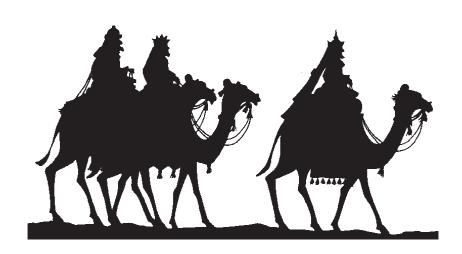


Sunday, December 31, 2023 The Epiphany of Our Lord 10:00 a.m.



"Taking the Right Wrong Turn"

Pastor Steve Albertin

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Call to Worship

Worship the King

Announcements

(indicates please stand)

* Greeting & Passing of Peace

Hymn of Praise

Now the Feast and Celebration

ELW pg 167

Prayer of the Day

Song

Joy to the World

please be seated

Lesson Isaiah 60:1-6

Pew Bible pg 676

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.

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible pg 877

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

Children's Message

Pastor Steve Albertin

Sermon

"Taking the Right Wrong Turn"

Pastor Steve Albertin

- The wise men following a star thought they were taking the RIGHT TURN when they went to the big city of Jerusalem in search of a king.
- However, they quickly found out that they had taken the WRONG TURN. This special king
 was not going to be born in the big city of Jerusalem but in the little town of Bethlehem.
- The surprising location of the birth of this king signals that this king will be different. This king will be partial to the "little ones," to those who have no claims on power and privilege.
- King Herod tries to involve the wise men in an evil plan to kill this newborn king. But God
 has the last word and thwarts the evil plan of Herod. What had seemed to be the WRONG
 TURN is in fact the RIGHT TURN as God intervenes and saves the wise men and the Holy
 Family from impending danger.

- Surprising turns fill this story. What seems like the WRONG TURN is once again the RIGHT TURN as the wise men's gift of myrrh foretells the death and resurrection of Jesus and the triumph of God's love.
- That is how the love of God works. In Jesus God TAKES THE RIGHT WRONG TURN taking on everything that is WRONG with our lives and this world and making it RIGHT.

* **Song** We Three Kings

please be seated

The Offering

* Offertory We Are an Offering ELW 692

* The Apostles' Creed

ELW pg 105

Prayers of the Church: (the congregation joins in speaking the names of those for whom we pray together in unison.)

Wes, Lisa & Sandy, Bill, Alden, Mark, Bob, Alan, Carol, Chris, Tracy, Ashlee, Linda, Jeannie, Joyce, Randy & Mary, Jillian, Haley & Hannah

Communion

The 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.
- P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen!

please be seated

Distribution

All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome at his table. There, they receive him and the new life he offers. Those who eat and drink at his table commit themselves to the care and redemption of all that God has made. If you are not baptized, contact Pastor Albertin to learn how you can receive the great gift God has for you in baptism. Today, you are welcome to join us at Christ's table.

* **Ending Song** Rejoice with Exceeding Great Joy

Benediction

- P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God!