



Zion Lutheran Church – LCMS  
20-141 County Road X – P.O. Box 37 – Ridgeville Corners, OH 43555  
Phone: (419)267-3429 Email: zionco@bright.net  
Education Hour 8:45 AM - Divine Worship 10:00 AM  
Communion First and Third Sundays  
Rev. Dr. Carl Rockrohr, Pastor  
Phone: (419)267-3429 Email: pastor.zionco@bright.net

**Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**  
**The Epiphany of Our Lord** (celebrated)

Prelude  
Tower Bells and Welcome  
Announcements

*Visitors are encouraged to note their attendance by filling out the "Welcome" side (blue print) of the pew cards and putting the card into the offering plate near the entrance doors. Those taking Communion are asked to fill out the "Communion" side (black print) of the card. Completed cards may be also left on the pew seat.*

*Worship Note: Face covering must be used at all times except for eating and drinking the Lord's Supper. Thus, the congregation is invited to speak and sing the parts in bold type through a face covering.*

*Those not taking the Lord's Supper may leave at the close of the Service of the Word as indicated in the bulletin.*

*Those taking the Lord's Supper may leave through any door immediately after their table is dismissed or return to their pew until the end of the Service of the Sacrament.*

Opening Hymn

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

**LSB 397**

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.

Confession and Absolution

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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 You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

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

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

### Service of the Word

Introit Psalm 24

1 The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,

**the world and those who dwell therein,**

2 for he has founded it upon the seas  
**and established it upon the rivers.**

3 Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?  
**And who shall stand in his holy place?**

4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
**who does not lift up his soul to what is false  
and does not swear deceitfully.**

5 He will receive blessing from the LORD  
**and righteousness from the God of his  
salvation.**

6 Such is the generation of those who seek him,

**who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

7 Lift up your heads, O gates!  
**And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.**

8 Who is this King of glory?  
**The LORD, strong and mighty,  
the LORD, mighty in battle!**

9 Lift up your heads, O gates!  
**And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.**

10 Who is this King of glory?  
**The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.      **C: And also with you.**

**All: O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading      Isaiah 60:1-6

1 Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon  
you.

2 For 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.

3 And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

4 Lift 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.

5 Then 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.

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 bring good news, the praises of  
the LORD.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading      Ephesians 3:1-12

1 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— 2 assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, 3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. 4 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which 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. 6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 Of 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. 8 To 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, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly

places. 11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. 13 So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading                      Matthew 2:1-12 (*Stand*)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

**C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "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." 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 They 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."

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8 And 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." 9 After 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. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And 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. 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to Thee, O Christ.**

Sermon Hymn

*The Star Proclaims the King is Here*

**LSB 399**

1 The star proclaims the King is here;  
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?  
For He who offers heav'nly birth  
Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.

2 The eastern sages saw from far  
And followed on His guiding star;  
And, led by light, to light they trod  
And by their gifts confessed their God.

3 Within the Jordan's sacred flood  
The heav'nly Lamb in meekness stood  
That He, of whom no sin was known,  
Might cleanse His people from their own.

4 And oh, what miracle divine,  
When water reddened into wine!  
He spoke the word, and forth it flowed  
In streams that nature ne'er bestowed.

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

Sermon      “They Really Were Wise; With the Wisdom of the Eternal and Gracious God”  
Isaiah 60, Ephesians 3, Matthew 2

Nicene Creed

**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 Spirit 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 sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in 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.**

Prayer of Zion Lutheran Church

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

*Brief silence*

O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth! Out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants You have perfected Your praise. Silence the enemy and the avenger. Turn the hearts of all who, like Herod, would despise children or destroy the unborn for selfish gain. Show Your forgiveness to those who are penitent. Give Your comfort to all women who mourn the loss of infants, and fix our eyes on Christ, who for a time was spared, but has shed His blood for our salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of hosts, preserve Your Church and look favorably on her ministers. Give them delight in this joyful season and restful reflection on the mystery of Your incarnation, that they may preach Your Word boldly and faithfully. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal Lord, Ruler of all, graciously regard those who have been set in positions of authority among us in the national, state and local governments. Guide them by Your Spirit to be high in purpose, wise in counsel, firm in good resolution and unwavering in duty, that under them we may be governed quietly and peaceably. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, look with favor on all parents and guardians. At all times, let them see their children as undeserved gifts from Your hand. Strengthen them and all who bear the sign of the cross to be teachers and examples of the Christian faith to these and all children, and by the gracious leading of Your Holy Spirit fulfill what we are unable to do. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of hosts, graciously regard all for whom we pray [*especially \_\_\_\_\_*]. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, in Your Son, You invite all who are burdened with sin to come to You for rest. As we come at Your invitation to Your Supper, preserve us from impenitence and unbelief, cleanse us from our unrighteousness, and clothe us with the righteousness purchased with Your blood. Strengthen our faith, increase our love and hope, and assure us of a place at Your heavenly banquet forever. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**O Lord God, heavenly Father, after He was visited and worshiped by the Wise Men, You allowed Your Son, Jesus Christ, to become a stranger and sojourner in Egypt for our sakes. Mercifully grant that we poor sinners, who are strangers and sojourners in this perilous world, may soon be called home to our true fatherland, the kingdom of heaven, where we shall live in eternal joy and glory; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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*Please contact Pastor Rockrohr for changes to the prayer list.*

Luther's Morning Prayer

**I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angels be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction for the Service of the Word

O Lord, hear my prayer. **And let my cry come to You.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

*Remain standing for the hymn and beginning Service of the Sacrament liturgy. Those not staying for Holy Communion may quietly exit the church during the following hymn.*

Hymn

*The Infant Priest Was Holy Born (vs 1-2)*

**LSB 624**

1 The infant Priest was holy born  
For us unholy and forlorn;  
From fleshly temple forth came He,  
Anointed from eternity.

