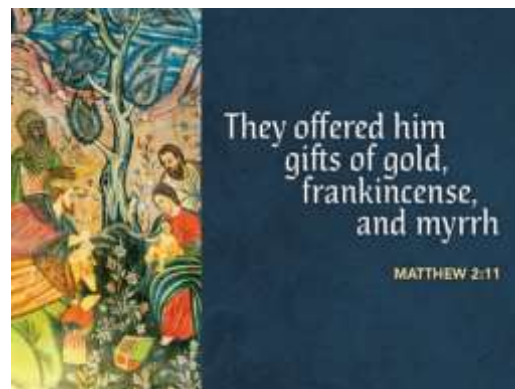


Epiphany of Our Lord January 3, 2021

Kviteseid and Big Bend Lutheran Churches

Pastor Kristine Isder



ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to Kviteseid Lutheran Church... Happy New Year! Welcome to worship, one and all. Please greet one another with the peace of Christ.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please read the words to the hymns silently.

Please read aloud the **bold texts**.

Please read the italicized texts silently in your heart as your own words.

OPENING HYMN “The Bells of Christmas” (vs. 1 & 4) ELW #298

INTRODUCTION

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

EPIPHANY DIALOGUE

P We give thanks on this holy day, adorned with epiphanies:
 for the star that led the magi to the manger,

C *that the nations may see the light of Christ;*

P for the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Jordan,

C *that the Christ would save us all;*

P for the water turned to wine at Cana’s wedding,

C *that the people taste the goodness of the Lord.*

P This is the day that the Lord has made,

C *we will rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
 the eternal voice from heaven, the anointed and beloved one,
 the Spirit moving over the waters.

C **Amen.**

P As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession,
 trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God who searches us and knows us,
 C *you have shown us what is good,
 but we have looked to other lights to find our way.
 We have not been just in our dealings with others.
 We have chosen revenge over mercy.
 We have promoted ourselves instead of walking humbly with you.
 With what shall we come before you?
 Forgive us our sin, and show us your salvation
 in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

P Beloved of God,
 you have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God,
 poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.
 Receive the promise of baptism:
 You are God's child; ✝ your sins are forgiven.
 Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.

C **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (vs. 1 & 2) ELW #283

GREETING

P God who sent the Light into the world,
 God who shone in the Bethlehem manger,
 God who spread the Spirit's rays, be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray,
 C *O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by
 faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through
 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
 and forever. Amen.*

LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-6

*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in
 her midst.*

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14

L ¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
 C ²*that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;*
 L ³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
 and the hills, in righteousness.
 C ⁴*Let him defend the needy among the people,
 rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.*
 L ⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
 from one generation to another.
 C ⁶*Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
 like showers that water the earth.*
 L ⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
 and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

C ¹⁰*May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.*

L ¹¹May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

C ¹²*For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.*

L ¹³He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.

C ¹⁴*From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.*

LESSON: Ephesians 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

C *Glory to you, O Lord.*

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C *Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "As with Gladness Men of Old"

(vs. 1 & 5) ELW #302

APOSTLES' CREED

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C **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 Pilot,
was crucified, died, and 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,
and he will come to judge the living and 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,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

P Hear us, O God.

C *Your mercy is great.*

The prayers are concluded with these words:

P 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.

C **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ, be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

P Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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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

(John 1:1, 3-5)

P Beloved children of God, what came into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The light of Christ shine on you with grace and mercy and fill you with joy and peace.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN "We Three Kings of Orient Are" (vs. 1 & 5) **WOV #646**

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace, guided by the light of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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