

**Christ the Rock Lutheran Church**  
5401 Hood Mesa Trail | Farmington, NM 87401  
(505) 324-9739 | ChristTheRockLutheran.com  
**Pastor John Vogt | (760) 519-7554**

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The Epiphany of Our Lord  
January 3, 2021

**HYMN**

**“Angels from the Realms of Glory”**

*Christian Worship #80*



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your  
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; Brigh - ter vi - sions  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in



all the earth; Once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry;  
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing—  
beam a - far. Seek the great de - sire of na - tions;  
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
Yon - der shines the in - fant light. Come and wor - ship,  
You have seen the Sav - ior's star.  
In his tem - ple shall ap - pear.



come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

**INVOCATION**

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

## CONFESSION

**M:** Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C:** **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, For sins of habit and sins of choice, For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

## ABSOLUTION

**M:** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**LORD, HAVE MERCY** *Kyrie*

*Mark 10:47*

**M:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

**M:** For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

**C: Amen.**

## THE WORD

### SALUTATION

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**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.

**C: Amen.**

## **FIRST LESSON**

**Isaiah 60:1-6**

**1** Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

**2** See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

**3** Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

**4** Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip.

**5** Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. **6** Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

## **SECOND LESSON**

**Ephesians 3:2-12**

**2** Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, **3** that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. **4** In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, **5** which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. **6** This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. **7** I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. **8** Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, **9** and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. **10** His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, **11** according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. **12** In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 2:2b

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

## GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

**1** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem **2** and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

**3** When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

**4** When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

**6** “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

**7** Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

**9** After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

**Wisemen - - and Women - - Still Seek Him.**

I. Gold for a King    II. Incense for a God    III. Myrrh for One Who Came to Die

## 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 fully 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: 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:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: For this holy house and for all who in faith, piety and love come to receive His gifts and praise His name, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: For Mark Schroder, our Synod president; Phil Hirsch, our district president; Matt Vogt, our mission counselor; all pastors and congregations; and our parish, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: For all families and homes, that one generation may tell to the next the wonderful works of God in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: For our president; our governor; all our leaders; our legislature and Congress; those elected and preparing to begin service to our nation; and our military, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: For all women with child and all mothers with infant children, that they would have joyful fruition and success, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the sick, for those who mourn the loss of loved ones, for an end to the covid pandemic, and for all who stand in need of our prayers, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: For all who commune this day, that they would receive our Lord's body and blood in repentance and faith for the forgiveness of sins, and in the unity of a true confession, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

*(The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years.  
The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" [Numbers 6:27].)*

**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.

**C:** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

### "The People that in Darkness Sat"

Christian Worship #90



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious  
2 To us a child of hope is born, To us a  
3 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -  
4 His right - eous gov - ern - ment and pow'r Shall o - ver  
5 Lord Je - sus, reign in us, we pray, And make us



light have seen; The light has shone on them who long In  
son is giv'n, And on his shoul - ders ev - er rests All  
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The  
all ex - tend; On judg - ment and on jus - tice based, His  
yours a - lone, For you are with the Fa - ther and The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.  
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.  
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.  
reign shall have no end, His reign shall have no end.  
Spir - it ev - er one, The Spir - it ev - er one.

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