

EPIPHANY JANUARY 3, 2020 (prerecorded)

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn "Bright and Glorious is the Sky"

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

- 1 Bright and glorious is the sky,
radiant are the heavens high
where the golden stars are shining.
All their rays to earth inclining
beckon us to heav'n above,
beckon us to heav'n above.
- 2 On that holy Christmas night
through the darkness beamed a light;
all the stars above were paling.
all their luster slowly failing
as the wondrous star drew nigh,
as the wondrous star drew nigh..
- 3 Sages from the East afar,
when they saw this wondrous star,
went to find the king of nations
and to offer their oblations
to the child, the newborn king,
to the child, the newborn king.

- 4 Him they found in Bethlehem,
yet he wore no diadem;
there they saw a maiden lowly
with an infant pure and holy
resting in her loving arms,
resting in her loving arms.
- 5 Guided by the star, they found
him whose praise the ages sound.
We too have a star to guide us,
which forever will provide us
with the light to find our Lord,
with the light to find our Lord.
- 6 And this star, as bright as day,
that will never lead astray
with its message so appealing,
is the word of God, revealing
Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877-1970, alt.

Confession & Absolution

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sins, and whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(Silence for reflection)

Most merciful God

C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Apostolic Greeting

C 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.**

C **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord. You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty and everliving God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasures we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** **Amen.**

First Reading - Isaiah 60:1-6

⁶⁰ Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

² 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.

³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

P Holy wisdom, holy word.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

1 Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.

2 May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.

3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.

5 May he live] while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.

7 In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.

11 May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.

12 For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.

13 He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.

14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.

Second Reading Ephesians 3:1-12

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

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

P Holy wisdom, holy word.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew Chapter 2:1-12

C Glory to you O Lord.

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

C Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“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 heav'n 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 heav'nly king.
- 4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry 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 heav'nly 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.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

Prayers of the People

AM With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all God's creation.

For the Church universal, its ministry, and the mission of the Gospel, Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

AM For the well-being of all creation. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

AM For peace and justice in the world, for all nations, for all in authority, and for our community. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

AM For the poor, oppressed, the sick, bereaved and lonely. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

AM For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

AM For St. Paul's, its members and mission, and for any other needs you may now raise in your homes.....Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

AM Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

Thanksgiving of the Word

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C We give you thanks and praise.

P By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C We give you thanks and praise.

P Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C **We give you thanks and praise.**

P Send forth your Spirit of truth, O God: rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C **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**

Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you, the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Brightest and Best of the Stars

- 1 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.
- 2 Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
maker and monarch and savior of all.
- 3 What shall we give him, in costly devotion?
Shall we bring incense and offerings divine,
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?
- 4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.
- 5 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.

Dismissal

P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and your neighbors.
C Amen.

Postlude



IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

The following is a listing of those who need your prayers. Our hope is that you will take this listing home with you and in your daily prayers remember those listed below.

Jim Abbott
Francine Ahrens
Pat Alexander
Vinnie Aparo
Edie Balkun
Elana Barkasy
Raymond Bazzolo
Judith (Ross) Beatty
Kevin Belkofer & Family
Jim Bement
Rebecca Bement
Richard Bertoli
Gurvinder Bharara
Armando Binelli
Brian & Lisa Bodnar
Joe Brancato
George Bruno
Brusseau Family
Eddie Burns
Theo & Victoria Camara
Peter Carbone, Sr.
Liz Clinton
Jill Cochrane
Nancy Colon
Wayne Crossman
Barry Demkar
Sigrid Devita
Melissa Dias
Doris & Dutch Deitman
Gerard Doll
Betsy Durstin
Diane & Paul Edwards
Judy Elliott
Bruce & Liz Falls
Christy Ferro
Barbra Fletcher
Holly & Elsie Florio
Ed Ford
Mary Lynn Gagnon
Bob & Ann Gioscia
Carol Gesner
Pastor Wayne Gollenberg
Connie & Don Gugenheim
Wayne Hall
Owen Hanecak
Erica Haraldsen
Alexis Heintz
Bill Heintz
Brad Herzberg
David Hilton
Jim Hornfischer
Vicki Jene
Jenn Johnson & Family
Bob Jones
Ed Killingbeck
Lynn Killingbeck
Rick and Christa Kozik
Burke LaClair
Jeff Lajoie and family
Lori Ledone & family

Rebecca Little
Tommy Locascio
Judy Ludwig
Rita Lundeen
Ida Mallet
Mervin Mank
Cynthia Marine
Richard Marine
Bob & Lynn Milano
Barbara Miller
Ruth Mohlenhoff
Lonnie & Rose Moranino
Richard Mortlock
Carolyn Mosher
Denise Murphy
Doris Murphy
Michael Meyers
Joyce Nalette
Ron Nurnberg
Greg O'Brien
Tom O'Brien
Cindy O'Dell
Louis Pagano
Bruce and Kathy Panella
Gary Parker
Pastor Jim Pence
Wally Pence
Marge Raspiller
Gladys Reil
Pat Reiley
Pastor Sharon Riessinger-
Blezard
Grant Robinson
Mary Rolfe
Elfrieda Roller
Dave Roskopf
Chris Samele
Tom & Marianne Sedgwick
Rosemary Schibi
Jay Shaw
Linda Shaw
Tricia Sherwin
Bob Sienko
Marge Skaret
Richard Stanhope
Jon Sterling
John & Robin Thurlough
Ruth Torsiello
Reid Underwood
Cathy Winzler
Jean Marie Witt
Anna Woike

Karen
Katherine
Helen
JO
Jaiden
Mike
Curran
Janice
Diane
Jen
Charlie
Michelle
Jessica
Donna L.
Rich S.
Dustin
Skylar
Andrea
Kayleigh
Linda H.
Tom S.
Diane, Kayla, and family
Bob
Shannon H.
Karen M.
Ora
Sharon
Mason
Louis F.
Katherine T.
Joyce-Ann
Maryann Z.
Diane
Jack
Max
Lisa
Erin and Family
Tom D.
Pam
Jack & Barbara
Lorraine
The Maxwell Family
The Loomis Family

Our Nursing Home Members

Doug Little
Vinetta Nigels
Doris Houk
John Feldmann
Dee Gammon
Richard Regner

Our Military Friends

Lord Jesus, Savior of the World and King of Peace, watch over our sons and daughters in the service of their Country. Protect them from the physical and moral dangers. Keep them close to you and help them live the commandments. Lord, Jesus give them courage to serve their country with honor and dignity. Be with them when they are in danger; strengthen them when they face hardship. Above all Lord, grant that when their service is finished that they may return to us, sound in mind, body and soul. Amen.

Pvt. Brennan Thompson
Tyler Quinn
Eric Beyus
Major Zachary Fulton
Brandan Holbrook
Jonathan Connell
Tom Gregg, Jr.
Brion Olivero
Eric Bremer
Peter Hutchinson
S/W Anderson James
Ernst USCG
PFC Dominic Boscarino

If you place a name on the Prayer List, it is your responsibility to let the office know either by Prayer of Concerns form in the Narthex, e-mail or a quick phone call, once per month if the name needs to remain on the list. Thank you.