

The Old Testament Reading.Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 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. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. 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. 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.

The Epistle Reading. Ephesians 3:1–12

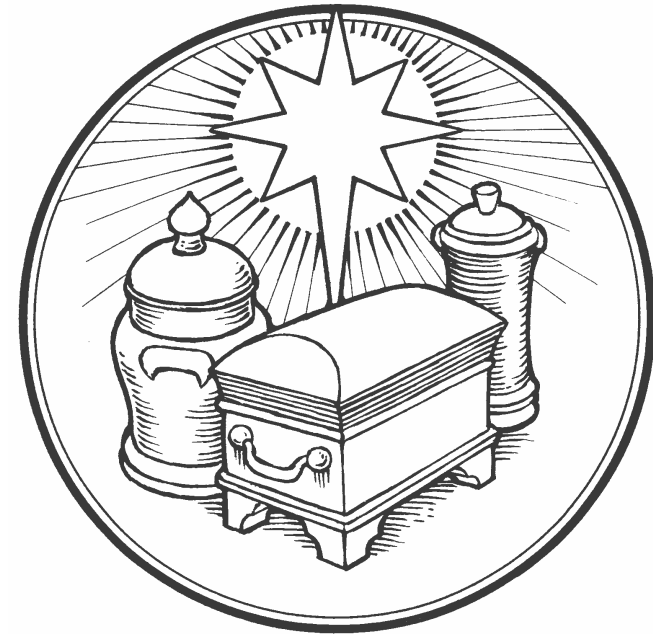
For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 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. 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. 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. 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, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

The Gospel Reading.Matthew 2:1–12

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, 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." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "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.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 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." 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. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 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. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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**The Epiphany of Our Lord (observed)
January 2, 2022**

**Website: <http://holycrosskc.org>
Email: church@holycrosskc.org**

Receiving the Lord's Supper at Holy Cross

Our Lord gives both directions and warnings in Scripture when it comes to the precious gift of Holy Communion, which we take great care to follow. A small brochure is available in the pew which describes the importance of the Biblical and historic practice known as "Closed Communion." If you are not under the spiritual care of Holy Cross, please speak with the pastor before communing so that our unity with Christ and with one another may be genuine. Our aim is not to insult, but to instruct and prepare those who earnestly desire to join our communion. So, if you or your children are not yet communicants, you may come forward for a blessing tied to baptism, and you are encouraged to signify this by crossing your arms over your chest as the pastor comes by. The Blood of Christ is offered either in individual glasses, or simply hold out your hand to take the chalice by the base as you drink from it.

Notes on the service: The celebration of Epiphany comes from the ancient Christian festival, observed on the date of January 6, to remind the Church of the mysteries revealed and the gifts of the Savior. The liturgical texts for this celebration give a clear understanding that the Gospel message is for Jew and Gentile alike. The message is brought out explicitly in the *Epistle*, as Paul reveals the mystery that includes the Gentiles. Within the liturgical setting for this festival, we also see those sitting in darkness (*Old Testament Reading*) is now fulfilled in the birth of the Christ Child. The visitation of the Magi in the *Gospel* and the gifts they bring are all signs of the promises fulfilled by the Father in heaven. The Magi understood the importance of who this Child was and what He brought to the world.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY: (The theme prayer of the day.)

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Organists. Samuel Wendt & Ginny Valleau
Communion Elders. Steve Hoffman & Curt Wendt
Ushers. Rich Rusche, Curt Wendt & Pat Schroeder

Psalm 45



I will cause your name to be remembered in all gener- | ations;*
therefore nations will praise you forever and | ever.

**Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your
kingdom is a scepter of up- | rightness;***

you have loved righteousness and hated | wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of
gladness beyond your com- | panions;*

your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes
and | cassia.

All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning, *

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

I will cause your name to be remembered in all gener- | ations;*
therefore nations will praise you forever and | ever.

Note: Standing and Kneeling are optional

10:00 A.M.

Divine Service Setting One—LSB 151

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn—LSB #395

Confession and Absolution—LSB 151

Service of the Word—LSB 152

Introit—Psalm 45 (printed at left)

Kyrie - LSB 152-153

Hymn of Praise - Gloria in Excelsis - LSB 154

Collect of the Day

The Lessons: (printed on back)

Hymn of the Day - LSB #401

Sermon - Rev. Ryan Wendt

The Nicene Creed - LSB 158

Prayer of the Church - LSB 159

Offering - "Away In A Manger" - Choir

Offertory - LSB 159-160

Service of the Sacrament—LSB 160

Preface - LSB 160

Sanctus - LSB 161

Lord's Prayer & Words of Our Lord

(right column) - LSB 162

Pax Domini & Agnus Dei - LSB 163

Distribution - LSB 164

Hymns—LSB #623

LSB #618

LSB #398

LSB #397

Nunc Dimittis- LSB 165

Benediction - LSB 166

Closing Hymn—LSB #533

Postlude