

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective. The pages are white, and the spine is visible in the center. The word "UNCOVERED" is printed in large, bold, black capital letters across the right page. The letter 'O' in "UNCOVERED" is partially obscured by a solid black rectangular box. The book is set against a light gray background.

UNCOVERED

**WHAT THE EYE SEES DIFFERS
FROM WHAT GOD DECREES**

The Sunday after Epiphany

Worship Series: UNCOVERED

We are in the season of the Church called Epiphany, a Greek word that means "to appear." Salvation has appeared in the person of Jesus Christ. In Epiphany, the Church explores everything that Christ makes apparent about God. You see, we need God to appear to us and make himself known to us. For not only is God beyond our understanding, his works and his ways are contrary to mankind's natural assumptions about him. In other words, the truth about God cannot possibly be discovered by us. Rather, it needs to be uncovered for us. That's what the Spirit is doing for us during this season of Epiphany. Week after week, surprising truths about Jesus our King and life in his kingdom will be uncovered.

Today's Theme: Anointing – What the Eye Sees Differs from what God Decrees

Our sight tends to be the sense we trust most. We say we will believe something when we see it. That presents a problem when it comes to the work of God. So often what our eye sees differs from what God decrees. This is true of the life of Jesus. In the eyes of the world, he was nothing special. This is also true in the life of the Christian. To the world, the believer does not look more blessed than the unbeliever. In fact, the believer may appear to have more hardships as the devil and his allies attempt to destroy him. So, to assure his children, God connects his grace, power, and blessing to something we can see—a visible sign: the anointing of baptism.

Communion

We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. Scripture tells us that we need to examine ourselves before we receive the Lord's Supper so that we do not take it in a harmful manner. (1 Cor. 11:27-29) For help in preparation see page 156 in the front of the hymnal.

Visitors: Because we do not want you to receive the Lord's Supper in a harmful manner we ask that you do not come forward for the Lord's Supper today if you are not members of a WELS or ELS church. The pastor will be happy to share with you the Biblical basis for this practice.

Serving in Worship

Pastor
Organist/Pianist

Mark A. Haefner

The Service

679 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

CW 679



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap-tized
2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap-tized
3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap-tized
4 Death, you can - not end my glad-ness: I am bap-tized
5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing to this life-long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it, gave my
in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong - er: Je - sus'
in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion, I am
in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness to in -
com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing: e - ven



full re - demp-tion price. Do I need earth's trea - sures man - y?
cleans-ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y con-science seize me
not so soon en-ticed. Now that to the font I've trav - eled,
her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in dust and ash - es
there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a - waits its rais - ing,



I have one worth more than an - y that brought me sal -
since my bap - tism did re - lease me in a dear for -
all your might has come un - rav - eled, and, a - gainst your
faith's as - sur - ance bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the
still my soul con - tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free, last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
giv - ing flood, sprink-ling me with Je - sus' blood?
tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
strength di - vine to make life im - mor - tal mine.
in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

Stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

CW 156

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

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, have mer - cy.

Lord.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

Glory Be to God CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



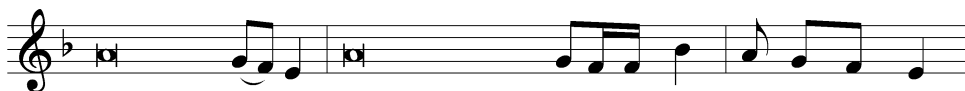
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



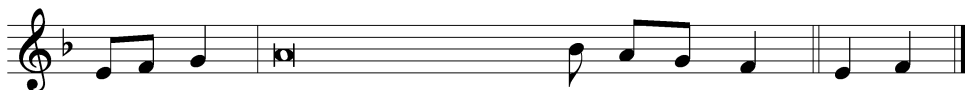
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on - ly are holy; you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1–13

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I see a king for myself among his sons.”

²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.”

The LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will let you know what you are to do. You are to anoint for me the person that I point out to you.”

⁴So Samuel did what the LORD had told him to do and went to Bethlehem. Trembling with fear, the elders of the city came to meet him. They said, “Do you come in peace?”

⁵He said, “Yes, in peace. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” He consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they had come, he looked at Eliab and said, “Certainly this is the LORD’s anointed.”

⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at how tall he is, because I have rejected him. For the LORD does not look at things the way man does. For man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.”

⁹Then Jesse had Shammah pass by. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.”

¹⁰Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel. Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Is that all of the young men?”

Jesse said, “There still is the youngest, but he is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said to Jesse, “Send for him, for we cannot sit down to eat until he comes.”

¹²He sent for him and brought him in. David had red hair and striking eyes, and was good-looking. The LORD said, “Get up! Anoint him, because this is the one.”

¹³So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers. The Spirit of the LORD rushed on David with power from that day forward. After that Samuel set out and returned to Ramah. (EHV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Titus 3:4-7

⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared, ⁵he saved us—not by righteous works that we did ourselves, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs in keeping with the hope of eternal life. (EHV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 1:11



Refrain



Tone



Gospel

Luke 3:15–17,21,22

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Christ. ¹⁶John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

²¹When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. While he was praying, heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you.” (EHV)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

377 To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord

CW 377



1 To Jor - dan’s riv - er came our Lord, the Christ, whom
 2 The Sav - ior came to be bap - tized— the Son of
 3 As Je - sus in the Jor - dan stood and John bap -
 4 Then from God’s throne with thun - d’rous sound came God’s own



heav’n - ly hosts a - dored, the God from God, the
 God in flesh dis - guised— to stand be - neath the
 tized the Lamb of God, the Ho - ly Spir - it,
 voice with words pro - found: “This is my Son,” was



Light from Light, the Lord of glo - ry, pow’r, and might.
 Fa - ther’s will and all his prom - is - es ful - fill.
 heav’n - ly dove, de - scend - ed on him from a - bove.
 his de - cree, “the one I love, who pleas - es me.”

