

ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

9:15AM

JANUARY 2,
2022



Making
the Love
of
Christ
Known

Jeffery Gramza
Senior Pastor

Doug Meyer
Pastor Emeritus

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Vicar*

Announcements

Praise

*God So Loved
Thy Word
How Many Kings*

Prayer of the Day

Children's Sermon

Kids' Praise — *At this time children age 3 - grade 4 are now dismissed, at the parent's discretion, to the Octagon.*



Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her, because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

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

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

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

⁴Lift 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.

⁵Then 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.

⁶A 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.



The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.



Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12



¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “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:

“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 magi 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

Call to Confession and Forgiveness

In the light of Christ, we see the shadows of our world and of our hearts. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

God, I love to worship you when the stars are bright above me. I love to worship you when the sky is clear, and the breeze just right. I love to worship you when the journey to Bethlehem is an easy one.

Unfortunately, as you know, this journey of life, love, and faith is rarely easy.

Now and again, the stars disappear.

My feet get blisters, and the journey is far too long and lonely.

On these days, forgive me for giving up quickly.

Forgive me for allowing the dream to die and for taking the shortcut home.

I want to be as brave as the Magi.

I want to persevere.

Guide my feet. Show me the stars. Show me a new way home.

Amen.

Prayers of the People



Offering

Today, we remember the coming of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. They brought with them their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This morning we gather our financial blessings as our gift to the Christ Child. We, like the Wise men, bring our gifts to honor our Lord and Savior. Thank you for your generous gifts. You are enabling St. John Lutheran Church to tell the story.

Kids' Praise— *Children return to families during the offering*

Offering Prayer

Communion Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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



Communion Song—*Here I Am to Worship*

Distribution of Holy Communion

Approach from the center aisle. Glasses with white grape juice are available for those who cannot receive wine. Deposit the glass in a basket and return by way of the side aisle.

Closing Song

Forever Reign

Benediction



