

1st Sunday after Epiphany

01/07/2024

Greg Fetzner, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand, as you are able.

The Epiphany star is lit.

L The holy gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

L ^{2:1}In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east 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 magi 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 in the east, 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.

L The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

The magi complete their journey to the Nativity.

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

P Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

P For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

P Let us pray. Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

GATHERING HYMN: [LBW#303 "Brightest and Best of the Stars"](#)

P The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Loving God, by tender words and covenant promise you have joined us to yourself forever, and you invite us to respond to your love with faithfulness. By your Spirit may we live with you and with one another in justice, mercy, and joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

Please be seated.

PSALM 103:1-13, 22

L ¹Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

C ²**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits**

L ³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

C ⁴**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

L ⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

C ⁶**O Lord, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

L ⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

C ⁸**Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

L ⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.

C ¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

L ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

C ¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

L ¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

C ²²**Bless the Lord, all you works of God, in all places where God rules;
bless the Lord, O my soul.**

MARK 2:1-22

L The holy gospel according to Mark, the second chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

L ^{2:1}When [Jesus] returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ²So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door, and he was speaking the word to them. ³Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven." ⁶Now some of the scribes were sitting there questioning in their hearts, ⁷"Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves, and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? ¹⁰But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" - he said to the paralytic - ¹¹"I say to you, stand up, take your mat, and go to your home." ¹² And he stood up and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

¹³Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. ¹⁴As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

¹⁵And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹⁷When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick; I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

¹⁸Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting, and people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁹Jesus said to them, "The wedding attendants cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.

²¹"No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. ²²Similarly, no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins, but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins."

L The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY: [ELW#838 "Beautiful Savior"](#)

SERMON: ([Sermon Audio Link](#))

Please stand, as you are able.

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

C **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

- L** As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

- L** Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

- L** Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

- L** Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

- L** Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick, suffering, and grieving, especially Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, Rebecca Brennan, the Elshafei family, Alexis Erdman, Samantha Erdman, the Fleming family, Jeff Fultz, Mary Goehring, Bob Hardy, Mark Hughes, the Johnson family, Robert Karner, Charles Larsen, Charlotte Leer, the McNamara family, Donna Mayhew, Wendy Neumann, Julie Obie, Peter Olsen, Brenda Penyak, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, the family and friends of Lou Schaffer. Claudia Schober, D. J. Singer, Jack Smith, MaKenzie Snyder, the Spiegler

family, Chuck Trautwein, Esther Trautwein, Rich Wohkittel, and Pastor Jack. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

L Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

L Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

L Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C Amen

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))


The Offering is received and presented at the altar.



♩ Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -



it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take



not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the



joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface; the congregation responds:

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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**

P The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for the table is now ready.

C Thanks be to God.

After all have communed, the following is sung:



C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please stand, as you are able.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.

He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen

SENDING HYMN: [ELW#301 "Bright and Glorious Is the Sky"](#)

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Events!

- **February 13** – Venture Crew Pancake Supper
- **February 18** – Lady Terps Basketball Game, 1 pm (contact Bob Hardy for tickets)

*Offering to be sent to
Robert Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive
Columbia Hills
Ellicott City, MD 21043
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291

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