

Epiphany Sunday

January 7, 2024

Opening Hymn #126

Arise and Shine in Splendor

1. Arise and shine in splendor,
Let night to day surrender;
Thy light is drawing near,
Above thee day is beaming
In matchless beauty gleaming;
The glory of the Lord is here.

2. See earth in darkness lying,
The heathen nations dying
In hopeless gloom and night.
To thee the lord of heaven -
Thy life, they hope hath given
Great glory, honor and delight.

3. The World's remotest races,
Upon whose weary faces
The sun looks from the sky,
Shall run with zeal untiring,
With joy thy light desiring
That breaks upon them from on high.

4. Lift up thine eyes in wonder;
See nations gather yonder,
They all come unto thee

The world has heard thy story
Thy sons come to thy glory,
And daughters haste thy Light to see.

5. Thy heart will leap for gladness
When from the realms of sadness
They come o'er land and sea.
Thine eyes will wake from slumber
When people without number
Come thronging from afar to thee.

Invocation

*P: We worship today in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.*

C ♪: Amen.

Confession & Absolution

*P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and
confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the
name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.*

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C ♪: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C ♪: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sins.

**P & C: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable
sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with
which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy
temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorrow
for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy
boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent,
bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ,
to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

C ♪: Amen.

Introit

P: I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;

C: therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

P: Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;

C: you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

P: Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

C: your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

P: I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;

C: therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

Gloria Patri

C ♪ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Kyrie

C ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis – (Hymn #238 v.1)

All glory be to God alone,
Forevermore the Highest One,
Who doth our sinful race befriend,
And grace and peace to us extend.
Among mankind may His good will
All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

The Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.

C ♪: And with thy spirit.

The Collect for the Day

P: Let us pray..... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ♪: Amen.

The First Reading – Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned 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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 72:1-11

Antiphon - WS p. 37

Antiphon - I will praise Your name forever, my King and my God.

Give the king your justice, | O God,*

and your righteousness to the | royal son!

May he judge your people with | righteousness,*

and your poor with | justice!

Let the mountains bear prosperity for the | people,*

and the hills, in | righteousness!

May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the | needy,*

and crush the op- | pressor!

May they fear you while the | sun endures,*

and as long as the moon, throughout all gener- | ations!

May he be like rain that falls on the | mown grass,*
like showers that wa- | ter the earth!
In his days may the righteous | flourish,*
and peace abound, till the moon | be no more!
May he have dominion from | sea to sea,*
and from the River to the ends | of the earth!
May desert tribes bow down be- | fore him*
and his enemies | lick the dust!
May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him |
tribute;*
may the kings of Sheba and Seba | bring gifts!
May all kings fall down be- | fore him,*
all nations | serve him!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Antiphon - I will praise Your name forever, my King and my God.

The Second Reading – Ephesians 3:1-12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and

to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

The Gradual

P: Praise the LORD, all nations!

C: Extol him, all peoples!

P: For great is his steadfast love toward us,

C: and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

P: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

C: bring an offering, and come into his courts! Hallelujah!

The Triple Hallelujah

The Gospel Reading – Matthew 2:1–12

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.” ⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their

way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Confession of Faith ***The Nicene Creed***

P & C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day #343 (v. 1, 3-4, 6)
How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

1. How lovely shines the Morning Star!
The nations see and hail afar
The light in Judah shining.
Thou David's Son of Jacob's race,
My Bridegroom and my King of Grace,
For Thee my heart is pining.
Lowly, Holy,
Great and glorious, Thou victorious
Prince of graces,
Filling all the heavenly places.

3. Now richly to my waiting heart,
O Thou, my God, deign to impart
The grace of love undying.
In Thy blest body let me be,
E'en as the branch is in the tree,
Thy life my life supplying.
Sighing, Crying.
For the savor Of Thy favor;
Resting never,
Till I rest in Thee forever.

4. A pledge of peace from God I see
When Thy pure eyes are turned to me
To show me Thy good pleasure.
Jesus, Thy Spirit and Thy Word,
Thy body and Thy blood, afford
My soul its dearest treasure.
Keep me Kindly
In Thy favor, O my Savior!
Thou wilt cheer me;

Thy Word calls me to draw near Thee.

