

January 2, 2021 ~ 5:00 p.m.
The Epiphany of Our Lord

**The star...
came to
rest over
the place
where the
child was.**



Matthew 2:9, ESV



Trinity Lutheran Church & School

*Our Mission:
To Make More and Better Disciples of Jesus Christ.*



Trinity Lutheran Church

***146 Reserve Road, West Seneca, NY 14224
(716) 674-9188***

E-Mail: trinitylutheranchurch146@verizon.net

Website: www.trinitywestseneca.com

Pastor: Rev. Dennis Krueger - 997-5666

Trinity Christian School

(716) 674-5353

E-Mail: jbabcock@thinktrinitychristian.com

Website: www.thinktrinitychristian.com

Principal: Mrs. Kathleen Fretthold

Worship Services

Saturday at 5:00pm (in the church)

Sunday at 9:30am (in the church)

On-line at "www.trinitywestseneca.com"

Welcome Visitors and Guests! Thank you for coming to worship God with us today! We believe that the Spirit of God had a hand in your coming. We trust that God's Word and this special time in worship will be a continuing blessing to you. Come again!

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 2, 2021 ~ 5:00 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

Christmas lights may be coming down, but the Light of the world still shines for all to see. We receive this light as we celebrate The Epiphany of Our Lord. Today we hear how the mysterious Wise Men from the East are led by the Lord to follow the star of wonder to the everlasting, eternal Light. Jesus shines the brightness of heaven into the darkness of their hearts, and they respond with gifts of honor and praise. Jesus does the same for you today. Dispelling the darkness of sin, He covers you with the light of His presence and invites you, as He did the Wise Men, to respond to Him in honor and praise.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP *“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”* Thomerson

WELCOME

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

People: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

Pastor: All the nations shall come to the light of Christ.

People: Kings shall bring Him gifts.

Pastor: For Christ reveals the mystery hidden through the ages,

People: that all nations are partakers of the promise in Jesus Christ.

HYMN

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

(v 1, 3, 4)

[James Montgomery / Henry Smart. Public Domain]

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

CHORUS:

**Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations,
You have seen his natal star.

CHORUS:

**Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One. **(Chorus)**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION Based on *Isaiah 60:1–6*

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

People: and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

(We take a moment for silent prayer and meditation upon God's Word.)

Pastor: Almighty God, thick darkness covers the whole earth, and the darkness of sin is on us, Your people.

People: We confess that we have walked in darkness instead of Your light. In our thoughts, words, and actions, we have turned away from Your face and have broken Your commands.

Pastor: You alone, O Lord, invite all nations to come to Your light. You call out to those who are broken to find wholeness in the brightness of Your rising.

People: Guide us again to the mercy of our Savior Jesus Christ, that He may dispel the darkness of our sin and renew us in the light of Your presence. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you 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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Wise Men of old.

People: Guide us also to Him, the Light of the world, and lead us to respond in worship and praise; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 60:1–6* (The nations shall come to Your light.)

¹“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

²See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

³Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴“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.

⁵Then 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.

⁶Herds 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.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: *Ephesians 3:1–12* (The mystery hidden for ages.)

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

²Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which 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. ⁶This 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.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although 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, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His 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, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAISE *“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”*

(v 1, 4)

[Wordsworth /Elvey © 1982 The Jubilate Group. Admin. by Hope Publishing Co. CCL# 254312]

Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
Manifested by the star
to the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem
In thy birth at Bethlehem:
Anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
Present in thy holy Word;
Grace to imitate thee now
And be pure, as pure art thou;
That we might become like thee
At thy great epiphany
And may praise thee, ever blest,
God in flesh made manifest.

HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 2:1–12* (*The Magi visit Jesus.*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² 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.”

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When 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. ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶“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.’ ”

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He 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.”

⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

"The First Noel"

[Public domain]

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

CHORUS:

**Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel**

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night

(Chorus)

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far
To seek for a king was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went

(Chorus)

This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay

(Chorus)

Then entered in those wise men three
Full rev'rently upon the knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense

(Chorus)

SERMON: "The Epiphany Solstice," *Matthew 2:1-12*

APOSTLES' CREED

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, that wars cease and that people of every nation find lasting, perfect peace in Jesus, the Prince of Peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: For those who profess faith in Jesus Christ, that the journey of the Wise Men inspires us to follow the light of the Gospel and spread the Word of salvation throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: For those who lead and guide us in our congregations, schools, universities, and seminaries, that they be strengthened in their service to the Church in honor and praise to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: For those who bring their tithes and offerings to this altar that, like the gold, frankincense, and myrrh of the Wise Men, these gifts be pleasing in God's sight and provide many blessings to His Church, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: For those who lay down their lives for their fellow men and women, including first responders, members of law enforcement, doctors and nurses, and those who wear the uniform of our country, that they take shelter in the arms of our Savior, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: (Special petitions), let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: For these and all other prayers and intercessions we have, that the petitions of our hearts may be known to the One who knows and loves us all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN

“As With Gladness Men of Old”

[William Dix / Conrad Kocher. Public Domain]

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.

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Serving Us

Pastor ... Rev. Dennis Krueger

Organist ... Katherine Herman

Singer ... Linda Meissner, Marie Thompson

Altar ... Karen Hollowood

Deacon ... Ron Boersch

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