

## WELCOME

To our friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to the stranger, we extend our sincere greeting. If you are a visitor, please understand that you are our guest and we want you to feel welcome and comfortable. We are happy you chose to be with us in this service, and pray you have been blessed by our Lord today as He has blessed us by your presence.

### THOSE WHO SERVE US

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Each Member of St. John's.....                | A Minister                               |
| Rev. Mike Burdick.....                        | Pastor                                   |
| Rev. Gary Fortkamp.....                       | Visitation Pastor                        |
| Mrs. Sandy Esker.....                         | Preschool Director                       |
| Mrs. Dana Keller.....                         | Organist                                 |
| Mrs. Kiley Bohnhoff.....                      | Song Leader                              |
| St. John's Praise Band.....                   | 10:30AM                                  |
| Mr. Todd Ziegler.....                         | 5:30PM Elder on Duty                     |
| Mr. Chris Niebruge.....                       | 8AM Elder on Duty                        |
| Sophia Jansen.....                            | 8AM Acolyte                              |
| Mr. Jeff Weis.....                            | 10:30AM Elder on Duty                    |
| Aiden Hanks.....                              | 10:30AM Acolyte                          |
| Mr. Jeff Weis 217-246-3963.....               | Elder on Duty for Jan. 4 – Jan. 10, 2020 |
| Sister Congregation.....                      | in Blidene, Latvia                       |
| Adopted Chatelain School.....                 | Haiti                                    |
| Mrs. Julie Scott.....                         | (217-343-3047) Prayer Chain Coordinator  |
| State, National & International Missions..... | through our District and Synod           |

**CHRIST** is important to us  
in our worship  
in our study  
in our fellowship  
in our lives.

**YOU** are important to us  
in our worship  
in our study  
in our fellowship  
in our lives.

### HIS VISION FOR US:

St. John's will be known for being involved in our changing community, for providing leadership in our changing world, and for serving others in Christian love.

We will welcome our diverse guests with open arms. Our friendly, loving and accepting people will engage our guests, mentor them in the faith, and inspire many to become members.

Our members will be motivated by the cross to be actively engaged in ministry, showing love and care to others. We will encourage one another, nurture one another, and enthusiastically serve our God together!

## **HIS GOAL FOR US:**

We will pray and work with singleness of purpose to expand the impact of our ministry to God's children of all ages, with special emphasis on young families, by developing new ways to strengthen the relationship between St. John's, our members and our community, providing the facilities and resources to involve more people in ministry and outreach.

## **WELCOME CENTER**

Greeters are present at the Welcome Center in the atrium adjacent to our sanctuary before and after the service to answer any questions you may have, provide directions to restrooms, classrooms, etc. If you are a first time guest, we also have a gift for you. If you live in our community or surrounding area and you do not have a church home, we welcome your consideration. We offer true fellowship with the living Savior and membership in His Church.

## **ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

Kindly fill out a registration card (welcome side) located in the pew rack. Our guests are also asked to complete the address and phone number portion. Please pass your card to the center aisle to be gathered during the offering.

## **CELL PHONES**

Please turn your cell phones off before the service begins.

## **AS WE GATHER**

Throughout the ages, the Gospel story of Christ has been shared in spoken, written, and sung words. Each season of the Church Year is blessed by those sacred words. The Epiphany season recalls a journey by Magi to visit and worship the infant Jesus and to bring Him gifts. This day we have made a journey to this place to do the same. With the Magi of old we share the wonder of the Epiphany, as God with us—Immanuel—is shown forth.

## **THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

### **BELLS – CALL TO WORSHIP**

### **PRELUDE**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **✠ PREPARATION ✠**

**HYMN**      “As with Gladness Men of Old”

**#397 vv 1,2,3**

### **INVOCATION**

**Pastor:**      In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:**      **Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

Based on John 1:4–5, 9; 8:12

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

People: **the light no darkness can overcome.**

Pastor: In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.

