

# **THE GOOD NEWS IS FOR ALL**

The Epiphany of Our Lord

# BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, Nebraska

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*January 3, 2021*

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. Large print hymnals and hearing assist devices are available upon request. Restrooms are located on the north side of the main level and in the lower level. If you have any questions or need assistance with anything please ask one of our ushers.

**Connection cards:** Visitors, or members with contact information changes, please fill out our online connection card at [bethelyork.com](http://bethelyork.com), member connect tab, or scan this code.



## SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

Worship Materials

The order of service and the hymns for today are printed for you in this folder. "Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal" which is normally in the hymnal rack on the back of each pew has been temporarily removed to help protect against passing the Corona Virus. Watching the theme and passage on the screen may help you prepare for worship.

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

**Worship Leader**  
**Pianist/Organist**

Pastor Mark A. Haefner  
Mr. Steven Springborn

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# SERVICE OF THE WORD

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*This service offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.*

## OPENING HYMN

*As with Gladness Men of Old | 83*

- 1 As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold,  
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore your followers be.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to your lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before You whom heav'n and earth adore,  
So may we with willing feet Ever seek your mercy seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare At your cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heav'nly King.
- 4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way;  
And, when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds your glory hide.
- 5 In the heav'nly country bright Need they no created light;  
You its light, its joy, its crown, You its sun which goes not down.  
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King!

## INVOCATION

*please stand*

**M** The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

## CONFESSION

**M** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C** Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

## **ABSOLUTION**

**M** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C** Amen.

**M** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

## **RESPONSE**

CW 94 v. 1, 4, 5

1 O Jesus, King of glory, Both David's Lord and son!  
Your rule endures forever; In heaven is your throne.  
Help that in earth's dominions, From pole to farthest pole,  
Your reign may spread salvation To each benighted soul

4 Oh, look on me with pity Though I am weak and poor;  
Admit me to your kingdom To dwell there, blest and sure.  
I pray, Lord, guide and keep me Safe from my bitter foes,  
From sin and death and Satan; Free me from all my woes.

5 Then let your Word within me Shine as the fairest star;  
Keep sin and all false doctrine Forever from me far.  
Help me confess you truly And with all Christendom  
Here hail you King and Savior And in the world to come

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**M** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**M** Let us pray.

Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



## The Word

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### FIRST LESSON

*Daniel 6:25-28*

<sup>25</sup>Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in the entire earth:

May your peace and prosperity increase.

<sup>26</sup>I give this command throughout my royal dominion:

People should continually tremble and be afraid before the God of Daniel, because he is the living God, who endures forever.

His kingdom will not be destroyed,  
and his dominion is eternal.

<sup>27</sup>He rescues and he saves.

He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth.

So he saved Daniel from the power of the lions.

<sup>28</sup>So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius, that is, during the reign of Cyrus the Persian. (EHV)

**M** The Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God!

### PSALM

98





Sing to the LORD a new song,\*  
for he has done marvelous things.

The LORD has made his salvation known\*  
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness  
to the house of Israel;\*  
all the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.

### **Refrain**

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,\*  
burst into jubilant song with music;

make music to the LORD with the harp,\*  
with the harp and the sound of singing.

Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.\*  
He will judge the world in righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### **Refrain**

## **SECOND LESSON**

*Acts 8:26-35*

<sup>26</sup>Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is an isolated area.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. And there was a man, an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, Queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship. <sup>28</sup>He was on his way home, sitting in his chariot and reading the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>29</sup>The Spirit told Philip, "Go over there and stay close to that chariot." <sup>30</sup>Philip ran up to it and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet.

Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

<sup>31</sup>The man replied, "How can I unless someone explains it to me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

<sup>32</sup>Now the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading was this:

He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,  
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who will talk about his generation?

For his life is taken from the earth.

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch said to Philip, "I ask you, who is the prophet talking about—himself or someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak. Starting with that very passage of Scripture, he told him the good news about Jesus. (EHV)

**M** The Word of the Lord

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

## VERSE OF THE DAY

**M** Alleluia. We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

## RESPONSE

CW 94 v. 2

The eastern Magi, coming Their gifts of love to bring,  
Bear witness to your glory And worship you, their King.  
To you the star is pointing And the prophetic Word;  
So joyously we hail you: Our Savior and our Lord.

## GOSPEL

*Matthew 2:1-12*

*please stand*

**M** The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 2.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, <sup>2</sup>"Where is he who has been born King of the

Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him.<sup>4</sup>He gathered together all the people’s chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born.<sup>5</sup>They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared.<sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was.<sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy.<sup>11</sup>After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.<sup>12</sup>Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route. (EHV)

**M** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



*be seated*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* | **84**

1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does its successive journeys run;  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2 To him shall endless prayer be made  
And endless praises crown his head;  
His name like sweet perfume shall rise  
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.



3 People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
Praise his great love with sweetest song,  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on his name.

4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
The pris'ner leaps, unloosed his chains,  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all who suffer want are blest.

5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring  
Worship and honor to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And earth repeat the loud amen.

