

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 7, 2024

Prairieland Parish

*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.
May we together experience the presence of God*

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord

Epiphany Service of Lessons and Carols

Book of Common Worship

(Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993), p. 192-193.



Prelude – Welcome - Announcements

Opening

The people who walked in darkness have
seen a great light.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.
Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness,
on them has the light shined.
We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son of the Father.
For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
In him was life, and the life was the light
of all people.

Opening Prayer:

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

Hymn 220 "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (All Rise)

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**1 Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

Refrain:

**Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**2 Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;**

yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]

**3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: [Refrain]**

**4. Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
(Refrain)**

First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV)



The Ingathering of the Dispersed

*60 Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

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

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

*4 Lift 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.*

*5 Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,[a]
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.*

*6 A 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.

Response:

Hymn 399 "Take My Life, and Let It Be" (remain seated)

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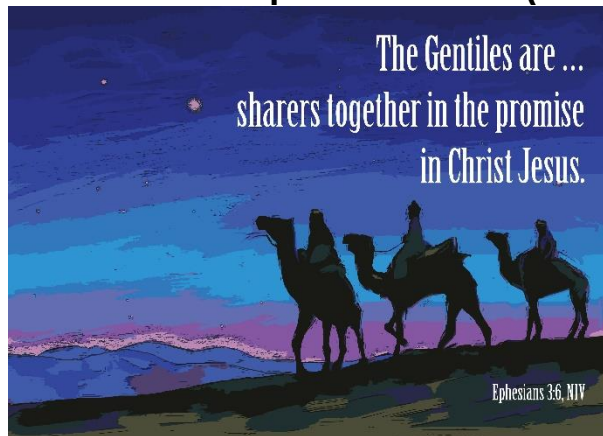
**1. Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.**

**2. Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.**

**3. Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.**

Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12 (NRSV)



Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles

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

7 Of 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. 8 Although 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[c] what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in[d] God who created all things; 10 so 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. 11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.[e]

Response:

Hymn #347 “Spirit Song” (remain seated)

Author: John Wimber (1979)

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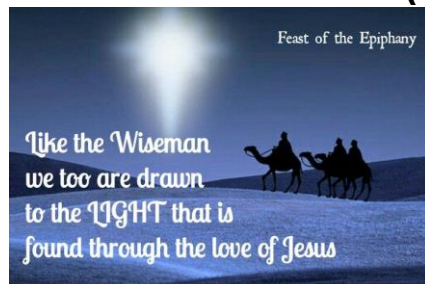
**1. Oh, let the Son of God enfold you
With his Spirit and his love
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul
Oh, let him have the things that hold you
And his Spirit, like a dove
Will descend upon your life and make you whole**

**Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs**

**2. Oh, come and sing the song with gladness
As your hearts are filled with joy
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name
Oh, give him all your tears and sadness
Give him all your years of pain
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name**

**Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs**

Third Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)



The Visit of the Wise Men

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men[a] from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising,[b] and have come to pay him homage.” 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah[c] was to be born. 5 They 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[d] my people Israel.’”

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men[e] and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then 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.” 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,[f] until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped,[g] they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On 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. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Response:

Hymn 254 “We Three Kings of Orient Are” (All Rise)

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**1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

**2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [Refrain]**

**3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. [Refrain]**

**4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]**

**5 Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.
[Refrain]**

Fourth Lesson: John 1:1-14 (NRSV)



The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life,[a] and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.[b]

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own,[c] and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become

children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,[d] full of grace and truth.