2 This great High Priest in human flesh  
Was icon of God's righteousness.  
His hallowed touch brought sanctity;  
His hand removed impurity.

### **Service of the Sacrament**

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 Him thanks and praise.**

P: Almighty God, as the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh.

We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face.

**C: Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord for His Holy Supper

LSB 209

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: Amen.**

**C: (speak) Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace. (Congregation may be seated.)**

*Distribution notes: After each communing group has been dismissed from the Lord's Table, they may either directly exit the church using any door, or may return to their pew for the end of the Service of Sacrament.*

Distribution *Special Table*

Distribution Hymns

*The Infant Priest Was Holy Born (vs 3-7)*

**LSB 624**

*(NOTE: Not all hymns/verses may be needed. Organist will play as needed.)*

624 (vs 3-7)

3 The holy Lamb undaunted came  
To God's own altar lit with flame;  
While weeping angels hid their eyes,  
This Priest became a sacrifice.

5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,  
As at the rail on bended knee  
Our hungry mouths from Him receive  
The bread of immortality.

4 But death would not the victor be  
Of Him who hung upon the tree.  
He leads us to the Holy Place  
Within the veil, before God's face.

6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,  
A priestly food and priestly meat;  
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours  
His quenching blood that life restores.

7 With cherubim and seraphim  
Our voices join the endless hymn,  
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing  
To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

627

1 Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior,  
Turned away God's wrath forever;  
By His bitter grief and woe  
He saved us from evil foe.

5 Firmly hold with faith unshaken  
That this food is to be taken  
By the sick who are distressed,  
By hearts that long for peace and rest.

2 As His pledge of love undying,  
He, this precious food supplying,  
Gives His body with the bread,  
And with the wine the blood He shed.

6 Agony and bitter labor  
Were the cost of God's high favor;  
Do not come if you suppose  
You need not Him who died and rose.

3 Jesus here Himself is sharing;  
Heed then how you are preparing,  
For if you do not believe,  
His judgment then you shall receive.

7 Christ says: "Come, all you that labor,  
And receive My grace and favor:  
Those who feel no pain or ill  
Need no physician's help or skill.

4 Praise the Father, who from heaven  
To His own this food has given,  
Who, to mend what we have done,  
Gave into death His only Son.

8 "For what purpose was My dying  
If not for your justifying?  
And what use this precious food  
If you yourself were pure and good?"



9 If your heart this truth professes  
And your mouth your sin confesses,  
You will be your Savior's guest,  
Be at His banquet truly blest.

10 Let this food your faith so nourish  
That its fruit of love may flourish  
And your neighbor learn from you  
How much God's wondrous love can do.

#### Closing Collect

P: O God the Father, the foundation and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

P: The Lord be with you.           **C: And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.           **C: Thanks be to God.**

#### Benediction for Service of the Sacrament

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

#### Closing Hymn

#### *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

**LSB 394**

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,  
Manifested by the star  
To the sages from afar,  
Branch of royal David's stem  
In Thy birth at Bethlehem:  
Anthems be to Thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.

3 Manifest in making whole  
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
Manifest in valiant fight,  
Quelling all the devil's might;  
Manifest in gracious will,  
Ever bringing good from ill;  
Anthems be to Thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.

2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
And at Cana wedding guest  
In Thy Godhead manifest;  
Manifest in pow'r divine,  
Changing water into wine;  
Anthems be to Thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.

4 Sun and moon shall darkened be,  
Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;  
Christ will then like lightning shine,  
All will see His glorious sign;  
All will then the trumpet hear,  
All will see the Judge appear;  
Thou by all wilt be confessed,  
God in man made manifest.

5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord,  
Present in Thy holy Word—  
Grace to imitate Thee now  
And be pure, as pure art Thou;  
That we might become like Thee  
At Thy great epiphany  
And may praise Thee, ever blest,  
God in man made manifest.

Silent Prayer, Extinguish Candles

Postlude

Depart in His Peace

Acknowledgments

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Sermon "They Really Were Wise; With the Wisdom of the Eternal and Gracious God"  
Isaiah 60, Ephesians 3, Matthew 2

Isaiah 60

- In darkness, but the \_\_\_\_\_ shines light. True light in life is only from God.
- Not only praises of the LORD will be brought, but also \_\_\_\_\_. (Vs 6)

Ephesians 3

- The mystery Paul talk about is that \_\_\_\_\_ are fellow heirs of God's kingdom. (Vs 6)
- Through the \_\_\_\_\_ the manifold \_\_\_\_\_ of God might be made known to... (vs 10)
- This was an \_\_\_\_\_ purpose come true in Christ Jesus. (Vs 11)

Matthew 2

- The Wise men knew
  - o Not current \_\_\_\_\_
  - o Not human \_\_\_\_\_
  - o Thus, not power and glory as humans usually think.
- The star was the sign from \_\_\_\_\_ not humans. Trustworthy. Brought \_\_\_\_\_
- It was right to \_\_\_\_\_ the child.

**Zion Lutheran Church's Belief and Practice of the Lord's Supper**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord Jesus gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very Body and Blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes again in glory.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's Body and Blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor.

For further study: Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f., 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 10:14-22; 11:17-34.