

Wednesday, January 6, 2021
Second Sunday of Christmas
Year B - 7:00 pm

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Wilmington DE
Leader Pages



GATHERING

Prelude - *Cantor*

Welcome - *Presiding Minister*

Epiphany Dialogue - *Presiding Minister*

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

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.

Gathering Song - *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Greeting - *Presiding Minister*

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 - *Presiding Minister*

Let us Pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Song of Praise - *Angels We Have Heard on High*

WORD

First Reading (Isaiah 60:1-6) - *Lector*

A reading from Isaiah.

Arise, 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 God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm (Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14)

Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
2that 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.
4Let 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.
6Let 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.

10May 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.

12For 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.

14From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
 and precious is their blood | in his sight. R

Second Reading (Ephesians 3:1-12) - *Lector*

A reading from Paul's Letter to the 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, 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 Jesus our Lord, 12in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation - *Cantor*

Gospel (Matthew 2:1-12) - *Preacher*

The Holy Gospel According to Matthew.

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
Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon - Pastor Jason

Hymn of the Day - *Arise and Shine by Dan Howe*

Prayers of Intercession - Lector

Guided by the star, together with the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

O Splendor of God's glory, shine your radiance within our world. Remove the barriers that divide us, and teach us to love with all our might.

Lead us, O God:

lead us by your light.

True Dawn from on high, set us free from the power of guilt and grave. Shine your light in our lives and grant us your grace.

Lead us, O God:

lead us by your light.

O living Spring of light from light, renew the strength of all who suffer: the poor, the sick, and those who mourn (especially).

Lead us, O God:

lead us by your light.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of light, into your hands we place all for whom we pray, trusting in your radiant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Offering Song ELW 284 - Cantor



1 'Twas in the moon of win-ter-time when all the birds had fled, that
 2 With-in a lodge of bro-ken bark the ten-der babe was found; a
 3 The ear-liest moon of win-ter-time is not so round and fair as
 4 O chil-dren of the for-est free, the an-gel-song is true; the



*God the Lord of all the earth sent an-gel choirs in-stead; be-
 rag-ged robe of rab-bit skin en-wrapped his beau-ty round; but
 was the ring of glo-ry on the help-less in-fant there. The
 ho-ly child of earth and heav'n is born to-day for you. Come,



fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan-d'ring hunt-ers heard the hymn:
 as the hunt-er braves drew nigh, the an-gel song rang loud and high:
 chiefs from far be-fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea-ver pelt.
 kneel be-fore the ra-diant boy, who brings you beau-ty, peace, and joy.



Je-sus your king is born! Je-sus is born, in ex-cel-sis glo-ri-a!

Epiphany Inscription & Procession - *Presiding Minister*
This inscription may be made with chalk above the entrance:

20 † C M B † 21

Write the appropriate character (left) while speaking the text (right).

The magi of old, known as

C Caspar,

M Melchior, and

B Balthasar

followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us

20 two thousand

21 and twenty one years ago.

† Christ, bless this house,

† and remain with us throughout the new year.

Prayer of Blessing

O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that you bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The virtual procession may include going to various parts of the church and blessing the space with incense or by sprinkling with water, perhaps using a branch from the Christmas tree.

Christ, bless this *name of place*. Christ, bless this *name of place*.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit we pray as Jesus taught:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing - *Presiding Minister*

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 overcome it.

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

Amen.

Dismissal - *Assistant Minister*

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude - *Cantor*