People: **The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it. The true Light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us make confession to God our Father, the source of light and love, from whom His whole family in heaven and on earth receives His blessings and gifts. Assured of His great mercy, let us acknowledge together that we, by our heedless thoughts, careless words, and loveless deeds have sinned against God and deserve His punishment now and eternally.

People: **Almighty God, we know that we are by nature sinful and that daily we transgress Your holy Law. We repent of all sins in thought and in word and in deed. Be merciful to us and for the sake of Jesus grant us Your forgiveness so that, as Your redeemed people, we walk in Your light and with renewed spirits serve You in time and in eternity.**

Pastor: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Out of His glorious riches, the Lord strengthen you with grace through his Spirit, that Christ shall dwell in your hearts through faith.

People: **Amen!**

PRAYER AND PRAISE: “As with Gladness Men of Old”

#397 vv. 4–5

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 Thy glory hide.

5 In the heav’nly country bright  
Need they no created light;  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
Thou its sun which goes not down;  
There forever may we sing  
“Alleluias” to our King.

*Text: Public domain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1–6

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. <sup>4</sup>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 carried on the hip. <sup>5</sup>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. <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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## CHOIR:

“The Wonder of The Star”

**Matthew 2:1-2** - 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.'

## EPISTLE

Ephesians 3:1–12

<sup>1</sup>For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup>assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

## VERSE

Matthew 2:2b

Pastor: Alleluia. Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?

People: **For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him. Alleluia.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1–12

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>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, <sup>2</sup>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.” <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>“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.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.**

## HYMN

“Epiphany Carol”

**Gifts to Jesus gratefully bring!  
Songs for Jesus lovingly sing!  
God among us  
Born to save us!  
Hail Him as Lord and King!**

*Refrain:*

**Oh! By the wonder of His birth,  
Jesus is God’s gift to earth!  
May our living  
And our giving  
Witness to the Savior’s worth!**

**Gifts of gold His Kingship endow.  
All the earth before Him shall bow—  
Kneel before Him  
And adore Him!  
Worship His glory now! *Refrain***

**Frankincense His deity owns—  
Fragrance chosen for God alone.  
Prayers ascending!  
Praises blending!  
Bring Him the best gifts known! *Refrain***

**Myrrh to ease the burden of pain—  
Precious gift to soothe and sustain.  
Balm as blessing,  
Faith confessing.  
Sing out hope’s glad refrain. *Refrain***

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## CATECHISM

*On Sundays throughout the year we will briefly review Luther’s Small Catechism.  
Today we begin with the First Commandment and Its Meaning on page 321.*

## SERMON

“Where Is The King?”

## INSTALLATION OF SERVANT-LEADERS

*(All women and men who serve on our Church Council and Boards are installed and supported in prayer, including those continuing to serve.)*

## OFFERING

## OFFERING SONG

#394:1

**Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise.  
Manifested by the star  
To the sages from afar,  
Branch of royal David's stem  
In Thy birth at Bethlehem;  
Anthems be to Thee addressed  
God in flesh made manifest!**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs...

Celebrating that the Lord is revealed in our midst, we pray for an increase of the Word that we rejoice in sins forgiven in Christ alone. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

As the Magi brought their gifts to the place where the child Jesus was, direct us, O Lord, to love the place where Your presence dwells and to cherish the fellowship of faith and love that we enjoy as God's holy people. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

On this day of reflection and of celebration, we also make our petitions for the sick, the shut-in, and all who at this time are in need of our intercession, [*especially . . .*], that their prayers be answered in God's way and time, and that they be supported by God's people with care in the name of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

As we bring forth our gifts, grant that we also offer the gift of ourselves and our lives, that we be directed by the Holy Spirit to do the work of God, bringing aid to the poor and hope to the oppressed, working for justice in our communities and being agents of peace in our circles of relationships. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*(additional petitions may be offered)*

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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.**

## **BENEDICTION**

**HYMN** "Crown Him With Many Crowns"

**#525**

## **POSTLUDE**

