



*In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?"*  
Matthew 2:1-2a

# Eve of The Epiphany

*The 12th day of Christmas*

January 5, 2020 | 11 am



St. John's Lutheran Church | Salisbury, NC

# Welcome to St. John's!

*For more information about today's worship, please refer to the pew card found in the hymnal. You'll notice that our worship follows a simple pattern that has guided the church's worship since the first century — Gather, Word, Meal, Sending — a pattern designed to nourish and strengthen us for the week ahead. Welcome to worship!*



## Gathering

*The Holy Spirit gathers us as the people of God.*

### Prelude

*Christ Be Our Light*  
Kevin Agner, cello

arr. R. Kinard

### Prayers of Confession

*We begin worship with an act of confession, a time when we come together just as we are, without benefit of disguise. In confession we admit out loud our need for God's forgiveness. The words of forgiveness announce the love of God, who accepts us as we are but continues to lead us beyond where we are, forming us into a new creation.*

*We make the sign of the cross as a reminder of our baptism.*

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray. God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.**

### God's Promise of Forgiveness

Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! By his grace and mercy, you are forgiven all of your sins Rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**Kyrie.** *A centering prayer asking for God's mercy and peace.*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Hymn of Praise

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!**  
**O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him, born the king of angels.**  
**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,**  
**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*



## Word

*We hear God's word in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6**

*Wise men from the East are prophesied*

*The Prophet writes:* <sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup>Lift 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. <sup>5</sup>Then 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. <sup>6</sup>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 proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

**Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14**

*Spiritual blessings in Christ*

*St. Paul writes:* <sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel

of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

**Children's Worship.** *During the following response hymn, children are invited to Children's Worship, returning after the sermon.*

*Please stand*

**Response Hymn 292**

*Love Has Come*

UN FLAMBEAU

**Love has come—a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

**The Holy Gospel: John 1: 1-5, 14**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*Please be seated*

**Sermon**

Pastor Rhodes Woolly

*Please stand*

**Hymn 300**

*The First Noel*  
Verse 1—All  
Verse 2—Women  
Verse 3—Men  
Verse 4—Choir  
Verse 5—All

THE FIRST NOWELL

## Apostles' Creed

Gathered as God's people across time and space, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

**Prayers of Intercession.** *Each petition ends: Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

**Sharing the Peace of Christ** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**



## Meal

*God shares with us the Bread of Life.*

### Collection of our Tithes and Offerings, and Preparation of the Lord's Table

#### Musical Offering

*What Child Is This*

Christopher Phillips

Kevin Agner, cello, Rosemary C. Kinard, piano

*As the gifts are presented, the congregation stands and sings the Doxology.*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Let us pray. Merciful Father, **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — our selves, 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.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise. ... and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.** from Psalm 118:26

## Eucharistic Prayer, followed by the Lord's Prayer

**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.**

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

*Please be seated*

**Distribution of Holy Communion.** *Gluten free bread and grape juice are available upon request. Please follow the usher's instructions.*

*Welcome to the Lord's Table!*

## Communion Hymns

*Lamb of God, page 154 in the front section of the red ELW*

471 *Let Us Break Bread Together*

462 *Now We Join in Celebration*

494 *For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

## Blessing and Prayer



## Sending

*Forgiven and nourished, we are sent into the world to share God's love.*

### Benediction

**Sending Hymn 302**

*As with Gladness Men of Old*  
verses 1-4

DIX

### Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

### Postlude

*Unless otherwise indicated, today's service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship and is reproduced by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies annual license #26999.*

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*January 6 is the Feast of The Epiphany. It brings to an end the 12 days of Christmas (December 25 through January 5) and ushers in a new liturgical season, Epiphany, which draws its name from the Latin word, epiphania, which means "manifestation." During Epiphany, the church celebrates the manifestation of God through Jesus by remembering the many ways he became a "light to the nations" (Luke 2:32).*



Let's connect faith and life. *Together.*