

Sunday, January 6, 2019

Epiphany of Our Lord



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun & Jenny Schuett

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH

we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS

we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.

Hearing Assistance is available during the service.

Please notify usher if you would like assistance

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INTRODUCTION

The story of the visit of the Magi, the Holy Family's flight to Egypt, and even their haphazard return to the Holy Land should help us reflect on the plights of those who cross religious, political, and ethnic boundaries in the pursuit of loving Jesus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

(Please Stand on the Last Verse)

1. We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain following yonder star

CHORUS

O Star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy Perfect Light

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain. Gold I bring to crown Him again.
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. **CHOURS**
3. Glorious now behold Him arise King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Earth to heav'n replies **CHOURS**

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who shines in glory, clothes us in compassion, and bears gifts of mercy for all.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins with confidence in God's promise of forgiveness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

God, wonderful counselor,

we confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way.

We have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peace of Jesus dwelling in and among us. Amen.

God's loving kindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are saved, not by anything we have done, but by God's mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the Spirit living in you, God give you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, now and always.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Extravagant God, you sent magi with generous gifts to visit the baby Jesus and proclaim his reign to all the world. Make our voices heard when we proclaim God's love to all. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Matthew 2:1-23

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.

¹³Now 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." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and 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."

¹⁶When 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. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸"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."

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead. ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand for the Gospel

GOSPEL Psalm 96:10-13

Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁰Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."

¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹²let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy ¹³before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.

Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY: "Brightest and Best of the Stars" #303 ELW
(Vs 1,2,3 & 5)**

Please stand if able

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with

respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Dwelling in the presence of God with us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all in any need.

A brief silence.

Drawn into the light of God, we pray for the proclamation of the grace of Jesus Christ. Give us courage and boldness to go forth into the world to tell the good news of what God has done. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Drawn into the glory of creation, we pray for the earth. Sustain every living thing with abundant resources, clean water, and sustainable harvests. Help us to steward all that you have provided. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Drawn into the brightness of God's presence, we pray for the nations of the world. Reveal your compassion and peace for the sake of all who live in the shadow of oppression, violence, and fear. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Drawn into the light of healing mercy, we pray for all who wait for healing and relief of suffering (*especially*). Give us hope in the promise of new life where pain and suffering will be no more. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Drawn into the dawn of a new day, we pray for the ongoing reconciliation between people. Make us bold to name sin in our lives and unite us in the promise of forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Drawn into the promise of everlasting light, we pray for those who mourn and give thanks for all the saints who now rest in the brightness of God's presence (*especially*). Make us confident in our worship as we reflect the light of God with eternal praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, we commend all for whom we pray, dwelling in the light and hope of Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Ushers will begin passing the offering plate and Blessing Box.

Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table where Christ meets you. Eat, rejoice, and be glad!

All are welcome! (Communion by intinction - red wine; white apple juice)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you, ✝ bless you and keep you in hope and peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN:

“All Are Welcome”

#641 ELW

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Digital Hymnal

Greeters: Barry & Donna Ansell

Ushers: George & Kathy Larson

Hospitality: Church & Elsa Carlson & Lee & Barb Forrester

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, December 30, 2018: 9:00 am 79

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

January 7 thru January 13, 2019

Monday	1/7	9:00 am	Women's Devotion at Pat Beckers
		1:00 pm	Pinochle
		1:00 pm	Stewardship Meeting
		2:30 pm	Centennial Meeting (Day & Time Change)
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	1/8	9:00 am	Quilters
		12 – 2 pm	Pastor's Text Study
Wednesday	1/9	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:00 am	Stitchers
Thursday	1/10	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		10:00 am	Personal Meeting
		12:00 pm	Pot Luck & Funtimers-Card Players
Friday	1/11	10:00 am	Bone builders
Sunday	1/13	9:00 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Praise Team

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REGISTRY *Please* sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. This information is gathered for annual reports to the Synod.

SNOW DAY! A winter fun day to begin our 100th Year Celebration! Sunday, January 20, 2019 from 2pm-5pm. Fun Indoor & Outdoor activities include Snow Shoeing, Bonfire, Exploring the Nature Trail, Making a Luminary, Games, Chili & fixings, Hot Chocolate. **FREE!** Fun for all ages.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR SNOWDAY! Looking for ice cream pails/large sour cream/yogurt type containers to make luminaries. They can leave at the church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

THANK YOU! Doris Reinhard would like to thank all the people who helped celebrate her 95th birthday by sending cards and visiting her in the hospital.

BLESSING BOX The first Sunday of every month we pass the “Blessing Box”. If you feel blessed, please contribute to the Blessing Box today to help others. All donations will go to local area benevolences. Thank you! What a Blessing!

WOMEN’S DEVOTIONS will be on Monday, January 7th, 9:00-11:00 am at Pat Becker’s house. Please come join us; we are an informal group of women who seek to learn more about God and what He is saying to us through the study of His word. The study is facilitated by Pat Becker.

2019 BETHESDA CENTENNIAL FUNDRAISER CALENDARS are here! These will make great last minute Christmas gifts! Only \$10 and available in the Fellowship Hall after service today and for weeks to come.

JOIN IN THE FUN! Support our Centennial activities in 2019. For the month of January you have the opportunity to win a fabulous prize by purchasing a “Snowflake” for a \$1.00 that we will use to decorate the fellowship hall. The winner will be drawn the last Sunday of the month after first service. The prize for January is donated by our quilters.

PICTURE DIRECTORIES are here! If you had your picture taken please pick up your complementary directory in the Fellowship Hall. If you didn’t have your picture taken, updated smaller directories are available in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like a picture directory, but didn’t have your picture taken, you can purchase a copy for \$10. See the secretaries in the office.

OFFERING ENVELOPES are not here yet. Please pick up the generic envelopes in the Narthex for the next couple of weeks.

JELLY ON SALE Inventory closeout! \$3 each or 2 for \$5. Available in the Fellowship Hall.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIS Judie Birk is looking for old cross country skis that she plans to paint/decorate for this year’s bazaar. You can leave them at the church.