



Epiphany Vespers
January 6, 2022 7:00 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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Epiphany of Our Lord

Welcome to St. Paul's Church. We are delighted that you have joined us in worship. If you are visiting, please provide an email and/or contact information on the cards located in the pew racks.

About the liturgy this evening: Vespers (Evening Prayer) is prayed by the faith community at the evening hour, often associated with the setting of the sun. There is a basic formula to the service. The Cantor and or congregation sing one or more Psalms, songs from the Hebrew Scriptures, during which our minds meditate on words and ideas that come to us. Christian faith always looks backwards into its roots and forward to God's action. This is represented by two readings and the responses to them. The first reading is from the Old Testament the books recording God's dealing with his ancient people the Jews. Theirs is the tradition into which Jesus was born. In response we sing *Magnificat*, the song of Jesus' mother, Mary, which affirms God's work in history. The second reading is from the New Testament and is a story or passage of teaching from Jesus or the first Christians. We respond with *Nunc Dimittis*, a song that recognizes that in Jesus' coming God keeps his promise to the whole world. In the Creed we affirm that Christian faith is founded on this story and we of-

PRELUDE

Stand

OPENING DIALOGUE AND HYMN OF LIGHT

Stanzas 1-3 Sung by the Cantor to a setting by Aaron David Miller.

Cantor 2

Assembly 2

Be-hold, our light has come, death is no more,

Be-hold, our light has come, death is no

though the sun fades from our sight, God has sent sus - tain - ing light.

more,

Be-hold, our light has come, shine on us.

Be-hold, our light has come, shine on us.

1 O Trinity, O blessed light, O Unity of sovereign might;
As now the fiery sun departs, shed holy light within our hearts.
2 To you our morning song of praise, to you our evening prayer we
raise; To you in awe we bend the knee from age to age, eternally.

3 All glory be to God above,
and to the Son, the prince of love,
and to the Spirit, One in Three!
We praise you, blessed Trinity.

Behold Our Light: Music for Evening Worship by Aaron David Miller, ISBN 978-1-4514-6252-4

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THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

We praise and thank you, O God, through you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom you have enlightened us by revealing the light that never fades.

Night is falling and day's allotted span draws to a close.

The daylight which you created for our pleasure has fully satisfied us, and yet, of your free gift, now the evening lights do not fail us.

We praise you and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; through him be glory, honor, and power to you in the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

Amen.

Sit

EVENING PSALM Psalm 139 *Sung by the cantor to a setting by Aaron David Miller.*

Lord you have searched me and known me; you know when I sit, when I rise.

You know my thoughts, you know my heart, you know the ways of my life.

You know the sound of my voice, you know the words of my tongue;

You hold me close, you guide my ways, you know the ways of my life.

Where can I go to leave your spirit? Where can I fall that you aren't near:

If I say, The darkness will hide me, your bright light sets me free.

Lord you have searched me and known me; you know when I sit, when I rise.

You know my thoughts, you know my heart, you know the ways of my life.

You know the ways of my life. You know the ways of my life.

A period of silence follows the Psalm. Then the minister continues with the prayer.

PSALM PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, when you descended among the dead, you brought them the light of day; when you ascended into heaven, you brought it new radiance. Remain with us and lead us along the paths of life until we come to rest with your saints in the holy dwelling place, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and forever. **Amen**

SECOND PSALM **Psalm 72 1-7, 10-14** *spoken responsively by half-verse*

¹ Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,*

and your righteousness to | the king's son;

² that he may rule your | people righteously*

and the | poor with justice;

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,*

and the little | hills bring righteousness.

⁴ He shall defend the needy a- | mong the people;*

he shall rescue the poor and crush | the oppressor.

⁵ He shall live as long as the sun and | moon endure,*

from one generation | to another.

⁶ He shall come down like rain upon | the mown field,*

like showers that wa- | ter the earth.

⁷ In his time shall the | righteous flourish;*

there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.

¹⁰ The kings of Tarshish and of the isles | shall pay tribute,*

and the kings of Arabia and Saba | offer gifts.

¹¹ All kings shall bow | down before him,*

and all the nations | do him service.

¹² For he shall deliver the poor who cries out | in distress,*

and the oppressed who | has no helper.

¹³ He shall have pity on the low- | ly and poor;*

he shall preserve the lives | of the needy.

¹⁴ He shall redeem their lives from oppres- | sion and violence,*

and dear shall their blood be | in his sight.

A period of silence follows the Psalm. Then the minister continues with the prayer.

PSALM PRAYER

Almighty God, you gave the kingdom of justice and peace to David and his descendant, our Lord Jesus Christ. Extend this kingdom to every nation, so that through your Son the poor may receive justice, the destitute relief, and the people of the earth peace in the name of him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING **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.

Stand

MAGNIFICAT

My Soul Proclaims

Aaron David Miller

Assembly



My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord, my
spir-it sings for joy in God my Sav-ior. You look with fa-vor up - on your ser-vant,
bless-ed is my name. You have done great things for me, ho - ly is your
name. You send your mer-cy to those who fear you through ev-'ry age.
You have shown the strength of your arm, you have scorned the thoughts of the proud,
you cast down the night - y, you have lift - ed the low - ly, ho - ly is your

name. You have filled the hun-gry with good things, you have left the rich with empty hands, you have come to the help of your peo-ple, ho - ly is your name. You have kept your prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom-ise that you made to our fore - bears; to A - bra'm and Sar - ah and their chil - dren for - ev - er, ho - ly is your name. Ho - ly is your name. Ho - ly is your name.

Text: Luke 1:46b-55, adapt. A. D. M.
Music: Aaron David Miller © 2013 Augsburg Fortress, All rights reserved.

Sit

NEW TESTAMENT READING **Matthew 2:1-12**

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.

Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS Now, Lord, You Let Your Servant Go in Peace (All sing)

Mark Mummert

Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

Continued on next page...



APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

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

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

Sit

HOMILY

Stand

LITANY

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Elizabeth, James, and Edward our bishops, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who work to bring peace, justice, health and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves to one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

To you, O Lord.

O God, from whom comes all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandment; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us. **Amen.**

HYMN

The First Noel (ELW #300) next page stanzas 1&2 all, stanza 3 Cantor, stanza 4&5 all

The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el. No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.