



## **Jesus Appears as the Anointed One**

The First Sunday After Epiphany

# **BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** | York, Nebraska

*January 8, 2023*

## **SERIES THEME: JESUS APPEARS**

The Gospels tell only a little about Jesus' life as an infant. Then, St. Luke briefly discusses the desire of the boy Jesus to be in the temple. Then, Scripture falls silent, telling us nothing about almost two decades of Jesus' life. For most of Jesus' adult life, he lived quietly in Galilee, practicing the carpentry he had learned from his adoptive father, Joseph. Jesus had no followers. Jesus was not famous. But at the exact time God the Father had appointed, Jesus left that obscurity behind. The word epiphany means "appearance." In the Season of Epiphany, we watch Jesus begin his public ministry. Jesus makes his first appearances. And in those appearances, it quickly becomes clear that this is more than a random carpenter's son. As Jesus appears, we see exactly who he is and what he came to do.

## **THEME OF THE DAY: JESUS APPEARS AS THE ANOINTED ONE**

"Christ" is not Jesus' last name, of course. It is a title. The Greek word "Christ" and the Hebrew word "Messiah" both mean the same thing—"The Anointed One." Anointing was the practice of pouring liquid (typically oil) over the head of someone to signify selection for some special task. However, when the Lord anointed heroes to do his saving work, what he poured over them was his Spirit. For centuries people of faith had patiently waited for the promised Messiah, the servant of God who would bring the salvation we so desperately need. The time had come for Jesus to be revealed as the fulfillment of that divine promise. So, Christ our Lord came to the Jordan River to be baptized, that he might be recognized by John and revealed to Israel. At his baptism Jesus was anointed—marked as God's special servant and empowered by the Spirit of the Lord.

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

Pastor Justin Wilkens  
Kathy Bremer

## **Acknowledgments**

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## **The Service, Setting One (page 154 in Christian Worship 21)**

### **Hymn: 384 Hail to the Lord's Anointed**

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

### **Confession**

*CW 154*

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*

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 mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Amen.**

## 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,



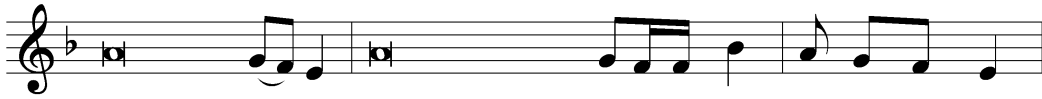
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



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;



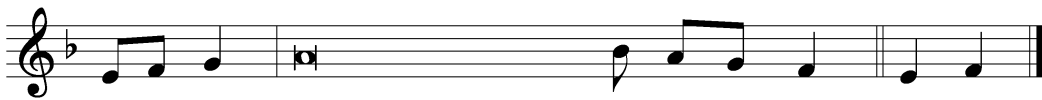
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



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

Isaiah 42:1–7

*The Lord promises to put his Spirit on the Messiah, empowering the Anointed One to free us from our sins. We see this promise fulfilled when Jesus is baptized.*

### The Servant of the LORD

<sup>1</sup> Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom I delight.

I am placing my Spirit on him.

He will announce a just verdict for the nations.

<sup>2</sup> He will not cry out.

He will not raise his voice.

He will not make his voice heard in the street.

<sup>3</sup> A bent reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not snuff out.

He will faithfully bring forth a just verdict.

<sup>4</sup> He will not burn out, and he will not be broken  
until he establishes justice on the earth.

The coastlands will wait for his law.

<sup>5</sup> This is what the true God says,  
the Lord who creates the heavens and stretches them out,  
who spreads out the earth  
and everything that it produces,  
who gives breath to the people on it  
and life to those who walk on it.

<sup>6</sup> I am the Lord.

I have called you in righteousness.

I will hold on to your hand,  
and I will guard you.

I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people,  
to be a light for the nations,

<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes of the blind,  
to bring the prisoners out from the dungeon,  
and to bring those who sit in darkness out of prison.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

Acts 10:34–38

As Peter told others how God had anointed Jesus, it was through this good news that the Holy Spirit was then poured out upon Peter's listeners.

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: "Now I really am beginning to understand that God does not show favoritism, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation, anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> He sent his word to the people of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

<sup>37</sup> "You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached. <sup>38</sup> God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the Devil, because God was with him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

Mark 1:11



*Refrain*



*Tone*



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## **Gospel**

*Matthew 3:13–17*

*In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power.*

### **The Baptism of Jesus**

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by John at the Jordan. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to stop him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?”

<sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, because it is proper for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John let him. <sup>16</sup> After Jesus was baptized, he immediately went up out of the water. Suddenly, the heavens were opened for him! He saw the Spirit of God, descending like a dove and landing on him, <sup>17</sup> and a voice out of the heavens said, “This is my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

### **Hymn of the Day: 377 To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord**

## **Sermon**

*Stand*

### **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.**



**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church**

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

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.

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

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

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

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:

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

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. [We pray especially for...*here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn.

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

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

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.

**Amen.**

## **Offering**

**Offering Hymn: 750 We Give Thee but Thine Own**

## **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.**

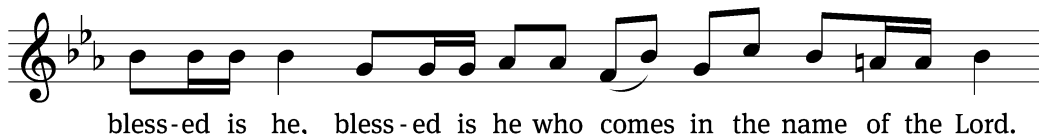
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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



## 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;  
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.**

### **Words of Institution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;  
have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

*Be seated*

### Distribution

**Close Communion** We ask that only those who have previously spoken to our pastor or are members in good standing of this or another WELS or ELS congregation come to Holy Communion today. Our practice of Close Communion (which has been the practice of the Christian Church throughout the ages) is in no way trying to judge anyone's faith. What we are trying to do is follow the Bible's clear teaching (1 Corinthians 11) to first study God's Word together. As we do so, we can share with/review with you what the Lord's Supper is all about. You, then, also have an opportunity to examine what we believe and teach before you come to the Lord's Supper and make a public profession that you agree with what we teach.

### Distribution Hymn: 665 What Is This Bread

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

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

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.**

### **Hymn: 950 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace**



## **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today:** 10:30 AM Worship and Communion

**Sunday:** 9:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 AM Worship

### **WELS Regional Youth Night**

The next WELS regional youth night will take place on January 15th from 3:30-5:30 at Good Shepherd in Omaha. More information can be found on the sheet posted in the narthex.

### **Quarterly Voters Meeting**

Bethel's next quarterly voter's meeting will take place following our worship service this morning.

### **Ladies Aid Meeting**

The next Ladies Aid meeting will be on January 9th at 10:00 AM.

### **Decoration takedown**

Following our worship service this morning we will takedown the Christmas decorations.

### **Joint Mission Festival Service**

Our Joint Mission Festival Service will be on February 5th here at Bethel. We will have a potluck following the service. Please contact Judy Remmers if you plan on bringing something.

**CONNECTION CARDS:** Visitors or members with changes in contact information, please fill out a connection card online at [www.bethelyork.com](http://www.bethelyork.com) on the member connect tab or scan this code.



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**Given to the Lord:** Attendance: Worship 47, Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,854.90, Given \$2,789.05. **To God be the glory!**

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