

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022**

**EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

**WITH ONE VOICE**

**Bread of Life - Setting 5**

**Congregation responses in bold print.**

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**WELCOME**

Rev. Althea Albright

**PRELUDE**

Variations on *Lobt Gott, Ihr Christen*

By Johann Gottfried Walther

*Please stand as you are able*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Pastor:* Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who sends the word with angels,  
who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

**Amen.**

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God, **we confess our sin before you.**

**We replace compassion with competition.**

**We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.**

**We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.**

**We have not put on love in harmony with you.**

**Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.**

**Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed,  
may reflect your love born among us. Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all people:

God has come among us in the child born of Mary,

Christ the Lord. † In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**

This Is the Spirit's Entry Now

**ELW # 448**

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together....**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. Amen.**

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6**

*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

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

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14**

- <sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God, / and your righteousness to the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously / and the poor with justice;**  
<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.
- <sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
- <sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, / from one generation to another.
- <sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, / like showers that water the earth.**
- <sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- <sup>10</sup>**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**
- <sup>11</sup>May all kings bow down before him, / and all the nations do him service.
- <sup>12</sup>**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**
- <sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the lowly and poor, / and preserves the lives of the needy.
- <sup>14</sup>**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12**

*What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—  
<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,  
<sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,  
<sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.  
<sup>5</sup>In 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: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of 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. <sup>8</sup>Although 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, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;  
<sup>10</sup>so 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. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the second chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:1-12**

*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"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.' "

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

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you. O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Rev. Althea Albright

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

Crashing Waters at Creation

**ELW # 455**

## **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**

## **WEEKLY OFFERING**

*We are thankful for however you are able to continue supporting our ministry at Grace.  
Offering may be received through the mail, church office, or Simply Giving online.  
Please call the church office if you need assistance with Simply Giving, or have any  
questions or concerns.*

**OFFERTORY**                      *Baptized Into Your Name Most Holy*                      by Donald Busarow

*Please stand as you are able*

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**                      Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

*We pray together for however we have made offerings to God in our lives.*

*Pastor:* Let us pray. Almighty God,

**You are Creator of all that is in heaven and on earth. We rejoice that we have many  
blessings to be thankful for in our lives. You have changed our lives  
forever with your Word made flesh. Grant us courage to change the lives of  
others with your Good News. Bless our congregation, this community,  
and all the offerings we give back to you for your holy work,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Pastor:* The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us; so let us be bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

*Brief silence.*

*Leader:* By the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be persistent in prayer and service, that all those in need may find relief and guidance. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all, and protect all land from drought and flood. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Pastor:* You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need especially all those we name now or in our hearts... God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* You created each of your saints for your glory. We give thanks for those you have called by name into your eternal embrace especially all the loved ones we have lost and all those who are friends of our church. Comfort us in grief and release us from fear and doubt. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Pastor:* Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

### PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

On 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.

Together we celebrate this holy meal. May all praise and thanks be to you, Holy God, through Christ Jesus, and by your Life-giving Spirit. **Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by Christ, let us 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**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

## BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

As we have experienced Christ, our Savior, in this meal, may Almighty God continue to nourish you and encourage you as you continue your journey in faith. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together... **Most High God, you have come among us at this table.**  
**By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

**BLESSING**            *We are blessed and encouraged as we depart from our gathering.*

*Pastor:* May God bless you and hold you close.

May Christ's presence guide you in all you do. May the Holy Spirit shine in you and bring others closer to God's love and ✠ give you everlasting hope.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**            Christ, when for Us You Were Baptized            **ELW # 304**

**POSTLUDE**                            *Lobt Gott, Ihr Christen*            by Johann Gottfried Walther

## DISMISSAL

*Leader:* Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior. **Thanks be to God.**

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