



St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.



Welcome to Worship!

Today, we celebrate the festival of the Epiphany of our Lord. Epiphany is sometimes called the Gentile Christmas because it celebrates the day when Magi from afar worshiped the Christ Child. But the message of Epiphany isn't limited to the Wise Men's visit long ago. No, Epiphany continues to play out to this very day. The Magi were only the first in a long line of Gentiles who would join Israel in worshiping Jesus as King. We too come into the presence of Jesus and worship him as our Savior and King. Like the Magi, O come, let us adore him!

Worship Notes

It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will fill your heart with the peace that only God can offer and the joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.

If you need assistance with anything during worship—including large-print service folders and assisted listening devices—please ask one of our ushers. Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area. Small children can be taken into the entry area, mother's room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed during the worship service. Changing tables are available in the mother's room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.

During the offering, all worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder or located online at www.sjtosa.org/Connect). Completed cards may be placed in the baskets by the exit.

Bible Study

This morning, we begin a new Bible study on "Knowing Jesus Better"—the One whose is indeed "the greatest story ever told."

Taught by Pastor Joel Leyrer, this six-week Bible study will focus on the life of Christ up until Holy Week using a topical rather than chronological approach. We will seek to know Jesus better through an examination of the land that he lived in, the claims he made about himself, the miracles he performed, the people that surrounded him, and the great events that define the Christian faith—all of which will renew and deepen our appreciation for the One who loves us with an everlasting love. Please join us at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall!

The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 7 & 8, 2023

A Savior Is Born for All the Nations

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

The Star Proclaims the King Is Here

Christian Worship 374

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Rite for Epiphany

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,

but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Isaiah 60:1-3

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:2

Our sinful nature delights in committing the deeds of darkness. Therefore let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

He brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness, and broke away their chains.

Psalm 107:13, 14



1 The peo - ple who in dark - ness walked have seen a glo - rious
2 To us a child of hope is born, to us a son is
3 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, the Ev - er - last - ing
4 His right - eous gov - ern - ment and pow'r shall o - ver all ex -



light; the heav'n - ly dawn broke forth on those who
giv'n, and on his shoul - ders ev - er rests all
Lord, the Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, the
tend; on judg - ment and on jus - tice based, his



dwelt in death and night, who dwelt in death and night.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, all pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, the God by all a - dored.
reign shall have no end, his reign shall have no end.

Text: John Morison, 1749–1798, abr., alt.

Tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561

Text and tune: Public domain

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

The One born king of the Jews would draw kings from distant nations to the light of his glory.

“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.
Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.
Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



1 A King on high is reign - ing whom end - less a - ges bless,
 2 As rains that gent - ly nour - ish and bring the seed to birth,
 3 The poor are in his keep - ing, he hears their bit - ter cry,
 4 His name en - dures for ev - er who formed the fer - tile land;



from sea to sea sus - tain - ing his rule of right - eous - ness.
 his right - eous - ness shall flour - ish, his peace pos - sess the earth;
 his watch - ful - ness un - sleep - ing to an - swer ev - 'ry sigh;
 the fruits of our en - deav - or shall pros - per in his hand.



Be - neath his strong de - fend - ing his peo - ple stand se - cure,
 her scep - tered kings ac - claim him, be - fore his feet they fall,
 the lone - ly and ne - glect - ed, the out - cast and in need,
 With prayer and song and sto - ry his prais - es sound a - gain,



whose jus - tice knows no end - ing while sun and moon en - dure.
 the na - tions kneel to name him the sov - 'reign Lord of all.
 for - sak - en and re - ject - ed, to him are dear in - deed.
 in all the earth his glo - ry; so be it, Lord! A - men!

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Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2–12

People from all nations are united together as complete equals in the Savior's kingdom of grace.

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia. Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

Magi from the east were the first in a long line of Gentiles who would worship Jesus as King.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

" 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star
Christian Worship 370

Sermon

Isaiah 60:1-6

The Glorious Light of Epiphany

Please stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

O Lord, you once led the Magi and brought them into the presence of Christ by the light of a star. **Shine the light of your Word on those still living in darkness, that they also may be brought into Christ's marvelous light and believe in him whom you have sent.**

O Lord, may your light shine on us and through us in our words and our works of faith. Send forth your blessing upon the proclamation of your Word that those who hear may believe and have life in your name.

Bless all pastors, missionaries, and church workers and bring to fruit their faithful labors for your kingdom.

O Lord, may your light shine on and through those whose lives are touched by struggle, sorrow, illness, despair and death as they bear witness to your ever-abiding presence.

Come to the aid of all who have asked for our prayers, and grant them healing, strength, comfort, and peace according to your will.

O Lord, may your light shine upon the new year as you teach us to number our days aright and apply our hearts to that which is good and wise.

As you once received the gifts of the Magi, receive our time, talents, and treasures that we bring as signs of our gratitude and faith.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

O Lord, may your light shine in our hearts and our lives as we depart from your house into the world.

Hear our prayers for the sake of your Son who shattered this world's darkness with everlasting light. Amen.

Be seated

Offering

Members of St. John's give offerings to support the Lord's work in our community and around the world. Visitors are welcome but not obligated to give an offering. All worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder). Physical offerings and Connection Cards can be left in the basket on your way out of church. To submit your offering electronically or fill out a Connection Card online, scan the QR code or visit www.sjtosa.org/offering.



Installation of Officers and Board Members (10:30 a.m.)