- 5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight
anointed Christ in glorious sight
as God's own choice, from Adam's fall
to save the world and free us all.
- 6 Now rise, faint hearts: be resolute!
This man is Christ, our substitute!
He was baptized in Jordan's stream,
proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

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Sermon

Stand

Remembrance of Baptism

Holy Baptism is the priceless means of grace by which our Father in heaven connects us with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection. The apostle Paul wrote: "All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Again Paul wrote: "All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

In Holy Baptism, God takes away our sins and us gives new life. We reject the devil and confess that we believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?
Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?
**Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

**Yes, 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.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**Yes, 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.**

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus, to value the Word and sacraments, and to live a life that pleases God?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

May the eternal God, who saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you to everlasting life.

Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Special intercessions

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Offering

If Then You Have Been Raised with Christ

Tune: Forest Green CW 357

- 1 If then you have been raised with Christ,
look not to earthly things,
for Christ's own death has saved your life
from sin and death's sharp sting.
Set hearts and minds on things above,
on Christ who reigns on high.
In Christ your life will be revealed
and with him you will rise.

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

CW 165

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 167

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -".

san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,
 bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

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;**

grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated

Distribution

691 Awake, O Sleeper, Rise and See

CW 691

- 1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise and see this great and
- 2 Al - though life's heart-aches, trials, and sin com - bine to
- 3 Come, share that life formed by his cross and for Christ's
- 4 For you no long - er live, but he who washed you

glo - rious mys - ter - y, this shin - ing prom - ise,
 grieve your hope with - in, re - joice! Your Sav - ior's
 sake, come suf - fer loss; his Spir - it works your
 clean and set you free; bap - tized in Christ, you

ev - er new: the hope of glo - ry— Christ in you.
 grace is great, made per - fect in your weak - ened state.
 life to fill with all good things to do his will.
 now are saved, for - ev - er on his palms en - graved.

- 5 Christ offers you, with nail-scarred hand,
 true manna for this desert land:
 his body and his blood divine
 beneath the sacred bread and wine.
- 6 Our Savior never leaves his own
 as orphans, hungry and alone;
 he promises with certainty:
 "I am in you and you in me."

7 Such precious gifts do not disdain;
do not receive God's grace in vain,
but cherish, as his children true,
the hope of glory—Christ in you.

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Stand

Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Proclamation

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Post-Communion Prayer

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

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.
Amen.

379 Christ, Your Footprints through the Desert

CW 379



1 Christ, your foot - prints through the des - ert led to Jor - dan's
 2 Christ, you heard the stir - ring sum - mons as by Jor - dan's
 3 Son of God, the road from Jor - dan led at last to
 4 God, in Bap - tism you have made us one with Christ, our



flow - ing stream; there you heard the her - ald cry - ing
 bank you stood; bathed, though sin - less, with your peo - ple
 Cal - v'ry's hill. There up - on the cross for - sak - en,
 ris - en Lord, freed us, claimed us, cleansed, for - giv - en



Is - rael's old, pro - phet - ic dream: "He is com - ing! He is
 in the riv - er's cleans - ing flood. High a - bove, the heav - ens
 you ful - filled the Fa - ther's will. Lamb of God, we see you
 thro' the wa - ter and the Word. Help us hear your ur - gent



com - ing! He will cleanse the earth with flame! Sin - ners,
 o - pened; came the Spir - it as a dove; spoke a
 dy - ing, sin - less, yet for sin - ners slain. But where
 sum - mons, call - ing us to serve you now. Send us



plunge be - neath the wa - ters! Wash a - way your guilt and shame!"
 voice be - yond all hear - ing: "See my Son, the One I love!"
 death rose up to tri - umph, you be - gan your glo - rious reign!
 forth, your sons and daugh - ters, with the cross up - on our brow.

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 9:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class, 10:30 AM Worship, 11:30 AM Fellowship, Choir Practice
Voters Meeting

Monday: 7 PM Trinity Board Meeting

Sunday: 9:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class, 10:30 AM Worship with Communion, 11:30 Fellowship, Choir Practice.
3 PM Congregational pre-call meeting with DP Hirsch at Grace

Call Meetings with District President Hirsch

January 16 – Pre-Call meeting for all members – 3 PM, at Grace
January 30 – Call Meeting for all Voters – 3 PM, at Bethel

Everyone Outreach is our Mission Festival seminar for this year. We would like as many members as possible to attend. January 22 Session 1 at Grace, January 23 Session 2 at Bethel. Please sign up online using this code.



Parish Status/Pastoral Needs Assessment (from District President Hirsch)

The link to the online form is too long to publish here so use the QR Code, or you can click on the link that will be sent out in the weekly email announcements. Paper forms are available in the entry way.



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Evangelical Lutheran



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Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,583.54, Given, 1,507.50, NELHS 50.00, Trinity 120.00. **To
God be the glory!**

800 N East Ave | York, NE | www.bethelyork.com | 402-641-4685 (Cell)