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14344 Jamison Way, (941) 249-5108



EPIPHANY

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WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN! Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! As a kindness to one another, *please place your cell phones on mute* for the time we are together in worship. If you are a visitor, let us know you are here!

IN OUR PRAYERS: Please use a prayer request card if you have a specific prayer request this morning. It is our joy and our privilege to share in these petitions to Almighty God. If you have them ready before the service, hand them to Pastor when you have them completed, otherwise give them to the ushers at the time the offering is collected.

THE MEANING OF THE TWO PICTURES IN THE BULLETIN: The two pictures at the top of the bulletin are the church's logo and the LCMC logo. The church's logo is the descent of the Holy Spirit into 'Our Savior' at the time of His Baptism.

PASTOR SARAH IS SERVING TODAY: I want to thank Pastor Sarah for stepping in and serving us this morning. Thank you for stepping in at the last minute while I fight my lung infection.

We Serve Today:

Reader: *Peggie Sue Dygert*

Offering: *David Colburn, Jeff Cisco*

Communion: *Fran Thibideau, Pat Spence*

Greeter: *Jeff Cisco*

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SERVICE OF THE WORD PAGE 126 – Epiphany

GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME: *Pre-Service Music, Welcome, and Announcements*

CONFESSIONAL PRAYER - *congregational responses in BOLD*

Pastor: Lord, we approach your altar with with love for You and our concern for the price you paid for us on the cross. We realize the difficulties that we face, and we confess the poor job we have done with our response to your sacrifice. For that, dear Lord, we make our confession to you this day.

1 John 1:8-9

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As a result of the love of God, the work of Jesus on His cross, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, and by the authority of Jesus Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Alleluia and Amen.**

2. THE DIALOGUE PAGE 126 BOTTOM

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe,

for in your wisdom you have formed us.

You feed the hungry and clothe the naked

We bless you and praise your holy name forever.

You set free those who are bound.

We bless you and praise your holy name forever.

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You raise up those whose courage falters

We bless you and praise your holy name forever.

You provide for our every need.

Accept our grateful praises.

You have called us from all peoples.

We bless you and praise your holy name forever.

You bless your people with peace.

We bless you and praise your loving grace.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe,

for in your wisdom you have formed us

3. OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH 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 into hell. 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

4 THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): P. Let us pray:

O God, by the leading of a star you once made known to all nations your only-begotten Son; now lead us, who know and believe in you by faith, to know the fullness of your divine goodness and grace, Alleluia.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which God has called us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Alleluia and Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-6

The Future Glory of Israel

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. 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. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

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

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carried on the hip. 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.

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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.**

THE EPISTLE LESSON: Ephesians 3:2-12

Assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 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.

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. 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.

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, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12, PLEASE RISE

The Visit of the Wise Men

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, 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."

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "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.""

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.

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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."

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. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

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. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

ENTRANCE HYMN: R572 Will the Circle be Unbroken *sung 3 times*

11. SILENCE FOR MEDITATION – In the Bleak Midwinter – Dean Carson

12. "Epiphany" - Rev. Sarah Stern

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Ephesians 1:2*

C: Amen

13. SERMON HYMN: R140 We Three Kings

14. OFFERING

Rite of Friendship:

P. The Peace of the Lord Be With You Always.

C. And Also With You.

P. We now have the opportunity to share back with the Lord a little of the bounty He has shared with us.

As the offering is brought forward, we will sing the Doxology.

Doxology, written in England for Protestant Churches in 1674.

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G D Em Bm Em D G
Praise God, from Whom all bless - ings flow; praise

4 G D Em C G D Em
Him all crea - tures here be - low; praise

7 D/F# G D G/B C D7/A G D/F#
Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; praise

10 G A7/E D Am G/D D7 G
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Merciful Father,

C: 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

15. THE PRAYERS: PAGE 129 Let us Pray:

(Prayer Response) Lord in your Mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

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.**

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and forever. Amen**

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE:

WORDS OF INSTITUTION: *Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1st Corinthians 11:23-25*

On the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ, took bread, and after giving thanks, He broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said; "Take and eat; this is My body, given for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same manner, after supper He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to the them saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the new testament in My blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of of Me."

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As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. *1st Corinthians 11:26*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

THE DISTRIBUTION, THE COMMUNION BLESSING

16. SENDING HYMN: R132 Go Tell it on the Mountain

17. THE AARONIC BENEDICTION: LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH:

**Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God as our father
Brothers all are we
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony**

**Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me**

THE DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. **Thanks be to God**

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