Hymn

Brightest and Best
Christian Worship 373

Please stand

O Jesus Christ, Light from Light, long ago you came into our dark world to deliver us from eternal death. We give you thanks for coming to us today in Word and Sacrament. Through these means of grace, give us the strength of heart and mind to proclaim your light to those still living in darkness, that they might also be brought into your marvelous light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

As with Gladness Men of Old
Christian Worship 372

Announcements

WELS Connection

Year in Review

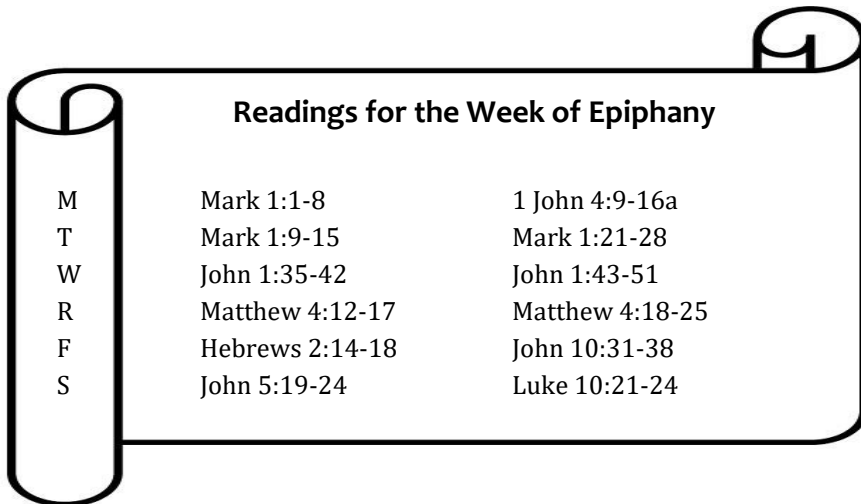
Postlude

Acknowledgments

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Serving at Worship

Preacher

Pastor Eric Schroeder

Presiding Minister

Pastor Joel Schwartz

Musicians

Lisa Eggebrecht, organ (Saturday)

Eric Sipe, organ (Sunday)

In Our Prayers

- Glenda Jones, who is recovering at home from surgery she underwent on Wednesday, January 4.
- Mary Groth, who is hospitalized at Elmbrook with a kidney stone and infection.

Parents' Preview for January 15

The Parents' Preview highlights an aspect of next week's service: a liturgical song, a Psalm refrain, or a hymn stanza. Our hope and prayer is that parents will teach this portion of the service to their children at home during the week so that children can participate more fully in the worship service.

Baptized into Your Name Most Holy Christian Worship 680



1 Bap-tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther, Son, and
2 My lov - ing Fa - ther, there you took me to be hence-forth your
3 My faith - ful God, you fail me nev - er; your prom-ise sure - ly
4 All that I am and love most dear - ly— re - ceive it all, O



Ho - ly Ghost, I claim a place, though weak and low - ly,
child and heir. My faith - ful Sav - ior, there you let me
will en - dure. O cast me not a - way for - ev - er
Lord, from me. Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly;



a - mong your saints, your cho - sen host. Bur - ied with Christ and
the fruit of all your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it,
if words and deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I
help me your faith - ful child to be! Let noth - ing that I



dead to sin, your Spir - it now shall live with - in.
com - fort me when threat - ning clouds a - round I see.
come de - filed; for - give, lift up, re - store your child.
am or own serve an - y will but yours a - lone.

2023 St. John's Board Members

Peter Hansen, Exec Board	Greg Beyer, Education	Matt Hobler, Outreach
Mike Gleason, Exec Board*	Nick Cutting, Education	Dominic Boettcher, Outreach*
Michael Skocir, Exec Board	Luke Sankey, Education	Jonathan Cox, Outreach*
Brian Treichel, Elders	Pat Stolzman, Education*	Kevin Festerling, Outreach*
John Peterman, Elders	Jason Weinrich, Education*	Mark Naumann, Stewardship
John Schapekahm, Elders*	John Warnke, Discipleship	Jody Schmidt, Stewardship
Mike Schneider, Elders*	Dave Todor, Discipleship	Phil Hansen, Stewardship
Dave Allerheiligen, Elders	Steve Wolf, Discipleship	Larry Totsky, Finance
Jeff Sitz, Elders*	Adam Goede, Outreach	Nate Bruckschen, Finance*
		Brent Siegmund, Finance

(* denotes newly elected Board members)

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to these outgoing board members for their years of service:

Jeff Scheibe, Exec Board	Troy Schulz, Education	Andrew De Longe, Outreach
Greg Martin, Elders	Bret Harttert, Outreach	Phil Theesfeld, Stewardship
Casey Holtz, Education	Jon Leyrer, Outreach	

Sunday Morning Bible Study

A new Sunday morning Bible study begins today, Sunday, January 8, at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Knowing Jesus Better

Taught by Pastor Joel Leyrer

His is indeed “the greatest story ever told.” This six-week Bible study will focus on the life of Christ up until Holy Week using a topical rather than chronological approach.

We will seek to know Jesus better through an examination of the land that he lived in, the claims he made about himself, the miracles he performed, the people that surrounded him, and the great events that define the Christian faith—all of which will renew and deepen our appreciation for the One who loves us with an everlasting love.

The Mission of our Church

As God's people gathered together at St. John's, we live to declare the praises of our Savior God who called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of his grace.

As 21st century disciples of Jesus, we reflect the light of God's love by:



Making worship of our Savior the top priority in our lives



Growing in our faith through daily contact with God's Word



Fostering Christian friendships for mutual encouragement and support



Using our unique gifts to glorify God and serve God's people



Sharing the good news of God's forgiving love with others

Worship Services

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Worship in Chinese

Saturdays at 7:00 p.m.

Pastors

Pastor Joel Leyrer
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Pastor Eric Schroeder
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Pastor Joel Schwartz
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Chinese Outreach

Pastor

Pastor Joshua Yu
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School Principal

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