

Welcome!
Epiphany of Our Lord
Holy Communion

January 6, 2019

9:30 a.m.

Christ Lutheran Family of Faith
Cottonwood, Minnesota



Epiphany means “manifestation.”

On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles – that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

(Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2018)

GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.
Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.*

Prelude

Please use this time of music to quiet your heart and prepare for worship.

Call to Worship

Choral Call to Worship – “Welcome Now the Winter Morn”

Catalonian Carol, arr. Hanson

Words of Welcome

L: This is the day that the Lord has made,

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Community Announcements and Opportunities to Offer Ourselves

Please stand as you are able.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates us and forms us, who redeems us and calls us, who unites us and sends us.

C: Amen.

P: Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty and loving God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We seek our own way. We divide the body of Christ. In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us. Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts, and everything that we do be filled with faith, hope, and love. Amen.

P: Hear the voice of Jesus: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives." In the name of + Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven and you are released. The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn – "Bright and Glorious Is the Sky" [301] (stanzas 1-3, 5, 6)

Introduction is sung by Mallory Pederson

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise – "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" [310] (stanzas 1 & 4)

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O God,

C: on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading – Isaiah 60: 1-6

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought 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 proclaim the praise of the LORD.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – Ephesians 3: 1-12

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation – “As With Gladness Men of Old” [302] (stanzas 1 & 5)

Gospel Reading

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Pastor Janel Kuester

Hymn of the Day – “I Wonder as I Wander”

**I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ord’n’ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.**

**When Mary birthed Jesus, all in a cow’s stall,
came wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
and high from the heavens a star’s light did fall;
the promise of the ages, it then did recall.**

**If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
he surely could have had it, 'cause he was the king.**

**I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.**

Please stand as you are able.

Profession of Faith (*The Nicene Creed may be found inside the back cover of the hymnal.*)

Prayers of God's People

The congregation responds to the prayer petitions with, "hear our prayer."

Sharing of God's Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please share a sign of God's peace with your neighbors.

Please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

Offering

Choir Anthem – "Coventry Carol"

English Carol, arr. Hanson

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever.
You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with
these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

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.

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the table. Feast on God's abundant life for you.

Please be seated.

Anyone who has communed elsewhere is welcome to commune here.

Those who do not yet commune are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free bread are available upon request.

Please come forward at the invitation of the ushers to receive communion while kneeling or standing at the altar rail, and then return to your seats via the side aisles.

If you prefer to have communion brought to you at your seat, please let the usher know.

Communion Distribution

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we travers afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

**Refrain: Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again;
king forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. (Refrain)**

**Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most High.
(Refrain)**

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
(Refrain)**

**Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
heav'n sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. (Refrain)**

***“The First Noel”* [300]**

***“Arise, Your Light Has Come!”* [314]**

***“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!”* [308]**

Please stand as you are able.

Blessing after Communion

P: Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, that you have fed us at your banqueting table with bread and wine beyond compare, the very life of Christ for us. Send your Spirit with us now, that we may set the captive free, use your gifts to build one another up, and in everything reflect your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

Sending Hymn – “O Lord, Now Let Your Servant” ----- [313]

A: Go in peace. Christ is your light.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Children of all ages and those who are young at heart are invited to come forward and choose an instrument to play during the Postlude music. The congregation is invited to stay and listen.*

Blessing for the Epiphany Journey
The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved,
and shine brightly on your path. Amen.

— Thank You For Serving This Sunday, January 6, 2019 —

Ushers: Shawn Myers (captain), Josh Anderson, Mitch Huso, Greg Lund,
Gary Morken, Will Myers, Sid Olson

Musician: Gwen Arneson **Acolyte:** Jerrika Keleher **PA:** Larry Isaackson

Lector and Assisting Minister: Amy Jo Remmele **Video Camera:** Bev Isaackson

Altar Care: Barb Crouse, Rose Wisdorf **Counting:** Dave Neuman, Tracy Sterner

If you wish to include a 2018 highlight of a CLC ministry in the annual historical report, please provide to Rhoda before January 10th. christlutheran@christcotton.com

Would You Like a Pew or Few? Bring a Crew - It's Up to You! Bring a U-Pew (Haul) for ReMEWval!

