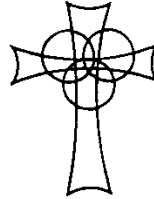




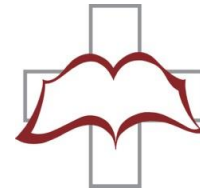
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*A Member Congregation of
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**Midweek Devotions and Bible Study
The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord
January 6, 2021**



Service of the Word on the Feast of the Epiphany

✠ *In the Name of Jesus!* ✠

The Opening Versicles:

Psalms 51:15, 70:1, 36:9

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.

- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- C** make haste to help me, O Lord.

- P** For with You, O God, is the fountain of life;
- C** and in Your light do we see light.

- 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.
Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia!

- P** ¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!
- C** ²**May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!**
- P** ³Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!
- C** ⁴**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor!**
- P** ⁵May they fear you while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- C** ⁶**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!**
- P** ⁷In his days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
- C** ⁸**May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth!**
- P** ⁹May desert tribes bow down before him
and his enemies lick the dust!
- C** ¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands
render him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!**
- P** ¹¹May 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.**

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.” 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.”

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Hymn

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 400

“Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning”

- 1 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**
- 2 Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.**
- 3 Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,
Fragrance of Edom and off’rings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?**
- 4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.
Richer by far is the heart’s adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**
- 5 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

The Scripture Study for the Day

Matthew 2:1-12

1. The star the wise men saw was miraculous. It seems they saw it and then went in the general direction of Israel, stopping at Jerusalem to find specific directions. After they received specific directions, they again saw the star guiding them in a more specific direction. How are the following words important for understanding this?
 - Bethlehem

 - what time

 - house

 - fell down and worship him

2. In his genealogy of Jesus, Matthew singled out Rahab and Ruth as two of the women in the line of the Savior. They were both Gentiles, and the gospel was meant for them. How does the story of the wise men support this theme?

3. God went to great lengths to bring the Magi to come and see the newborn King of the Jews. To what lengths has the Lord gone to bring you to the Savior?

Matthew 2:13-23

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.”

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.” ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But 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. ²³And 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.”

4. This section, with its account of the Holy Family’s journey to Egypt, contains three more prophesies that Jesus fulfilled.

- Hosea 11:1 (verse 15)

- Jeremiah 31:15 (verse 18)

- Matthew 2:23

5. How does this section of Scripture help us understand the nature of Jesus' ministry?
How does it help us to understand the nature of the kingdom in which we live and serve?
6. There is more that follows the passage from Jeremiah which Matthew quotes. Jeremiah continues his prophesy, saying:
- ¹⁶Thus says the LORD:
 "Keep your voice from weeping,
 and your eyes from tears,
 for there is a reward for your work,
 declares the LORD,
 and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.
¹⁷There is hope for your future,
 declares the LORD,
 and your children shall come back to their own country.

What comfort do these words provide?

The Prayers:

- P** To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; let us pray to the Lord for the people He came to save.
- P** Wonderful Counselor, You order all things with Your wisdom: help the Church to reveal the mystery of Your love and fill her with the Spirit of truth:
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** Mighty God, the government is on Your shoulders: guide the leaders of the nations and bring in Your kingdom of justice and righteousness:
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** Everlasting Father, You call us to live together in unity: protect by Your mercy all Your children, bless our families and renew our communities:
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** Prince of Peace, You bring reconciliation through the cross: by Your healing power give to all who suffer Your gift of wholeness and peace:
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- P** Let us commend the world, to which Christ came, to the mercy and protection of God.

Open prayer may be offered and silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer:

- P** Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray with confidence as our Savior Christ has 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.**

The Collect of the Day:

- P** Let us pray.
O God, 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.**

The Collect for Peace:

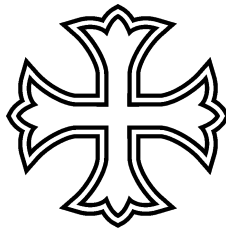
- P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

The Closing Prayer:

- P** Together we pray:
- C** **O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The Benediction:

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C** **Amen.**



If you were unable to send questions to Pastor Schiebel via messaging during the Facebook Live video, you can email your questions to him at trinity-elc-pastor@verizon.net.

Acknowledgments

Brief Service of the Word from Lutheran Service Book Agenda and from Common Worship: Daily Prayer.

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