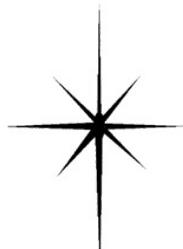




January 1, 2023

Epiphany of Our Lord



Good Morning and Welcome!

Guests, we are glad you are here.
Please fill out the yellow "Connection Card" in the pew and place in the offering.
Sound Assistance and staffed nursery available.

[Online Guest Form](#)

Messiah Lutheran Church

7740 Hwy 72 West, Madison, AL 35758 | (256)721-0041 | www.mlutheran.org

SERVICE of WORSHIP

Service of Word

* Please stand as you are able

THE PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*INVOCATION

Give Glory to God our light and our love.
Oh, come, let us worship and praise God.

*HYMN: "There's a Star in the East"

WOV 645



1 There's a star in the East on Christ-mas morn, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.
2 If you take good heed to the an-gel's words, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.



It will lead to the place where the Christ was born, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.
You'll for-get your flocks, you'll for-get your herds, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.



Refrain



Fol - low, fol - low, rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low,



fol-low the star of Beth-le - hem, rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low.



*THE GREETING & DIALOG

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

In the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

The Word became flesh and lived among us,
And we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. 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 proclaim the praise of the LORD.

THE PSALM: *Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14*

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
- ² that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- ⁴ He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- ⁵ He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
- ⁶ He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.
- ⁷ In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- ¹⁰ The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- ¹¹ All kings shall bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.
- ¹² For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress,
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- ¹³ He shall have pity on the lowly and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- ¹⁴ He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

THE SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In 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: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of 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. ⁸Although 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, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so 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. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in

Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Christine Berry

*THE GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "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." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They 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.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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."

⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE MESSAGE

Reburta Spinass

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

*RESPONSE TO THE WORD

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary,

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father,

He will come again 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

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

pray in the Holy Spirit.

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

*CONFESSION

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

(silence for reflection and self examination.)

Gracious God,

Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

*THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

THE OFFERING

*THE OFFERTORY: "The Doxology"

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

Praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

God, our Creator,

You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. With these gifts we bless you for your tender nurture and care. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world.

God of mercy,

Hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen WE REMEMBER IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a -
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a -
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri -

far, field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 gain; king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 nigh; prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 fice; heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain

Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty

bright; west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

*THE DISMISSAL
 THE POSTLUDE

WE REMEMBER IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

THE FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God by members and friends of MLC to honor and remember loved ones as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. Names of those honored and remembered were in the Christmas Eve bulletin insert. If you purchased a poinsettia, please take yours home following the 11:00 a.m. service today. Thank you for helping beautify our Sanctuary for Christmas worship.

THANK YOU to Reburta Spinus for preaching and leading worship today and Mary Ann Stasiak for accompanying.

A NURSERY, staffed by Katrina Strand, is through the double doors in the narthex leading to the Sunday School classrooms.

ALL ARE INVITED to enjoy coffee, tea, and fellowship after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

NEXT SUNDAY, WE WILL CELEBRATE LOIS GRAFF FOR HER 33+ YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL MUSIC MINISTRY AT MLC Lois accompanied MLC's first service of worship on April 23, 1989 and concluded her years at MLC on Dec. 25. Along with recognitions during each service, A THANK YOU RECEPTION is planned for 9:45 a.m. in the Parish Hall. A card for all to sign is located in the Narthex. You may also leave cards and gifts in the basket. If you plan to donate to her farewell fund, please make those gifts today. There is a signup in the Narthex to help with reception food. Kari Pitchko is collecting pictures of Lois. Please scan and send them to tkpitchko@gmail.com

MLC's CALL COMMITTEE & CHURCH COUNCIL will conduct an interview this week with a prospective pastoral candidate enthusiastically recommended by the Call Committee.

THROUGH THIS TRANSITION Pulpit Supply has been secured through the end of February. Worship & Music Rep Laura Peterson and Randall Fields are coordinating this effort. Until our next pastor arrives, Pastor Diana Bottin will provide pastoral care for urgent matters that may arise. Please contact Claire or the Church Office if you need Pastoral Care.

KIT MINISTRY ITEM - 4 oz. Dark Towels FOOD PANTRY - Canned Soup /Toothpaste

COORDINATORS ARE NEEDED for Coffee Makers & Wednesday Night Dinners in 2023.

<u>Director of Outreach Ministries</u>	Claire Strand	<u>Greeters</u>	Jeanette Beamer (8:30)
<u>Communication & Tech Director</u>	Meredith Kilby		Dennis & Jacquie Fry (11:00)
<u>Office Managers</u>	Bobbey Huwaldt	<u>Ushers</u>	Peter Woods, Bruce Peter (tent)(8:30)
	Meredith Kilby		Bruce Machamer, Matt DeMarsh (11:00)
<u>Choir Director</u>	Randall Fields	<u>Lectors</u>	Laura Peterson (8:30)
<u>Nursery Attendant</u>	Katrina Strand		Jutta DeMarsh (11:00)
<u>Accompanist</u>	Mary Ann Stasiak	<u>Altar Guild</u>	B. Huwaldt (8:30)
			Jutta DeMarsh (11:00)
		<u>Stream Team</u>	Glen Long, Stephen Strand (11:00)
		<u>Flower Guild</u>	Linda Heideman & Team

****CHURCH CALENDAR****

Sunday, January 1, 2023 - New Year's Day

8:30 a.m. - Service of Worship: Service of the Word
9:45 a.m. - Fellowship Coffee (No Sunday School)
11:00 a.m. - Service of Worship: Service of the Word
**These services are live streamed on mlutheran.org*

Monday, January 2

Church Office Hours resume, M-F, 8:30 - Noon.

Wednesday, January 4

5:00 p.m. 2nd Year Confirmation

Sunday, January 8

8:30 a.m. - Service of Worship: *LBW Setting 2* with the Lord's Supper
9:45 a.m. - Appreciation & Farewell Reception for Lois Graff
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for ages (abbreviated due to reception)
11:00 a.m. - Service of Worship: *LBW Setting 2* with the Lord's Supper*
4:00 p.m. - 1st Year Confirmation
**These services are live streamed on mlutheran.org*

LOOKING AHEAD

January 11, 2023 - Resumption of Music Rehearsals, 2nd Year Confirmation, Wed. Dinners

January 15 & Feb 5, 2023 - Town Hall Meeting / Parsonage Discussions

February 12, 2023 - Special Congregation Meeting (Parsonage)

Attendance:

December 25: 8:30 a.m. - 35, 11:00 a.m. - 67

Offerings Counted December 29, 2022 (Includes Advent offering from 12/21, Christmas Eve and Sunday)

Church Ministries
Current Mortgages
Sanctuary Debt
Kit Ministries
Weekend Food Program
Messiah Mugs

Advent
Handbells
Lunches for Learning
ELCA Good Gifts
Lutheran World Relief
Christmas Eve

ONLINE GIVING

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to MLC today.

