



SHEPHERD OF THE SEA LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Epiphany of Our Lord

Announcements

Prelude

Welcome Home

Song

Mary Did You Know

Pastor Dave Nelson

Words Of God Speak

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12 (The Message)

2 ¹⁻² After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory—this was during Herod’s kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, “Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We’re on pilgrimage to worship him.”

3-4 When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

5-6 They told him, “Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:

It’s you, Bethlehem, in Judah’s land,
no longer bringing up the rear.

From you will come the leader
who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel.”

7-8 Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, “Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I’ll join you at once in your worship.”

⁹⁻¹⁰ Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they knelt and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

¹² In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

**The Word of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Dave Nelson

God Sightings

Bidding Prayer

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,

Let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation, kneeling as we are able.

A brief silence.

For the church universal, its ministry, and the mission of the Gospel, especially we pray for those we name. *(pause)*

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For peace and justice in the world, the nations and those in authority, the community especially we pray for those we name. *(pause)*

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the poor, oppressed, sick, bereaved, lonely especially we pray for those we name.
(pause)

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all who suffer in body mind or spirit especially we pray for those we name. *(pause)*

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the congregation, and for special concerns especially we pray for those we name.
(pause)

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for all those who have gone before us in the faith and now rest in your grace and mercy, especially those we now name... *(pause)*

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hand, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

He Shall Reign Forever More

Communion

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray, saying:

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.

Distribution

Communion Song

What Child Is This

Blessing

The God of love,

Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,

lavish you with grace,

illumine your path,

and increase your joy,

today and always.

Amen.

Sending Song

My Lighthouse

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Sisters and Brothers in Christ, we leave worship today, entering the world empowered by God's Grace. We go with this charge and blessing:

Together, we speak:

I am a disciple of My Lord,

I am called by Jesus;
Washed and cleansed in the waters of Baptism;
Fed by His broken body and shed blood;
equipped and nourished by His holy Word;
and sent into a hungry world to share the good news of God, in Jesus!

Pastor: This week, Christ is Counting on YOU.

Together we respond to His call, in faith: Here I am, Lord. Send Me! **Amen!**

Congregation Turn and Wave