6. Lift up the voice and strike the string.
Let all glad sounds of music ring
In God's high praises blended.
Christ will be with me all the way,
Today, tomorrow, every day,
Till traveling days be ended.
Sing out, Ring out
Triumph glorious, O victorious,
Chosen nation;
Praise the God of your salvation.

Sermon Text – Ephesians 3:1-12

Sermon

The Lord God is Manifest in the Incarnate Son

Offertory

C ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer of the Church

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

P: Lord God, You brought the Magi of old to worship Your Son, Jesus, and so You have brought us to worship Him also. Receive our gifts, and bless us with Your Word and sacrament. You prepared a place for Your Son, Jesus, in the womb of the Virgin Mary and in the home of Mary and Joseph. Bless our homes and

all who dwell in them, that Your Word would be heard and Your mercy be shown therein.

**¹ From God the Father, virgin-born
To us the only Son came down;
By death the font to consecrate,
The faithful to regenerate.**

P: Almighty God enthroned forever, You love righteousness and hate wickedness. For our sakes, You sent Your only begotten Son to suffer the wages of our sin, that we might be holy in Your sight. As You have poured grace and salvation upon us, so anoint us also with the oil of gladness and the hope of everlasting life.

**² Beginning from His home on high,
In human flesh He came to die;
Creation by His death restored,
And shed new joys of life abroad.**

P: Give to the afflicted Your comforting presence, relief in their suffering and healing according to Your will. Sustain Your servants who trust in You [*especially* _____]. Give hope to the weary and peace to the dying.

**³ Glide on, O glorious Sun, and bring
The gift of healing on Your wing;
To eve'ry dull and clouded sense
The clearness of Your light dispense.**

P: O Lord, bring an end to all threats of violence. Raise up leaders who will act with integrity, pursue justice and follow Your commands. Grant to all people the blessings of food, shelter, medical care and safety, and sustain those whose duty it is to protect and defend.

**⁴ Abide with us, O Lord, we pray;
The gloom of darkness chase away;
Your work of healing, Lord, begin,
And take away the stain of sin.**

P: Holy God, eternal Light, You made Paul a minister according to the gift of Your grace. Embolden our pastors to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. Open our ears to hear and our hearts to believe their message that the King of kings has given His life for us.

**⁵ Lord, once You came to earth's domain
And, we believe, shall come again;
Be with us on the battlefield,
From ev'ry harm Your people shield.**

P: Heavenly Father, You have anointed Your Son to be our Savior and have established His throne forever and ever. Grant that we who are called by His name would see His reign spread among all nations; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**⁶ To You, O Lord, all glory be
For this Your blest epiphany;
To God, whom all His hosts adore,
And Holy Spirit evermore.**

Sermon Hymn #127
As with Gladness Men of Old

1. 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!

2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee whom heaven and earth adore,

So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy-seat!

3. 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 heavenly King!

4. Holy Jesus, every 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.

5. In the heavenly 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!

The Communion Liturgy

P: The Lord be with you:

C ♪: And with Thy Spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts:

C ♪: We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God:

C ♪: It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly, meet, right and salutary...Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

**C ♪: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory;
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He that cometh in
the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

P: 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;

**C ♪: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Institution

P: The peace of the Lord be with you alway!

C ♪: Amen.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,

Grant us Thy peace. A-men.

The Distribution

**C ♪: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace,
According to Thy word.**

**For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation: which Thou hast
prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the
Gentiles**

And the Glory of Thy people Israel.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.**

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good:

C ♪: And His mercy endureth forever.

*P: ...who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever
one God, world without end.*

C ♪: Amen.

*P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face
shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His
countenance upon you and give you peace.*

C ♪: Amen, Amen, Amen.

Closing Hymn #59 (v. 1-2, 5-6)

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,

To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

2. He comes with succor speedy
To those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in His sight.

5. Kings shall bow down before Him
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him,
His praise all peoples sing;
To Him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend,
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.

6. O'er every foe victorious,
He on His throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever, --
That name to us is Love.

Silent Prayer

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