



THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

JANUARY 5, 2024

11:00A

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH, CONOVER

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation with confidence in the Words of our Lord Jesus, who gives not only bread and wine but his true body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1Cor 11:27-29). Reception of Holy Communion here at Concordia is a public confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Those who are not yet baptized, instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" 411

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Based on Psalm 117:2; Isaiah 60:3*

P Great is the steadfast love of the LORD toward us;

C and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

P Nations will come to His light

C and kings to the brightness of His rising.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Silence for reflection on God's Word.

P Let us confess our sins unto the Lord.

C I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to

have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “As With Gladness Men of Old” 397



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.
There for-ev-er may we sing Al-le-lu-ias to our King.

Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to

enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

We sit.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

L This is the Word of our Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 3:1-12

L This is the Word of our Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL CANTICLE “We Three Kings”

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

Refrain:

**Oh, - star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

**Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again;
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. (*refrain*)**

**Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshipping God Most High
(*refrain*)**

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in a stone cold tomb.
(*refrain*)**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The Gospel is read.

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

We sit.

SERMON

“What Year Are We In?”

Pastor Michael Geml

HYMN OF THE DAY “Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” 395

St. 3- low voices; St. 4 – treble voices

We stand.

APOSTLES’ CREED

Inside back cover of LSB

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalms 136

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P O gracious and almighty Father, from the beginning of the world
You set forth the plan of salvation to rescue Your creation from the
darkness and death of sin. Now, in the fullness of time, You have

revealed Your Son as the promised Savior and Redeemer, in whom all the world is born again in hope. As He has kept Your saving will and been born in our flesh to accomplish all things for our salvation, so also He has reached beyond the divisions of old to unite us as one people by Baptism and faith. Grant to us this day Your Holy Spirit, that we who come to this altar may through repentance and faith be made worthy to receive Him who comes to us here. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Throughout all generations we have heard Your voice calling to the nations with the promise of mercy, but now, in these latter days, we have witnessed Your saving voice call out anew to deliver us from darkness to light and from death to life. Rejoicing in our Savior Jesus Christ, we plead before You the promise of His mercy, sealed in His death and resurrection, that what He began in us may be made complete. Deliver us by Your grace from all the enemies of Your Word. Break through every division and barrier that we may be made one, here in the blessed Communion of His body and blood and at last in the marriage feast of the Lamb without end.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

We sit.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| “Arise and Shine in Splendor” | 396 |
| “Come, Thou Bright and Morning Star” | 872 |
| “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” | 394 |

We stand.

DISMISSAL

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BENEDICTION

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----|
| CLOSING HYMN | “What Child Is This” | 370 |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----|

POSTLUDE



Sermon Notes



*When they
saw the*

STAR,
they

REJOICED

*exceedingly
with great*

JOY.

MATTHEW 2:10