

The Sunday Messenger

Memorial Lutheran Church, Nevada Iowa ♦ January 3, 2021

Epiphany Dialog

We give thanks on this holy day, adorned with epiphanies:

for the star that led the magi to the manger,
that the nations may see the light of Christ;

for the water turned to wine at Cana's wedding,

that the people taste the goodness of the Lord;

for the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Jordan,

that the Christ would save us all.

This is the day that the Lord has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.

God who sent the Light into our world,
God who shone in the Bethlehem manger,
God who spreads the Spirit's rays, be with you all.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

First Lesson *Isaiah 60:1-6*

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

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 Je-

sus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Gospel *Matthew 2:1-12*

In 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.

Sermon



Nicene Creed

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

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Beloved children of God, what came into being in Christ was
life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not over-
come it.

The light of Christ shine on you with grace and mercy and fill
you with joy and peace.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace, guided by the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be Part of Online Fellowship After Worship Each Sunday.

We will use Zoom as a way to connect with each other after
worship. The same link will be used each week:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83367838198> For those interested
in the Book of Faith adult study, a break out room will be creat-
ed after a little time of fellowship.

7th and 8th Grade Confirmation Begins January 6.

Pastor Duane will meet with the students over Zoom for the next six
Wednesdays. The students will explore the Apostles' Creed
and Lord's Prayer.

Council Holds Annual Retreat. The 2021 retreat will be just a
morning event here at Memorial. This is a time of council orien-
tation, planning for the year ahead and electing officers for the
coming year. The Council gathers on Saturday, January 9.

At-Home Sunday School Resumes January 10. Families
with children through fourth grade receive materials for con-
ducting Sunday School at home each week until we can safely
gather together again.

Devotions With Holy Communion Continue in 2021. Begin-
ning January 14 Pastor Duane offers weekly devotions with
Holy Communion during the daytime hours on Thursdays and
at 10:15 am on Saturday mornings. Call the church office to
reserve a slot. A new Sign Up Genius will be live shortly.

FAITH AND LIFE TOGETHER

For Those Hospitalized

Prayers for Healing

Don Hackbarth, Gary Kluever, Harriet Flick *sister of
De Carsrud*, Shellie Black, Harlen Johnsen, Jim Pap-
pas, Karen Anderson, Almeda Warner, Janeen Dris-
coll, Darren Kluever, Jaylee Bartleson, Larry Chris-
tian, Julie Sutherland, Sheila Collingwood *Lyndsey De
Vos' mother*, Lynn Harris, George Forsyth, Cassie
Harrell, Jeff Sebring *son-in-law of Ernie and Marlene
Ruhde*, Norma Gandrup, Linda Horn, Tom Nervig,
Glenda Day, Ginny Hausner, Ken Johnson, Camden
Kelsey, Cooper Leeman, Jan Cook, Margie Nahnsen