



1st Sunday of Epiphany
January 12, 2025

Opening Hymn #131

The Star Proclaims the King Is Here

1. The star proclaims the King is here;
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
He takes no realms of earth away
Who gives the realms of heavenly day.

2. The wiser Magi see from far
And follow on His guiding star;
And led by light, to light they press
And by their gifts their God confess.

3. Within the Jordan's crystal flood
In meekness stands the Lamb of God
And, sinless, sanctifies the wave,
Mankind from sin to cleanse and save.

4. At Cana first His power is shown;
His might the blushing waters own
And, changing as He speaks the word,
Flow wine, obedient to their Lord.

5. All glory, Jesus, be to Thee
For this Thy glad epiphany;
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Ghost forevermore.

Invocation

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Confession and Absolution

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C: Amen

Kyrie & Gloria in Excelsis – sing

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

1. Glory to God, we give you thanks and praise;
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King

2. Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within

3. Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,
At God's right hand in majesty most high:
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

The First Lesson – Isaiah 43:1-7

¹But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. ⁵Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. ⁶I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Psalm of the Day- Psalm 29

¹Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

- ³The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
**the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over many waters.**
- ⁴The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.
- ⁵The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- ⁷The voice of the Lord
flashes forth flames of fire.
- ⁸The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- ⁹The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth
**and strips the forests bare,
and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"**
- ¹⁰The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.
- ¹¹May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

The Second Lesson – Romans 6:1-11

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the

dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Verse of the Day – Mark 1:11b

Alleluia. You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.
Alleluia.

The Gospel – Luke 3:15-22

¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison. ²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

P: Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.

The Alleluia – sing

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe

That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Confession of Faith – 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.**

Hymn of the Day #301

He that Believes and is Baptized

1. He that believes and is baptized
Shall see the Lord's salvation;
Baptized into the death of Christ,
He is a new creation.
Through Christ's redemption he shall stand
Among the glorious heavenly band
Of every tribe and nation.

2. With one accord, O God, we pray:
Grant us Thy Holy Spirit;
Look Thou on our infirmity

Through Jesus' blood and merit.
Grant us to grow in grace each day
That by this Sacrament we may
Eternal life inherit.

Sermon Text – Isaiah 43:1-7

Sermon

***The Triune God Opens Heaven to You in
Holy Baptism***

Offertory – sing

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer of the Church

(Congregation may remain seated)

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

P: Blessed Lord, You wonderfully foreshadowed the promise of Baptism in the passing of Your people through the Red Sea and Jordan River. In Christ and by His Baptism, You have kept Your Word and made Baptism the water of new life. Give us Your Holy Spirit, that we would walk as the new and holy people You have declared us to be.

**1 Mark how the Lamb of God's self-off'ring
Our human sinfulness takes on
In the birth-waters of the Jordan
As Jesus is baptized by John. ...**

M: We give You thanks that You call and gather the baptized into Your Church. Prosper the good work of preaching the Gospel and administering the life-giving Sacraments. Bless Pastor Wilke, our

Synod president; Pastor Pfeiffer our Visitor, our pastor; and all church workers, that their ministry would be faithful and fruitful.

Hear how the voice from heaven thunders,

"Lo, this is My beloved Son."

See how in dove-like form the Spirit

Descends on God's Anointed One.

P: Lord God, Your Son, Jesus, is the Christ and the true King of this world. Grant great humility to the rulers of the nations, [*especially* _____,] that they would submit to the preaching of His Holy Word for the sake of their own souls and for the good of Your holy people.

2 From this assurance of God's favor

Jesus goes to the wilderness,

There to endure a time of testing

That readied Him to teach and bless. ...

P: We give You thanks for standing with us in times of weakness, illness, despair and death. Give us every aid of Your Holy Spirit, that we may endure these afflictions and find comfort in the healing wounds of our Savior. [*We especially remember* _____ *and ask for their healing and relief according to Your will.*]

So we, by water and the Spirit

Baptized into Christ's ministry,

Are often led to paths of service

Through mazes of adversity.

P: Preserve the family, especially all Christian homes. Turn husband and wife toward one another in love, equip fathers and mothers for their holy duty as teachers of the faith, and preserve all children in the saving faith and certain promises of their Baptism unto life everlasting.

3 Grant us, O God, the strength and courage

To live the faith our lips declare;

Bless us in our baptismal calling;

Christ's royal priesthood help us share. ...

P: O Lord, You have joined us to Christ's death and resurrection in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Give to Your baptized children tender hearts that confess their need and rejoice in Your gifts.

**Turn us from ev'ry false allegiance,
That we may trust in Christ alone:
Raise up in us a chosen people
Transformed by love to be Your own.**

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, You manifested Yourself with the Holy Spirit in the fullness of grace at the Baptism of Your dear Son. With Your voice, You directed us to the One who has borne our sins, that we may receive grace and forgiveness. Keep us, we implore You, in the true faith. Since we have been baptized in accordance with Your command and the example of Your Son, strengthen our faith by Your Holy Spirit and lead us to everlasting life and salvation; through the same ***please stand*** Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

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.**

The Benediction

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

C: Amen

Closing Hymn #751

God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

1. God's own child, I gladly say it:

I am baptized into Christ!

He, because I could not pay it,

Gave my full redemption price.

Do I need earth's treasures many?

I have one worth more than any

That brought me salvation free

Lasting to eternity!

2. Sin, disturb my soul no longer:

I am baptized into Christ!

I have comfort even stronger:

Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.

Should a guilty conscience seize me

Since my Baptism did release me

In a dear forgiving flood,

Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?

3. Satan, hear this proclamation:

I am baptized into Christ!

Drop your ugly accusation,

I am not so soon enticed.

Now that to the font I've traveled,

All your might has come unraveled,

And, against your tyranny,

God, my Lord unites with me!

4. Death, you cannot end my gladness:
I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness
To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes
Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine
To make life immortal mine.

5. There is nothing worth comparing
To this life-long comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring:
Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising,
Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ;
I'm a child of paradise!

Silent Prayer

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