January 6, 2019
Epiphany of Our Lord

Epiphany means “manifestation.” On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.
AS WE GATHER

WELCOME

PRELUDE
(please stand, as you are able)
P. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

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

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

P. Let us confess our sins with confidence in God’s promise of forgiveness.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P. God, wonderful counselor,
C. 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.

P. God’s lovingkindness 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.
C. Amen.
GATHERING HYMN

Arise, Your Light Is Come! 231

1 Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

2 Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

3 Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born, bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

4 Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

GREETING

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy spirit be with you all.

C. And also with you.
HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia,

1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia,

2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 3 Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 4 For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.
PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Let us pray,
   O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

(Please be seated)

WORD

We Hear God’s Story

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

R. A reading from Isaiah the 60th chapter.

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

2 For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

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

4 Lift 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.

5 Then 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.

6 A 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.

R. The word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.
Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king’s son;
that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;
that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.
May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.
In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.
May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.
For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper.
He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.
From oppression and violence he re-deems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.
SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12
R. A reading from Ephesians the 3rd chapter.

1This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—2for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, 3and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, 4a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 5In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: 6that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. 8Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, 9and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 10so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.
R. The word of the Lord.
C. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
(Please stand, as you are able)

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

P. The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter.
C. Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, “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.” 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They 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.’”

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then 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.” 9 When 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. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On 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. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P. The Gospel of our Lord.
C. Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON Pastor Jim Rill
HYMN OF THE DAY
(Please stand, as you are able)

The First Noel

1 The first Noel the angel did say was to
2 They looked up and saw a star shining
3 And by the light of that same star three
4 This star drew near to the north west, o'er
5 Then entered in those wise men three, full

certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in the east beyond them far; and to the
wise men came from country far; to seek for a
Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it
reverently up on their knee, and offered

they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's
earth it gave great light, and so it con-
king was their intent, and to follow the
did both stop and stay right over the
there in his presence their gold, and
WE CONNECT TO GOD’S STORY

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made For us and for our salvation
THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
P. Dwelling in the presence of God with us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all in any need.

After each petition,
P. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

P. 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.

C. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE
P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C. And also with you.
OFFERING

Offertory
(Please stand, as you are able)

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
   from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
   “Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
   The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
   and still their heav’nly music floats o’er all the weary world.
   Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov’ring wing,
   and ever o’er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

3 And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
   who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
   look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
   oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

4 For lo! The days are hast’ning on, by prophets seen of old,
   when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
   when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
   and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.
OFFERING PRAYER
P.  Let us pray,
C.   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.

MEAL
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P.   It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...and join their unending hymn.
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P. With this bread and cup
   we remember your Word dwelling among us,
   full of grace and truth.
   We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
   We look with hope for his coming.

C. Come, Lord Jesus.

P. Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
   Come among us.
   Bless this meal.
   May your Word take flesh in us.
   Awaken your people.
   Fill us with your light.
   Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C. Come, Holy Spirit.

P. All praise and glory are yours,
   Holy One of Israel,
   Word of God incarnate,
   Power of the Most High,
   one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.
THE 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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

P.  Taste and see that the Lord is good.

(Please be seated)
COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

We welcome all to God’s table. We believe the real presence of Christ is in this meal. All baptized persons are welcome to commune. All individuals are encouraged to come forward for a blessing. **If you have any allergy to wheat, we have gluten free bread and wine. Please simply tell the Pastor “gluten free” and he will share the appropriate elements.** If you have a question about communion please share it with our pastor or council member.

**Instructions:** The sacrament of Holy Communion will be distributed by intinction. Upon receiving the bread, move to the chalice and dip the bread in the consecrated wine.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

And each person, may respond with hands facing up to receive, and may respond Amen.

The following hymns will be sung during communion:

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyful strains prolong?
3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;

and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyful strains.
What the glad newsings be which inspire your heav’nly song?
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born king.
Refrain

Glo-

ri-a

in ex-cel-sis De-o; glo-

ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o.
Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sages, leave your contemplations, bright visions beam afar;
4 All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,

once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star.
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way;
4 At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye,

ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
as the Light of light, descending from the realms of endless day,
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:

Christ our God to earth descending comes full homage to demand.
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heav’nly food.
comes, the pow’rs of hell to vanquish, as the darkness clears away.
“All leluiia! All leluiia! All leluiia, Lord Most High!”
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
follow Jesus.

2 I want to see... the brightness of God. I want to
look at Jesus. God set the stars to give

3 I'm looking for... the coming of Christ. I want to
be with Jesus. Clear Sun of righteousness,

light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.

patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.
Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.
(Please stand, as you are able)

P. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. 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.

C. Amen.

(Please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSINGS
Those desiring an individual blessing please come forward. There need not be a special occasion for a blessing. However, those celebrating birthday, anniversaries, or preparing to travel are encouraged to come forward. Those struggling with life issues, are encouraged to come forward.

(After the Blessings have been completed, please stand, as you are able)

SEND

_We are Sent to Tell God’s Story_

BENEDICTION

P. 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.

C. Amen
We Three Kings of Orient Are

1. We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
2. Born a king on Beth-lehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
3. Frank-incense to offer have I, incense owns a de-ity night;
4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
5. Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;

field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign,
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.
sor-rowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
Al- le- lu- ia! Al- le- lu- ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
wes-ward leading, still pro-ceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.
C. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

We look forward to seeing you again.
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m.

We are a part of ...

Allegheny Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Connect with us
New Hope Lutheran Church: newhopespringmills.org
Allegheny Synod website: http://www.alleghenysynod.org
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America www.elca.org

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