



**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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Nancy Raabe, Pastor; Carol Johnson-Hohol, organist

**The Epiphany of Our Lord**

**January 3, 2021**

**Gathering: "Bright and Glorious is the Sky"**

**INVOCATION**

Blessed be God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure  
and whose steadfast love endures forever.  
**Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who was in the beginning,  
who makes a dwelling among us,  
who covers us with justice and mercy.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God of goodness and lovingkindness,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you  
and our neighbors.**  
**We have turned away from your invitation to new life.**  
**We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.**  
**In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,**  
**those we know and those known only to you,**  
**for the sake of the one who came to live among us,**  
**Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**  
Hear the good news of peace and salvation!  
God forgives us all our sins,  
not through our own work,  
but through ✝ Jesus Christ, made known to all people.  
With all who come to the manger,  
rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.  
**Amen.**

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

## **WORD**

**Isaiah 60:1-6**

**Read by Meichelle Goss**

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>Then 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.

<sup>6</sup>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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL IN TWO PARTS

### Part I, Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, “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.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>‘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.’ ”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>When 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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

### Hymn, “We Three Kings of Orient Are”



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing  
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense  
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,  
owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.

Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

## The Gospel, Part II

### Matthew 2:13-18

<sup>13</sup>Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, 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." <sup>14</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my

son."

<sup>16</sup>When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup>"A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

**Sermon: "Displaced"**

**Pastor Nancy Raabe**

### **Litany for Refugees**

For the refugees, migrants, and displaced persons of this world,  
**Lord, hear our prayer, and let our cry come to you.**

O God, do not be silent;  
**Do not keep still nor hold your peace, O God.**

God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,  
**Have mercy upon them.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
**Have mercy upon them.**

God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful,  
**Have mercy upon them.**

For all who travel the road of uncertainty and enter foreign lands,  
**Loving God, guide and accompany them as you guided and accompanied the Holy Family on their flight to Egypt.**

For all who have left their homes and do not know where they will go,  
**Loving God, take them to the green pastures and lead them beside still waters.**

For all who are walking though the valley of the shadow of death,  
**Loving God, be their Good Shepherd, let them fear no evil, and comfort them with your rod and your staff.**

For all whose journey takes them down the road of hunger and thirst,  
**Loving God, prepare a table before them and let their cup run over.**

For all who look to the past and what has been lost or left behind,  
**Loving God, let your goodness and mercy follow them all the days of their lives.**

For all who long to come home,  
**Loving God, give them hope, restore their souls, and let them dwell in your house forever.**

For things we have done and left undone that contributed to their suffering,  
**Lord have mercy and forgive us.**

For our policies and laws that have broken hearts and separated children and parents;  
**Lord have mercy and forgive us.**

For our times of silence that became complicity,  
**Lord have mercy and forgive us.**

For political or economic interests and agendas that make us blind or indifferent to human suffering and need,  
**Lord have mercy and forgive us.**

For the harsh and unfair judgments we have made about one another's motives or the circumstances of others' lives.  
**Lord have mercy and forgive us.**

May all who live in safety, comfort, and privilege,  
**Show forth your praise not only with their lips but in their lives.**

Give us your grace and the will to overcome fear, violence, and prejudice,  
**That we may love one another as ourselves.**

Teach us to love the stranger as ourselves,  
**For we were once aliens and strangers in the land of Egypt.**

Open the borders of our hearts and minds,  
**That we may welcome each person as the Christ.**

To all who work with refugees, migrants, and displaced persons,  
**Give wise minds, gentle hands, and compassionate hearts.**

To those who care or advocate for refugees, migrants, and displaced persons,  
**Give strength and encouragement, wise minds, and a will for the common good.**

To the leaders of this nation, especially the President and Congress,  
**Give humility and guide them in the ways of human dignity, peace, and justice.**

To all who work for unity, justice, freedom, and peace,  
**Give wisdom, creativity, and perseverance.**

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women everywhere, revealing your image and likeness,  
**We thank you, Good Lord.**

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,  
**Have mercy upon us.**

Lord, hear our prayer,  
**And let our cry come to you.**

O God, Ruler of might, send your healing power to all in bodily need. Bring back to health all those who are suffering from illness. Guide all world health organizations and governmental officials in the distribution of the vaccines. In our family we pray especially for:

**Barb Anderson Jerry Usgaard Jeri Goss Denny Woelffer Kayla German Bernard Ray  
Richard Chadwick Dinah Galston Darin Wiebe Karen Knapton Dorothy Renforth  
Lyliane Browne The family of Betty Madaus The family of Donald Kleven**

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **GREETING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you all!  
**And also with you.**

*Please remember Holy Trinity with your offerings*

### **Music for Meditation**

#### **Offering Prayer**

Generous God,  
you have created all that is,  
and you provide for us in every season.  
Bless all that we offer,  
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.  
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. **Amen.**

#### **Blessing**

Almighty God,  
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day ✝ through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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Our Annual Meeting will take place after the drive-in service on Sunday, January 31, 2021. Provision will be made electronically for participation and voting for those active members unable to be present.