

*the festival of*



*the Epiphany of our Lord*

*Huntersville Lutheran*

*2026 A.D.*



# Huntersville Lutheran

*A Changeless Message for*

*A Changing Community*

8000 Mcilwaine Rd Huntersville, NC 28078

Worship @ 9:00am | Family Bible Hour @ 10:30am

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**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Our service is centered on our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose from the dead so that we would have eternal life in him. God reveals this soul saving message in his Word. We gather to find strength though God's powerful and holy Word. Take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the order of service, readings, and hymns, and fill out the connect card. May God bless our time together this morning.

## **About Our Worship**

The gospel is the good news about what Jesus did to be the Savior for sinners. It is also the power of God—the very thing he uses to work faith in our hearts and transform our lives. Therefore, gospel-centered worship places the gospel in central focus. This order of service is called the liturgy. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Gospel-centered worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children).

## **For Your Convenience**

**Restrooms** are located in the gathering space, to the left of the kitchen. There is also a family restroom located in the classroom

**Cry Room:** If your little one needs some room to move around, head to the back of the sanctuary and you'll find a cry room. You can also go into the Classroom off the gathering space if you need more space.

## **Service Participants**

Rev. Douglas Van Sice, *pastor of Huntersville Lutheran*

Mrs. Michelle Fouts, *pianist*

## **Service Notes | The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord |**

Epiphany is Christendom's second oldest festival; it has been celebrated continuously by the Church for nearly 1900 years. The festival was originally a general celebration of the incarnation of Jesus Christ which included the commemoration of his birth, the visit of the Magi (wise men), and all of Jesus' childhood events up to and including his baptism.

Today, the Eastern Orthodox Church celebrates Epiphany as the festival of Christ's birth, and the Western Church stresses the visit of the Magi. The season of Epiphany (the Greek word for "appearance") celebrates God's revealing or manifesting of Jesus' identity as true God, Messiah, and Savior of the world. Epiphany not only commemorates the fact that Jesus appeared to save us, but that God revealed the identity of Jesus to the world. The season of Epiphany will conclude on February 15<sup>th</sup> with the Festival of the Transfiguration of our Lord.

### **Service Acknowledgments**

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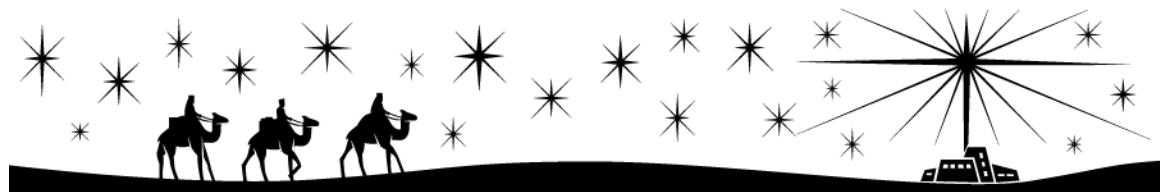
Setting Three from Christian Worship

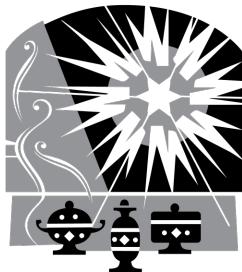
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# ORDER OF SERVICE

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*From beginning to end, the Gospel—the good news of what Jesus did for sinners—is the central focus in our worship. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. This is because the Gospel is the very thing that God uses to transform hearts and eternities, creating saving faith in the heart of the believer. God bless our worship this morning.*

## Opening Hymn

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*  
*Christian Worship #347, vv1-4*

1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your  
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing  
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing

flight o'er all the earth; once you sang cre -  
o'er your flocks by night, God with us is  
vi - sions beam a - far; seek the great de -  
long in hope and fear, sud - den - ly the

a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
sire of na - tions, you have seen the Sav - ior's star.  
Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear.

