

Sunday, January 3, 2021

The Epiphany of Our Lord

WELCOME to Emanuel's Lutheran Church!
It is our joy to have you worship with us today.



PRELUDE

"What Can I Give Him?" Rosetti/Porterfield

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ELW p. 94

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God,
C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **C: Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

"Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

- ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
 Music: GLORIA, French carol

GREETING

ELW p. 147

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.

KYRIE

ELW p. 147

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ELW p. 150

AM: Let us pray together.

C: O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

L: A reading from Isaiah.

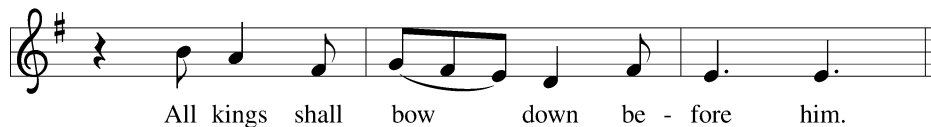
¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 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.

Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Refrain:



- ¹Give the king your jus- | tice, 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 a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R**
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 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.
¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts. R**
¹¹May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.
¹²**For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**
¹³He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.
¹⁴**From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight. R**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

L: A reading from Ephesians.

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,⁹ and 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.

Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 169

Verse (cantor): We have observed his star at its rising, and have come to worship him.

(Matt.2:2)

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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.

SERMON

Pastor Kelsie

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Brightest and Best of the Stars "

ELW 303



1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,
vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

NICENE CREED

ELW p. 104

AM: Let us confess the faith of the church, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the

scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

ELW p. 152

AM: Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. Glorious God, fill your church with joy. Let your faithful people live as beacons of your redemption. Give wisdom and courage to your church that it may speak with boldness and confidence, even when words of mercy are met with scorn.

Response to each petition: AM: Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

AM: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

PEACE

ELW p.152

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

OFFERING HYMN

"All My Heart Again Rejoices"

ELW p. 273



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear, far and
2 Je - sus' voice from low - ly man - ger soft - ly thus calls to
3 Come, then, let us has - ten yon - der; here let all, great and
4 You, dear Lord, I'll ev - er cher - ish; though my breath fail in



near, sweet-est an - gel voic - es; "Christ is born," their choirs are
us: "You are safe from dan - ger; come and see; from all that
small, kneel in awe and won - der; love him who with love is
death, I will nev - er per - ish: by your side in light e -



sing - ing, till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.
grieves you you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."
yearn - ing; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.
ter - nal I shall be end - less - ly filled with joy su - per - nal.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: WARUM SOLLT ICH, Johann G. Ebeling, 1637–1676

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING INFORMATION

For online giving: <https://tinyurl.com/emanuelsgiving>

Mailing Address: Emanuel's Lutheran Church, 206 N. Travis Street Seguin, TX 78155

OFFERING PRAYER

ELW p. 152

AM: Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 152

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 our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

ELW p. 153

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 153

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

ELW p. 153

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 154

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

ELW p. 154

P: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

ELW p. 154

When giving the bread and sharing the cup, you may use say:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

TABLE BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ELW p. 155

AM: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, 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

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

ELW p. 155

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

SENDING SONG

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory "

ELW 275



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

DISMISSAL

ELW p. 155

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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MUSICIANS TODAY: Ellie Kallus, soprano and Melissa Barbre, flute; Jubilation Singers; Wayne Stalsworth

WORSHIP LEADERS January 3, 2020: Preaching: Pastor Kelsie; **Presiding:** Pastor Paul

Emanuel's Lutheran Church Announcements

SUNDAY WORSHIP is currently streamed on Facebook, YouTube, and KWED AM 1580 radio at 10:30 a.m. Due to rising COVID-19 cases, **in-person worship is suspended at this time**. Church office staff will be again working from home and in the office as needed or by appointment. Please refer to the larger "We Are Better Together" COVID Safety and Gathering Policy updated on our website or contact Pastor Marcus with any questions. Continued prayers for our church leaders as they navigate the ever-changing tide.

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING RESCHEDULED

The annual meeting is being rescheduled for **Sunday, January 24th** from **12-1:00pm** and will be done as a drive thru. **Two discussion sessions will take place Sunday, January 10th and 17th at 9:15am in the Women's Ministry Room.** Zoom links will be provided for those who wish to login from home and each session will be recorded for those who wish to listen and learn later.

CHRISTMAS UN-DECORATING help is needed. Let us know when you have time to tuck the Chrismons safely away for another year. Many hands, at 6 feet apart and in small groups, can get this done!

SANCTUARY FLOWERS and **RADIO BROADCASTS** are sponsored by Emanuel's members. If you would like to remember or honor a loved one in this way, please call the church office or sign up on the calendar in the office. Thanks to all who participate in this memorable ministry.

SMALL GROUP UPDATES: Small groups at Emanuel's are patiently pivoting as new restrictions are implemented following our "We Are Better Together" COVID Safety and Gathering Policy. Rising COVID-19 numbers necessitate such action. Please contact individual groups or the church office to see how each is creatively managing to proceed with the ministry and life of the church. Groups may be meeting online, in clusters of 2-5 people, or by other flexible means. Call first to see how best to participate.

LADIES AID will not be meeting until further notice due to rising COVID cases in the area. A contribution was given to the Christian Cupboard and Christmas gifts were given to the church staff. Prayers to all and we hope we will meet again soon. Thank you for your understanding. -Jeannie Hall.

CHRIST IN OUR HOME: When the January, February, March 2021 edition of Christ in Our Home daily devotionals are available we will put them in a box outside the Mountain Street door for pick up. There was a shipping delay and we have reordered.