



Wait & See

Who has God used in their time?

January 9 - The Wise Men

#stjohnsludington

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH **Ludington, Michigan**

Welcome in the name of Jesus!

We're so glad you chose to worship with us this morning.

May Gods' Spirit touch us all through His Word today
and through the love of His people. Nothing is too hard for our God!
If you are physically unable to stand for any or all of the worship service,
please feel free to remain seated.

*(Assistive Listening is available –
Ask for a Sound Mate personal listening system)*

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Wisdom of Faith: Seeing, Following, Worshiping

January 6, 2022

AS WE GATHER

When the Magi arrived in Jerusalem, everyone was surprised and troubled. Few in Israel remembered God's promise through Isaiah that other nations would be attracted to them. They had forgotten that Gentiles would come bearing gifts to a future just and righteous King. Only after God worked faith in Saul/Paul's heart was the message clearly announced that all people share in the promise of Christ. Today, God's Word calls us not only to see the light of God's love in Christ but also to emulate the Magi. With joy, our faith moves us to follow where God leads and to worship our Lord, in whom alone we have boldness and access with confidence to the grace of God. That is, Epiphany is not only a celebration of the past but also a call to shine God's light in our lives today.

✕ PREPARATION ✕

HYMN "Great Is The Lord"

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 60:1, 5–6; Matthew 2:2, 10–11*

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come.
People: **We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.**

Pastor: You shall see and be radiant.
People: **They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.**

Pastor: They shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.
People: **And they fell down and worshiped Him.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 124:8; 130:3, adapt.; Ephesians 3:11–12*

Pastor: Although God has graciously showered the light of His love on us, we have not responded in lives of total devotion. But because He has graciously promised to forgive, let us go to Him in the name of “Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.”

People: **Gracious heavenly Father, we confess that we have let the distractions of this world turn our eyes from seeing the true Light. We have not loved You with our whole hearts. Forgive us and renew in us hearts to see, follow, and worship You alone.**

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, our heavenly Father sent His Son to take to His cross all our sins, and His Holy Spirit has graciously shined the light of faith in Christ into our hearts. I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” #394 vs 1,4,5

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, You led the Magi to see in the star the news of Christ's birth. We give thanks that You have enabled us to see Him as our Savior.

People: **Grant us strength of faith to follow where He leads and to worship Him with all that we are and have;**

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 60:1–6*

(The Lord promises to visit His people as light, attracting other nations to His glory.)

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.

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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *Ephesians 3:1–12*

(Paul rejoices in his calling to preach to the Gentiles.)

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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Matthew 2:2b*

Pastor: Alleluia. Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?

People: **For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 2:1–12*

(The Magi are examples for our lives of faith.)

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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “As With Gladness Men of Old” #397 vs 1,3,5

SERMON “The Wise Men” **Pastor Dave**

CREED *Apostles’ Creed*

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING & PRAYER

(Members and Visitors: We would appreciate it if you would please take this time to fill out and pass the “Who’s In The Pew” folders, located at the center aisle end of each pew.)

Leader: Gracious God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, symbols of your gracious love.

People: **Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our brother and Lord.**

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Ephesians 3:6–7, 10*

Pastor: For all who minister “according to the gift of God’s grace” that has been given to them, people of faith who are in government, armed forces, local police departments, professional and volunteer caregivers, and workers in the health professions, that they serve those under their care in safety and with wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all for whom the mystery of Christ is still hidden, that through the Church here and around the world “the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known” to them, so that they approach God in confident faith for Jesus’ sake, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those near and dear to us, [*including . . .*], that they boldly bring their petitions to God in faith and that we open ourselves to be part of the answers that God so graciously provides, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who have gone before us in faith—the Magi, the writers of the Scriptures, patriarchs, prophets, saints, martyrs, and those who brought the Good News to us, let us give thanks to the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: These and any other things You would have us ask of You,
heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ,
our Lord, in whose name we pray.

People: Amen.

Pastor: We sing our Lord's Prayer:

"Lord's Prayer"

HFG 440

**Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
For Thine is the Kingdom,
and the Power and the Glory forever. Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as You serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“The People That in Darkness Sat”

#412 vs 1,3,4,5

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Dave and Pastor Pete
Music Leader: Daniel M. Meyers
Organist: Sharilyn Rotta

St. John's Lutheran Church

Ludington, Michigan 49431

<http://www.stjohnslutheranchurch.org>

231-843-9188

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Holy Communion is shared on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of each month.