## SERMON

*2 Kings 5:1-5, 15-17*

Na'aman, the commander of the king of Aram's army, was a great man in the opinion of his master. He was highly honored because the LORD had provided victory for Aram through him. Although he was a powerful warrior, he had leprosy.

<sup>2</sup>Raiding parties had once gone out from Aram and brought back a young girl. She served Na'aman's wife. <sup>3</sup>She said to her mistress, "I wish my master stood before the prophet who is in Samaria, because he would cure him of his leprosy."

<sup>4</sup>So Na'aman went and told his master what the servant girl from the land of Israel had said.

<sup>5</sup>Then the king of Aram said, "Go there. I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Na'aman went...

<sup>15</sup>Then he and his whole escort went back to the man of God. He stood in front of Elisha and said, "To be sure, now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel. Now accept a gift from your servant."

<sup>16</sup>But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives, in whose presence I stand, I will not take anything." Even though Na'aman urged him to accept something, he refused.

<sup>17</sup>Then Na'aman said, "If you do not want anything, please give me, your servant, as much dirt as two donkeys can carry, for your servant will never again burn incense or sacrifice to other gods, but only to the LORD.

*please stand*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there 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**      ***Please leave your offering in the plate provided in the entry or make use of one of the available online options on our website.***

*On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income. 1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV)*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**[M]** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

**[C]** **You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.**

**[M]** Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

**[C]** **You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**

**M** Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

**C** **Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.**

**M** Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

**C** **Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

**M** Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

**M** Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

**C** **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

*be seated*

1 Hail, O Source of ev'ry blessing,  
 Father of our human race!  
 Gentiles now, your grace possessing,  
 In your courts obtain a place.  
 Grateful now, we fall before you,  
 In your Church rejoice to live,  
 See your glory and adore you,  
 Thankful for the grace you give.

2 Once far off but now invited,  
 We approach your sacred throne,  
 In your covenant united,  
 Reconciled, redeemed, made one.  
 Now revealed to eastern sages,  
 See the star of mercy shine,  
 Myst'ry hid in former ages,  
 Myst'ry great of love divine.

3 Hail, O all-inviting Savior!  
 Gentiles now their off'rings bring,  
 In your temples seek your favor,  
 Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.  
 May we, body, soul, and spirit,  
 Live devoted to your praise,  
 Glorious realms of bliss inherit,  
 Grateful anthems ever raise.

## PRAYER

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



## BLESSING

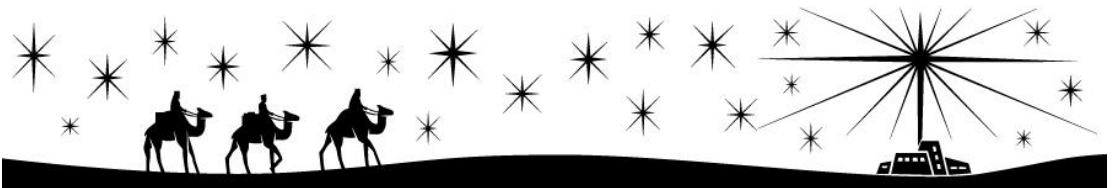
- M** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



## CLOSING HYMN

*Rise, O Light of Gentile Nations* | 577

- 1 Rise, O Light of Gentile nations, Jesus, bright and Morning Star;  
Let your Word, the gladsome tidings, Ring out loudly near and far,  
Bringing freedom to the captives, Peace and comfort to the slave,  
That the heathen, free from bondage, May proclaim your pow'r to save.
- 2 Knowing you and your salvation, Grateful love dare never cease  
To proclaim your tender mercies, Gracious Lord, your heav'nly peace.  
Let us sound the gospel tidings To the earth's remotest bound  
That the sinner has been pardoned And forgiveness can be found.
- 3 May our zeal to help the heathen Be increased from day to day,  
As we plead in true compassion And for their conversion pray.  
For the many faithful workers, For the gospel they proclaim,  
Let us all be cheerful givers To the glory of your name.
- 4 Savior, shine in all your glory On the nations near and far;  
From the highways and the byways Call them forth, O Morning Star.  
Guide them whom your grace has chosen Out of Satan's dreadful thrall  
To the mansions of your Father—There is room for sinners all.





## **Epiphany Mission Emphasis**

January 3 – Good News for All

January 10 – Worship

January 17 – Learn

January 24 – Reach Out (Mission Festival)

January 31 – Give Back

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today:** 10:30 AM Worship

**Monday:** 7:00 PM Bethel Women's Guild

**Tuesday:** 7:00 PM Trinity School Board

**Saturday:** 10:30 AM Bible Information Class

**Sunday:** 10:30 AM Worship with Communion  
11:45 AM Voters Meeting



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Personal assisted listening devices are available.

**Given to the Lord:** Attendance: Worship 46 in person, Facebook Live 5, . Offerings: For operating expenses, Given 709.90, Needed 2,856.06. New Year's Eve: Attendance: Offering: **To God be the glory!**



800 N East Ave | York, NE | [bethelyork.org](http://bethelyork.org) | 402-641-4685