



St. Luke Lutheran Church • 8:30AM • January 3, 2021
The Celebration of the Epiphany

Prelude: *"The First Noel"*

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel. Born is the King of Israel.

Greeting: L: 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.

Confession and Forgiveness *(please stand as you are able)*

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the leader begins.)

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *Silence for reflection and self examination.*

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry & humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known & unknown, things we have done & things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, & uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live & serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **C: Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: *(you may be seated)* *"Christ Be Our Light"* #715

**Verse 1: Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.**

**Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

**Verse 2: Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. [Refrain]**

**Verse 3: Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. [Refrain]**

**Verse 4: Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. [Refrain]**

**Verse 5: Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. [Refrain]**

Kyrie L: Kyrie eleison **C: Lord, have mercy.**
L: Christe eleison **C: Christ, have mercy.**
L: Kyrie eleison **C: Lord, have mercy.**

Canticle of Praise: *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* 2X
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. ⁶A 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.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand as you are able)* 2X *written by Debbi St. John*

Alleluia, the angels sing, it is the birth of our new king.

The heavens echo loud with joy, God's gift to us, this baby boy.

L: The holy gospel according to...

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 *(Please stand as you are able)*

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "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." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They 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.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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." ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

L: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon: *(you may be seated)*

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *"Love Came Down"* #292

Verse 1: Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.

Verse 2: Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?

Verse 3: Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and others, love for plea and gift and sign.

Apostles' Creed: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, & was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, & he will come to judge the living & 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, & the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers: (call and response)

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.* Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness especially; Ruth Holm, Keith Brown, Dolly Mensink, David Roschen, Jim Howard, Brad Roschen, Kelly Rehder, Naomi Berland, Nathlye Benrud, Nancy & Donald Nord, Dean Kirkland, Marlene & Lloyd Roschen, Finley Budensiek, Hunter Burow, Cassidy Post, Brent Hokanson, Barb Maher & Karl Thomforde. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith. With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace: L: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: **And also with you.**

Offering & Doxology: *"What Child Is This"* 2X

This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Offertory Prayer:

P: God our provider, we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it. Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table, and with them the offering of our lives. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. C: **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; & forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; & lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, & the power, and the glory, forever & ever. Amen.

Blessing (please stand as you are able)

L: May the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor + and give you peace. C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: *"The Bells of Christmas"* #298

**Verse 1: The bells of Christmas chime once more; the heav'nly guest is at the door.
He comes to earthly dwellings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.**

**Verse 2: This world, though wide and far outspread, could scarcely find for you a bed.
Your cradle was a manger stall, no pearl nor silk nor kingly hall.**

Verse 3: Now let us go with quiet mind, the swaddled babe with shepherds find,
to gaze on him who gladdens them, the loveliest flow'r of Jesse's stem.

Verse 4: Oh, join with me, in gladness sing, to keep our Christmas with our king, until our song,
from loving souls, like rushing mighty water rolls!

Verse 5: O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song, O Dayspring bright, awaited long,
O Son of Man, incarnate Word, great David's Son, great David's Lord:!

Verse 6: Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest, and keep your Christmas in our breast;
then David's harp-string, hushed so long, shall swell our jubilee of song.

Dismissal L: Go in peace to love the Lord and serve your neighbor.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn: *"Go Tell It On The Mountain"* 2X

Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

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