

January 6-7, 2024

Epiphany Observed



Good News of Great Joy



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

www.salemlutheran.org



Epiphany Observed

Good News of Great Joy— For All People

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God’s powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Savior Jesus, light of the world, once again we worship you here in your house for every blessing in this life and the next. Accept our prayers and praises. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: The birth of the Savior was good news for all people. Today we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning “reveal.” When the Savior was born, he was first revealed to Israelites: the shepherds, Simeon, Anna. But today, the Lord miraculously guides foreigners across countless miles, so the Savior could be revealed to them as well. Epiphany is sometimes known as “The Gentiles’ Christmas.” We Gentiles (non-Jews) rejoice in the good news that this Jewish baby is not just the Savior of Jews. He is for all people—the Savior of the world.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: We live in a world with a 24-hour news cycle. Between the countless cable networks or online sources or social media posts, news is flying at us constantly. Most of it seems awful. Our hearts grow heavy. Our minds grow anxious. The world is starving for good news. And that is exactly what we get at Christmas. On that first Christmas Eve, the angel told the shepherds, “I bring you good news of great joy” (Luke 2:10). The angel had not come to give advice about how to cope in a messed-up world. News is simply a report of facts. The angel reported a fact—the birth of One who would make everything right again. This child would remove all our fears and fill our hearts with joy.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Jon Enter

Sunday Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Pianist: Jessica Klatt

14940 62nd St N, Stillwater + www.salemlutheran.org + 651-439-7831

church@salemlutheran.org

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



HYMN: As with Gladness Men of Old

CW 372 sts. 1-3



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,



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,



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.

Please stand.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: If we claim to be without sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

(1 John 1:8-9)

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: **Holy God, gracious Father,**

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Psalm 72E sts. 1-2



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
2 He comes with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
to help the poor and need - y and bid the weak be strong,



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light



to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are pre - cious in his sight.

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated.

First Reading

Numbers 24:15-17a

God compels the heathen magician Balaam to prophecy that out of the nation of Israel would come one who would shine like a star for all peoples to see.

¹⁵Then he spoke his message:

“The prophecy of Balaam son of Beor,
the prophecy of one whose eye sees clearly,
¹⁶the prophecy of one who hears the words of God,
who has knowledge from the Most High,
who sees a vision from the Almighty,
who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened:

¹⁷“I see him, but not now;
I behold him, but not near.
A star will come out of Jacob;
a scepter will rise out of Israel.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Psalm 72E sts. 1–2



3 Kings shall bow down be - fore him and gold and in - cense bring;
4 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest,



all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing.
from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest.



To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend,
The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;



his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.
his name shall stand for - ev - er—that name to us is Love.

Second Reading

Romans 11:13-15, 28-32

Paul writes about his passion for sharing the good news with all people.

¹³I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry ¹⁴in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

²⁸As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, ²⁹for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, ³¹so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. ³²For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

Magi from the east are miraculously led to their Savior, and they worship him. .

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and 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. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

HYMN: How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

CW 370 sts. 1-2, 5



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see
 2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won, true Son of God
 5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, let all glad sounds



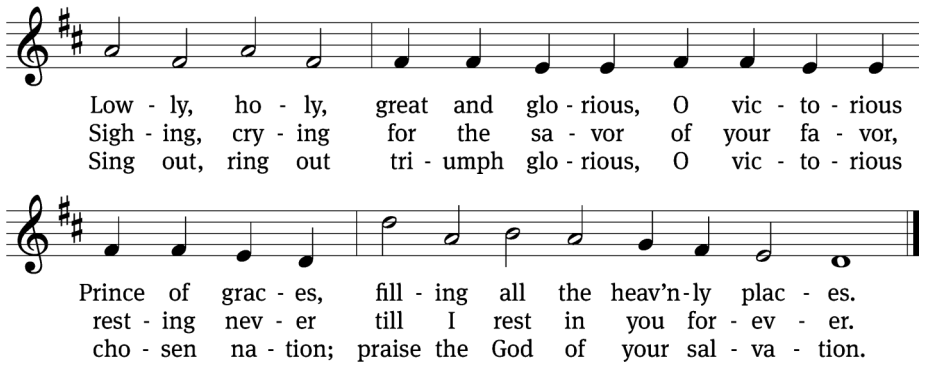
and hail a - far the light in Ju - dah shin - ing.
 and Mar - y's son, the high - born King of a - ges!
 of mu - sic ring in God's high prais - es blend - ed.



O Da - vid's son of Ja - cob's race, my Bride-groom and
 In your blest bod - y let me be, e'en as the branch
 Christ will be with me all the way, to - day, to - mor -



my King of grace, for you my heart is pin - ing.
 is in the tree, your life my life sup - ply - ing.
 row, ev - 'ry day till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.



Low - ly, ho - ly, great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
Sigh - ing, cry - ing for the sa - vor of your fa - vor,
Sing out, ring out tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
Prince of grac - es, fill - ing all the heav'n - ly plac - es.
rest - ing nev - er till I rest in you for - ev - er.
cho - sen na - tion; praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

Sermon

Based on Matthew 2:1-12

“Be Wise: Help Others”

Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty.**

From there 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.**

Be seated.

HYMN: Angels from the Realms of Glory

CW 347 sts. 1, Ref, 3-5



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the



flight o'er all the earth; once you sang cre -
vi - sions beam a - far; seek the great de -
long in hope and fear, sud - den - ly the
Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your



a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
sire of na - tions, you have seen the Sav - ior's star.
Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear.
voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One.



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,



wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Offering



Connect Card

Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Give Online

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN: What Child Is This

CW 344 st. 3

3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to
own him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let
lov - ing hearts en - throne him. Raise, raise the
song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Reprinted under OneLicense # 48708 and CCLI # 630266

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:10am in the sanctuary.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: From Jordan's Shores to Mountain Glory

Bible Readings: Isaiah 49:1-6, Romans 6:1-11, Mark 1:4-11

Hymns: 692, 377, 927

Upcoming Worship Series

From Jordan's Shores to Mountain's Glory

“Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “reveal.” For most of his adult life, Jesus was known simply the son of Mary and Joseph. Around the age of thirty, the fuller truth about Jesus began to be revealed: his person, his power, and his purpose. It started with Jesus standing in the Jordan River with John the Baptist. The biggest epiphany took place at a mountain, where select followers saw Jesus shining brighter than the sun. All these epiphanies—these revelations about Jesus—changed the lives of everyone around him. In this season of Epiphany, as we follow Jesus from Jordan's shores to mountain's glory, may they change us too.

January 14th— *It Begins with Baptism*

January 21st — *The Kindness in His Calling*

January 28th — *Committed to a Lofty Charge*

February 4th — *Absolute Authority*

February 11th — *The Devil's Work Undone*

February 18th — *A Glimpse of His True Glory*



Welcome to worship!

FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help. Please take note of a few helpful things:

- † **Restrooms** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers.
- † Salem members give an **offering** to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.

FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- † If your child needs to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.

