1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
 2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
 3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
 4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
 in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
 falls from God a - bove; a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
 when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
 In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
 Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with
 Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
 of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
 heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your
 and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
 dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
 mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
 lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
 dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
 you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
 for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

Nicene Creed

A We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

C **Amen.**

A 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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.

C **Amen.**

A We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayers:

Lord, in your mercy. . .

C **Hear our prayer.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Greet those around you with these or similar words, after which you may be seated in prayerful silence as the altar is prepared. Stand again as you are able at the pastor's invitation

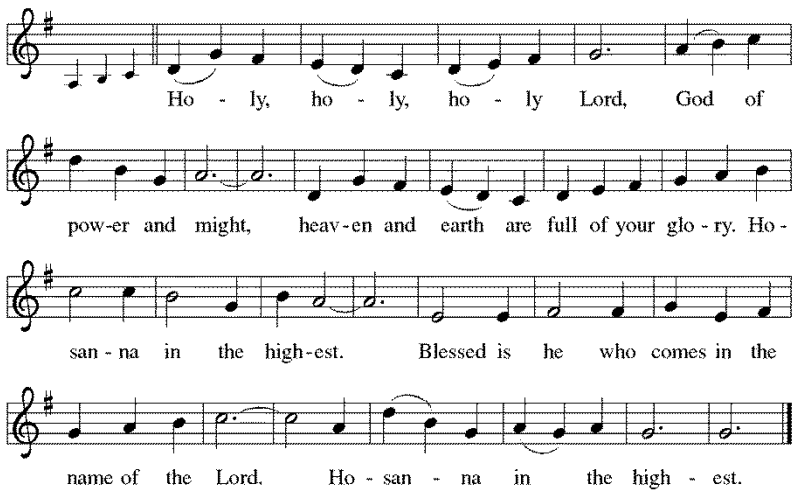
- A Let us pray. Heavenly Father, you bless us with gifts beyond deserving. Accept these tokens of our thanks and use them for the saving purposes of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer.
- C **Amen.**

The Lord’s Supper

Great Thanksgiving

- P The Lord be with you.
- C **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**
- P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy. we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

By the singers—



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

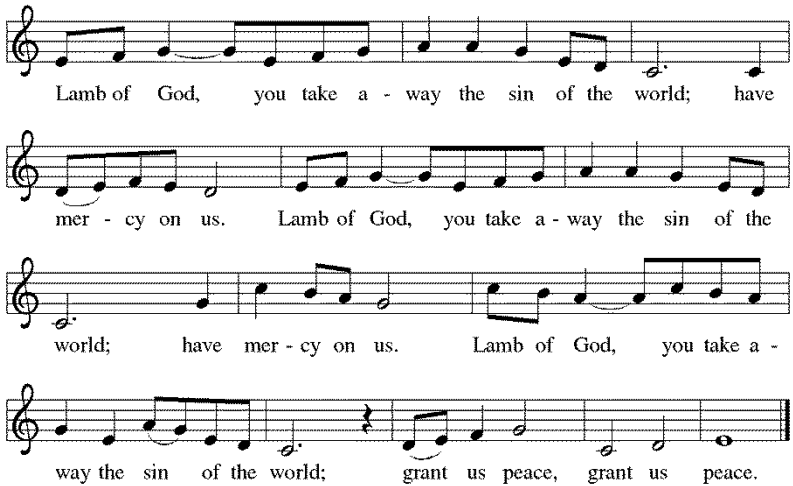
- P Blessed are you, O Lord our God...now and forever.
- C **Amen.**
- C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin**

against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and
forever. Amen.

You may be seated

Communion

By the singers—



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

When all have communed, stand as you are able

A Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through
the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy
you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in
fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Sending

Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

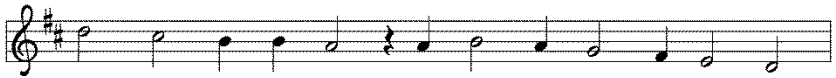
Sending Hymn

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright,” #308

stanzas 4-6



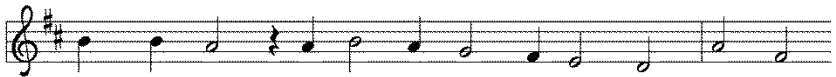
1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with
Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your
and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

- 5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
our voices gaily blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way—
today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation!
Exultation!
Tell the story!
Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!
- 6 What joy to know, when life is past,
the Lord we love is first and last,
the end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
transport us to that happy place
beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Crown of gladness!
We are yearning
for the day of your returning.

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Masters in this Hall,” Jeffrey Blersch

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Serving Today

Preaching Minister – Pastor Burce

Presiding Minister – Pastor Bridger

Assisting Minister – Christa Turnbull

Acolyte – Tim Hollander

Singers – Dale Mortensen, Martha Ressler

Organist – Connie Triplett

Deacons – Frank Beodray, Terrie Leske

Sound Technician – Jared Waugaman

Altar Guild – Marilyn Edwards

In Our Prayers

- The Church's witness in all nations to the treasure of the Gospel
- Our nation in these days of leadership transition
- The global vaccination project
- People caught in the current surge of covid infection
- Our schools as they resume instruction this week
- Health concerns: Liz Harper (friend of Sue Nerlinger), Tom Ratvasky, Dan Rossbach, Marie Seiler, Tom Shaffer), Eleanor Weindorf
- Newborn: Walker Stephen Malone (parents Angelica and Steve); Madeline Jane Sburlea (parents Sarah and Alin)
-

This Week's Commemorations

Jan 2—WILHELM LOEHE, d. 1872, pastor in Neuendettelsau, Bavaria, and one of the most remarkable figures in the history of Lutheran missions. Through the Neundettelsau Mission Society Loehé recruited, trained, and sent missionaries to North America, Australia, Brazil, and the Ukraine. He played a major role in the shaping of Midwestern Lutheranism. Neuendettelsau missionaries eventually reached Africa and New Guinea.

Jan 5—KAJ MUNK, d. 1944, a Danish pastor and playwright whose sermons and other writings encouraged Christians to act on their faith and strengthened Danish resistance to the Nazi occupation. Arrested on Jan. 4, 1944, he was found dead in a ditch the next day.

January 3 Baptism of Our Lord

Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11

We encourage you to read the lessons as part of your preparation for divine services

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Servants and Missionaries – All MLC members

Senior Pastor – Jerome Burce

Associate Pastor – Seth Bridger

Minister of Youth – Adonai Henderson

Pastoral Assistant – Ruth Mortensen

Music Director – Connie Triplett

Messiah School Principal – Helen Casselberry

Administrator & Pierstorf Memorial Fund Director – Darlene Waugh



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Drawing in to Christ. Building up in Christ. Sending out for Christ.

To the glory of God, through the strength of the Spirit.