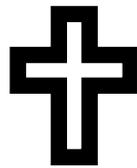


Epiphany

January 7th, 2024

9:00 am



*280 Years of
Joyously proclaiming the good news of God's love!*

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
SPRING CITY, PENNSYLVANIA
Founded in 1743

Sunday, January 7th, 2024 – service led by Zion Congregation

INTRODUCTION

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

PRELUDES

9:00 am

On Tannenberg: "Let All Together Praise Our God"

Tune: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561, Setting, Jacob B. Weber

On Piano: "Morning Star, Our Hope, Our Help"

Arr.: Ruth Elaine Schram Tune: Wie Schon Leuchtet Der Morgenstern by Philip Nicolai

Tune: St. Anne by William Croft

On Allen Organ: "The Joyous Bells of Morning"

Franklin Ritter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today’s Bulletins are sponsored in honor and memory of Ronald B. Clark. A wonderful husband, father, and grandfather by Laura Clark and family.

George Herbert has asked us to share with the congregation that on January 2nd, his wife Eleanor, has passed away.

Please join us in prayer for the Randolph family, as Marilyn has recently passed away.

The Executive Committee has announced that until further notice, we will only be having Services at 9:00 am.

GREETING

A: 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.

HYMN

“We Three Kings” – WOV 646, All Verses



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
 owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



Refrain
 Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

A: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
 the Word made flesh,
 our life and our salvation.

C: Amen.

A: Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A: God of life,
C: you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.
We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.
Have mercy on us.
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.
Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.
Amen.

A: Hear the good news:
We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.
C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE "Glory to You God"

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Glory to You God". It consists of six staves of music in a single system, all written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a double bar line and a key signature change to one flat. The lyrics are: "I Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth; yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth. Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame; ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name. Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done; yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone." The music is a simple, melodic line with some rests and a final cadence.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought 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 proclaim the praise of the LORD.

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14

¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

²**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴**Let him defend the needy among 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.

⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

¹¹May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.

¹²For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.

¹³He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.

ACCLAMATION

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” – ELW #172

The image shows a musical score for the acclamation "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah". It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system contains the first two lines of the acclamation, the second system contains the next two lines, and the third system contains the final two lines. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for a church service.

GOSPEL:

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew,

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

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:

⁶And 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.

VIDEO SERMON

HYMN “As with Gladness Men of Old” – ELW #302, All Verses



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.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

A brief silence.

A: Humble the hearts of your faithful people, that we seek to be servants of your gospel and witnesses to your mysteries. Give us boldness in faith, that we make the good news of Christ's birth known to all people. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Establish justice on earth for all its inhabitants. Lead us to protect fragile ecosystems and endangered species. Empower the work of all who research, engineer, and make accessible alternative and renewable sources of energy. Make us careful stewards of your creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Nations shall come to your light and kings to your dawning. Remove corruption and fear from the hearts of leaders and authorities. Lead governments to expand policies and resources that care for refugees and all migrants. Strengthen the work of resettlement agencies. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Defend the cause of all who are in need, all facing poverty, all who are oppressed and those who are ill, especially **Barbara Winter, Dave Grubb, Brian Mickiewicz, Kurt Angstadt, David Tyson, Eric Harter, Rick Munz, Greg Wicker, Jeanette Kauffman, Ashley Bazzley, Don Walt, Michael Bailey, Colleen Elliot, Cindy Batten, Joan Emswiler, Hilary Cohen, Jim Miller, Valerie Bazzley, and Roger Batten.** Come quickly to those who feel that their lives and livelihoods are fragile. Give them strength and lead them forth with hope. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: As the magi offered gifts to the Christ child, empower us to give generously. Prosper the work of ministry partnerships in our community *especially those of Centennial, St. Peter's, & St. John's*. Together, help us share what we have to ensure that our neighbors have enough food, resources, and opportunities. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You have redeemed the lives of your faithful departed. Through the love of Christ, gather us into one body with them, and reveal to us the mystery hidden for ages in the One who created all things. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

C: Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

Let us share the peace with one another

SPECIAL MUSIC

"We Are Marching in the Light of God" – Siyahamba

Words and Music: South African Traditional, tr. Freedom is coming

Mike Hoinowski, Saxophone Solo

Please stand

A: Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray,

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.

BLESSING

A: God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN **"Shine Jesus Shine" – ELW #671, All verses**

Refer to Hymnal

DISMISSAL

A: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

9:00 am **"Postlude on Gloria"**

J.D. Payne

"How Great Our Joy!"

Traditional German Carol, Arr. by Bill Wolaver

Bible Readings for the Week

Monday	Exodus 1:22-2:10	God saves Moses from Pharoah
Tuesday	Exodus 2:11-25	Moses escapes from Pharoah again
Wednesday	John 8:39-59	Jesus' name: I AM
Thursday	Isaiah 45:8-17	God greater than all human power
Friday	Ephesians 2:11-22	Being one in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 110	God will shatter kings

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