When we replace our current sanctuary seating with the new chairs that are scheduled to be delivered later this month or early February, the pews will be removed. If you are at all interested in having one or more for your personal use, please contact Tiffany Teske at 507-828-0458, or talk to Cal Teske at the bank in Cottonwood by January 15th. We have interested people who will be coming to remove those that are not spoken for, so we are glad that they will find a new home and be useful to others! Another church will be the new owner of the pews (They are not being used for firewood).

– This Week: January 6, 2019 –

Today, Sunday, January 6

9 am Fellowship/Refreshments
9:00 Preschool Sunday School
9:30 Worship with Holy Communion
10:45 (approx.) Worship on Cable 180

Monday, January 7

5 pm Worship on Cable 180

Tuesday, January 8

7 pm Christian Education Comm.

Wednesday, January 9

6 pm Mission Possible
6:30 Choir
7:00 Confirmation
7:00 Senior High Hang Out with Vicki

Thursday, January 10

Deadline:
**2018 HIGHLIGHTS FOR ANNUAL
REPORT BOOK to Rhoda**
christlutheran@christcotton.com

Saturday, January 12

Confirmation Retreat at Church
9:00 am. until approx. 4:30 pm
(end time not yet finalized)

Next Sunday, January 13, 2019

9 am Fellowship/Refreshments
9:00 Preschool Sunday School
9:30 Milestones Ministry Remembrance
of Holy Baptism **Worship**
10:45 (approx.) Worship on Cable 180

Financial good news:

Thank you for your generosity! We are happy to share that we ended in the black! Final numbers will be shared at the annual meeting and in the annual report.

It is a joy to walk together in faith.

Beginning Experience of SW MN/Marshall, a peer ministry support group for widowed, separated and divorced people, is offering its "Coping With Life Alone" Series for ten weeks beginning January 14. The Monday night sessions begin at 7:00 at First Lutheran Church on Church and "A" Streets in Marshall. The support group is open to people of all denominations. There is a \$75 fee to cover the cost of materials. If you wish to pre-register or have other questions, contact:

Laurie W: 507-829-4004

wall.laurie33@gmail.com

Prayer Requests

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:6-7 to, “*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*” Your prayers are a gift to those requesting them, and encouragement for one another as we experience challenges, sorrows, or thanksgivings of any kind.

Health Concerns, as well as Others In Our Hearts and On Our Minds:

Craig Ahmann	Bob Bode	Mark Bode
Elaine Elston	Adela Espinoza	Norm Evers
Sue Gropel	Gordy Geistfeld	Jon Hakes
Virginia Isaackson	Pr. Curt Miller	Gretchen Noon
Rodney Olson	Gary Timmerman	Joyce Warnke

All those dealing with illness, addictions, depression, unemployment, under-employment, and any challenges in their lives.

Families of our Congregation.

Pray for Jacob and Kathy Gregoire, Ashton, Derek, Jake
Dustin and Desiree Grunewald, McKenzy, Myha

Independent living/Assisted Living/Care Center Residents. Pray for Shi Aamodt, Irene Evers, LaVonne Fischer, Janet Gniffke, Julie Jaeger, Marietta Jarcho, Lila Mauland, Donna Neuharth, Bobby Olson, Alnora Pederson, Milton Rebers, Ruth Stensrud, Louis Wood

Deaths: Family of Neil Danielson, Rob’s father. Pray for Rob, Shelly, and Families
Family of Mary (VanUden) Bump, Denny (Linda) VanUden’s sister. Pray
for the VanUden Families.

Christ Lutheran Church Location: 126 Front Street (corner of Front and North First on the lake)

mailing address: P.O. Box 166, Cottonwood, Minnesota 56229

Office Phone and Voice Mail: 507-423-5100

www.christcottonwood.org

Find us on Facebook: Christ Lutheran Church Cottonwood MN

Pastor Janel Kuester—507 423 5100; cell 651 726 4003; pstrjanel@gmail.com

Pastoral Asst. Gwen Arneson—507 423 5100; cell 612 280 5987; gwenarneson@yahoo.com

Organist Gwen Arneson—See Pastoral Assistant above

Administrative Asst. Rhoda Schmidt—507 423 5100; cell 507 829 1426;

christlutheran@christcotton.com

Accounting Asst. Melanie Olsen—cell 507 530 2064; melanie.olsen@usbank.com

Custodians Jon & Jeannette Myrvik—cell 507 828 2401; 828 2407;

jeannette.myrvik@schwans.com

jjmyrvik@charter.net