*Refrain*

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

## Invocation

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

## Epiphany Dialogue

- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
- God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.**
- When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.
- See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples.**
- The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**
- When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.
- The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?**
- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.
- The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."
- We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.**

## Song of Praise

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

*Christian Worship #347, vv5*

5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the  
Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your  
voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One.  
*Refrain*  
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,  
wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

**L** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

**L** 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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Be seated*



# THE WORD

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## First Reading

*Isaiah 60:1–6*

<sup>1</sup>“Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

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

<sup>3</sup>Nations will come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>“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.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- L** Endow the king with your justice, O God,
- C** the royal son with your righteousness.
- L** May he endure as long as the sun,
- C** as long as the moon, through all generations.
- L** May he be like rain falling on a mown field,
- C** like showers watering the earth.
- L** In his days may the righteous flourish
- C** and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.
- L** May all kings bow down to him
- C** and all nations serve him.
- L** Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be given him.
- C** May the kings of Sheba and Seba present him gifts.
- L** May people ever pray for him
- C** and bless him all day long.
- L** Then all nations will be blessed through him,
- C** and they will call him blessed.

## Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-12

<sup>2</sup>Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup>In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup>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, <sup>11</sup>according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup>In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Gospel

*Matthew 2:1-12*

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>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."

<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup>" '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.' "

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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."

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

**L** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

## Hymn of the Day

### How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

Christian Worship #370, vv1-3, 5

Often referred to as "the queen of chorales", this hymn was written by Philip Nicolai in 1597 during the Pestilence of the Black Plague:

"One morning in great distress and tribulation in his quiet study. He rose in spirit from the distress and death which surrounded him to his Redeemer and Saviour, and while he clasped Him in ardent love there welled forth from the inmost depths of his heart this precious hymn of the Saviour's love and of the joys of Heaven. He was so entirely absorbed in this holy exaltation that he forgot all around him, even his midday meal, and allowed nothing to disturb him in his poetical labours till the hymn was completed"—three hours after midday.

It became at once a favorite in Germany, was considered indispensable at weddings, was often sung around death beds, and often sounded by city chimes. As Nicolai was closely connected with Waldeck he formed with the initial letters of his German stanzas the acrostic W. E. G. U. H. Z. W.,  
viz. Wilhelm Ernst Graf Und Herr Zu Waldeck—his former pupil.

1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see  
2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won, true Son of God  
3 O might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved me ere  
5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, let all glad sounds

and hail a - far the light in Ju - dah shin - ing.  
and Mar - y's son, the high - born King of a - ges!  
you had be - gun this an - cient world's foun - da - tion.  
of mu - sic ring in God's high prais - es blend - ed.

O Da - vid's son of Ja - cob's race, my Bride-groom and  
In your blest bod - y let me be, e'en as the branch  
Your Son has made a friend of me, and when in spir -  
Christ will be with me all the way, to - day, to - mor -

my King of grace, for you my heart is pin - ing.  
is in the tree, your life my life sup - supply - ing.  
it him I see, I joy in trib - u - la - tion.  
row, ev - 'ry day till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.



Low - ly, ho - ly, great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious  
Sigh - ing, cry - ing for the sa - vor of your fa - vor,  
What bliss is this! He is liv - ing, to me giv - ing  
Sing out, ring out tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious



Prince of grac - es, fill - ing all the heav'n-ly plac - es.  
rest - ing nev - er till I rest in you for - ev - er.  
life for - ev - er; noth - ing me from him can sev - er.  
cho - sen na - tion; praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, abr., adapt; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

Text and tune: Public domain

# **Sermon**

Matthew 2:1-12

Personal Sermon Notes

## **Apostles' Creed**

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there 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.**

*Be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church**

# THANKSGIVING

**Offering |** *The members of Huntersville Lutheran have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you would like to give digitally, simply scan the QR code or click on the "Give" tab in HLC's app. Guests, you are welcome to participate in supporting our ministry, but certainly do not feel obligated.*



**Connect Card |** *In your service folder, you will find connect cards. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment and fill it out completely to give us a record of your attendance. You may also request prayers be said on your behalf. Please place the connect card in the offering plates as they are passed around.*

## Prayer

**L** Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

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

**L** 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.

## Song of Departure

*As With Gladness Men of Old*  
*Christian Worship #372, vv1-5*



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold,  
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,  
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,  
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;  
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - at - ed light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright,  
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore,  
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
and, when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last  
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down.



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.  
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly King.  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.  
There for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our King!