



When they
saw the star,
they rejoiced
exceedingly
with great joy.

Matthew 2:10

First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First
Kirkland, IL - Est. December 26, 1873

Saturday, January 6, 2024
With Readings for the Feast of Epiphany

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(with scripture readings for the Feast of Epiphany)

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL who are worshiping with us today! We hope that the service will be a joy and blessing to you. Please complete the black friendship register and pass it down the pew.

THE SERVICE BEGINS

P We begin this service **IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER:**

C O Mighty God, you once revealed yourself to your people on Mount Sinai, in fire and thunder and cloud, as you gave your Ten Commandments;

P **AND OF THE SON:**

C O Jesus, our Lord and God, you made your divine power manifest by changing water into wine, healing the sick, and teaching the people with power and authority;

P **AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

C O Divine Spirit, when Jesus was baptized, you came upon him in the form of a dove. Come upon us now, in the speaking of your Word. **AMEN!**

OPENING SONG: "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

WOV 646

WE CONFESS

P Let us confess our sin and griefs, and hear the comfort of the Lord.

C If you revealed only your power and your law to us, O Lord, we would be undone. Like the Israelites who trembled with fear at Mt. Sinai, and like the disciple Peter, who upon seeing your power over nature, cried out, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!", we too would be reduced to fear and trembling, guilt and hopelessness. We confess that we have not and cannot live up to your righteous and good laws, and that we cannot stand before your almighty power.

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

P Jesus reveals himself to us most completely, not through laws, commandments, and displays of awesome power, but through lowliness and humility. He came to John the Baptist to be baptized, though he didn't need to at all. By doing so, he showed that he is not ashamed to be associated with sinners. Indeed, he loves sinners, and wants to come into their lives and be their

friend. Jesus loves us sinners. In His name, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C And also with you!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, on this day, by the leading of a star, you revealed your only-begotten Son to the nations. Mercifully grant that we, who know you by faith, may be brought to contemplate the beauty of your majesty; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For 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. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. 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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

P The Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-11 (Read responsively by half verse)

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SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles — ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which 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. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of 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. ⁸To 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, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

P The Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "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." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They 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.'" ⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And 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." ⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And 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. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P The Gospel of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

SERMON: "TO THE CHRIST!"

SONG: "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

LBW 45

STATEMENT OF FAITH: Nicene Creed

LBW p.84

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

God of light, you sent your Son, Jesus, into the world to bring light to the world. Illumine the darkness that pervades the lives of so many of your precious people, that they might have renewed hope in your love. Grant that shadows of the past would be put to rest and brighter days living in the freedom of forgiveness of sin would inspire us to greater devotion to you.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

God of all wisdom, grant us the honor of being able to sit at the feet of those who are full of your wisdom. Help us to learn your will and your ways as we observe and listen to those who have spent their lives dwelling in your holy presence. Then, help us to take that wisdom and use it in situations in which you place us so that others would know the Name that is above every other name.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

We give thanks to you for the vocations you grant to all your people. Keep safe from harm and danger those whose work is dangerous. We hold before you in prayer those who have answered the call to serve as peace officers for the sake of this community, state, and country, that at the completion of their work, they may return home safely. Be present with families who pray for their safety each day.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, pour out the healing balm of your comfort all those who mourn and all who suffer this day. [We pray especially the family and friends of ...]. Grant to all who are bereaved the comfort of a holy and certain hope in the resurrection to eternal life through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

OFFERING

WE PREPARE FOR HOLY COMMUNION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts!

C We lift them up to the Lord!

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LBW p.89

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LBW p.91

COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

C Amen.

P Isaiah said of old, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring good news."

C People of God, today this prophecy has been fulfilled in your hearing.

C Amen!

THE BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

LBW 70

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

Church Office: (815) 522-3886

Pastor: Tom Thorstad (716)990-6244(c)

Secretary: Dianna Wittwer (815)378-6654(c)

Pianist: Nancy Plote

Host: Richard & Peggy Wince

Attendance Last Saturday, 12/30: 20 adults, 1 child Last Sunday, 12/31 35 adults. 3 children

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

pastor@kirklandflc.org

secretary@kirklandflc.org

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!

Sara Haag 1/7

Jennifer Block 1/8

Charlee Boehmer 1/12/2020



OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL MEETING: SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024 at 10:15 a.m.

POINSETTIA'S:

Reminder to take your poinsettia home if you purchased one. If you would like one, please take one.

Please leave the foil at the bottom of the pot, as we reuse those year to year.

Thank you!

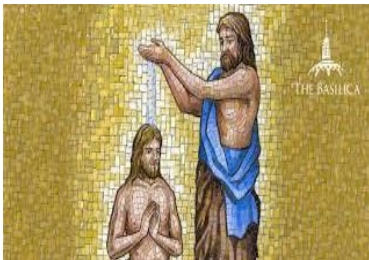
YOUTH GREATER CALLING RETREAT

February 23-25, 2024

Please consider joining us for the first Great Rivers Mission District Youth Gathering. The event will take place at American Lutheran Church (ALC) in Rantoul Illinois. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Teresa Peters, the NALC Director of Youth and Family Ministries. She will be speaking on the "Greater Calling," of Christians.

The registration cost for the event is \$60 per person. This includes meals and accommodations. Please register all youth and volunteers no later than Friday **February 2, 2024**. Registration forms and payment can be sent to St. John Lutheran Church at 5187 Old Marion Rd. Metropolis IL, 62960.

Please see the Narthex bulletin board for more details and registration forms.



BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

What does baptism of our Lord mean?

In the liturgical calendar, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord signifies the end of the Christmas season. The

Baptism of the Lord is notable because it marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry and confirms his identity as the Son of God. This event is documented in all the gospels except John.

January 7th is the Sunday of the Baptism of our Lord. Here are the readings Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Romans 6:1-11; Mark 1:4-11

Next Week's Readings:

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]; Psalm 139:1-10; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20;
John 1:43-51

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday 1/7: Join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall.

Adult Forum resumes.

Monday 1/8: Food Pantry Delivery, 9am. A week early due to MLK, Jr .

Tuesday 1/9: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist., 12-2pm.

Church Council, 7pm.

Wednesday 1/10: On-line Bible study resumes, 7pm.

Saturday 1/13: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 1/14: Worship Service, 9am with Sunday School to follow;

Newsletter Items are due.

PARISH CONCERNS

Please pray for the following people that are near and dear to our hearts:

- **Ina Koehler**, Val Norris's mother passed away on Monday, Dec. 25th. Her funeral was held here on Tuesday.
- **Charles Schindler** passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 26th. His funeral was held here on Wednesday.
- May the promise of God's resurrection bring peace to the family and friends of Ina Koehler and Charles Schindler.

Please keep in your daily prayers all people in need, including those mentioned here:

- All those who are suffering physical or mental illness, and their families, caregivers, and medical teams, especially:

James Klus	Emmaline Haag
David Sanderson	Susan & Jim Colgan
Mark Bernhardt	Shannon Daab
Fallon Mitchell	
- All those who are not able to worship with us because they are in health care facilities or homebound: Nancy Bakanas, George Vodden, Dale Johnson, and many others.
- All those who are dealing with the aftermath of the earthquake in Japan.
- Our church and its activities.
- All elected leaders, police officers, first responders, and military personnel, that they hear and receive God's guidance and protection.
- The NALC, NALS, the Great Rivers Mission District, and all Christian churches.