Response:

Hymn 261 "Lord of the Dance". (All Rise)

Author: Sydney Carter (1963)

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**1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.**

[Refrain:]

**Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

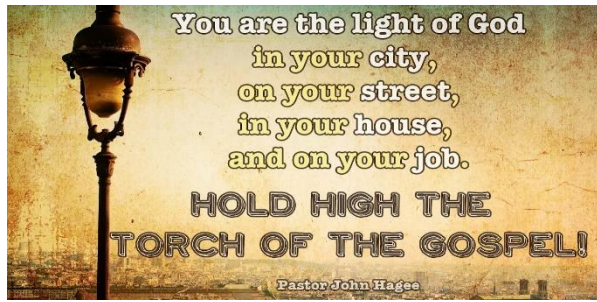
**2 I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came to me and the dance went on. (Refrain)**

**3 I danced on the sabbath when I cured the lame,
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high;
and they left me there on a cross to die. (Refrain)**

**4 I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. (Refrain)**

**5 They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. (Refrain)**

Fifth Lesson: Matthew 5:14–16 (NRSV)



14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Response:

Hymn 541 "See How Great a Flame Aspires" (Remain Seated)

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**1 See how great a flame aspires,
kindled by a spark of grace.
Jesus' love the nations fires,
sets the kingdoms on a blaze.
To bring fire on earth he came,
kindled in some hearts it is;
O that all might catch the flame,
all partake the glorious bliss!**

**2 When he first the work begun,
small and feeble was his day;
now the Word doth swiftly run,
now it wins its widening way;
more and more it spreads and grows,
ever mighty to prevail;
sin's strongholds it now o'erthrows,
shakes the trembling gates of hell.**

**3 Saints of God, your Savior praise,
who the door hath opened wide;
he hath given the word of grace,
Jesus' word is glorified;
Jesus mighty to redeem,
who alone the work hath wrought;
worthy is the work of him,
him who spake a world from naught.**

**4 Saw ye not the cloud arise,
little as a human hand?
Now it spreads along the skies,
hangs o'er all the thirsty land.
Lo! the promise of a shower
drops already from above;
but the Lord will shortly pour
all the spirit of his love.**

Service of Word and Table III (UMH #15)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image
 and breathed into us the breath of life.
 When we turned away, and our love failed,
 your love remained steadfast.
 You delivered us from captivity,
 made covenant to be our sovereign God,
 and spoke to us through the prophets.
 And so, with your people on earth
 and all the company of heaven
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
 gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
 "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
 Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
 gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
 "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
 poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
 Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
 we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with
 Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
 and on these gifts of bread and wine.
 Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
 that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
 one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
 until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
 all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever. **Amen.**

BREAKING AND SHARING

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
 in which you have given yourself to us.

Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offertory/Doxology/Prayer

God of Light. We take these gifts and present them with love. We rejoice in our ability to share, but long to do more. Help us to be like the magi and carefully plan the gifts we bring you. May we not be satisfied with what is enough, but instead be inspired to do more. May these gifts be used so others may know the hope that is found in you. In His name, we pray. Amen.

Joys/Concerns

Litany for Epiphany

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation
of our God. Alleluia!

Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!

With joy let us pray to our Savior,
the Son of God who became one of us, saying:

The grace of God be with us all.

O Christ, let your gospel shine in every place
where the Word of life is not yet received.

Draw the whole creation to yourself
that your salvation may be known through
all the earth.

The grace of God be with us all.

O Christ, Savior and Lord,
extend your church to every place.
Make it a place of welcome for people of every
race and tongue.

The grace of God be with us all.

O Christ, Ruler of rulers,
direct the work and thoughts of the leaders
of nations that they may seek justice,
and further peace and freedom for all.

The grace of God be with us all.

O Christ, Master of all,
support of the weak and comfort of the afflicted,
strengthen the tempted and raise the fallen.
Watch over the lonely and those in danger.
Give hope to the despairing and sustain the faith
of the persecuted.

The grace of God be with us all.

Lord's Prayer...

Departing Hymn 666 “Shalom to You” (All Rise)

Author: Elise S. Eslinger (1980)

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**Shalom to you now,
Shalom, my friends,
May God’s full mercies
Bless you, my friends,
In all your living
And through your loving
Christ be your shalom
Christ be your shalom.**

Charge and Benediction

Go in peace; love and care for one another in the name of Christ;
and may the Spirit of God which filled John and Jesus,
fill your hearts, souls and minds;
may the power of God which upheld them,
strengthen you for each day;
and may the love of God which directed their every action
be your guiding light and your shining star,
both now and forevermore. Amen