

AUGUSTANA  
where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together  
January 3, 2021

**Welcome** to worship. ...

**Thanks** just like on a Sunday morning when we worship together there are many who make it possible for us to worship together. Look at the end of the video for all those names.

GREETING

As we begin our time of worship we ask that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us.

GATHERING SONG    **“What Child is This?”**        **ELW # 296**

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

CHILDREN’S TIME

Blessing of this house. You can do it in your home as well with a piece of chalk or by tracing with your finger.

**20 + C M B + 21** – what does this mean?

The magi of old, known as

C – Caspar

M – Melchior, and

B – Balthasar

Followed the star to Jesus in the manger: the One who came to dwell among us

20 – two thousand

21 – and twenty-one years ago.

+ - Christ, bless this house,

+ - and remain with us throughout the new year.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. Bless this church community and all who worship and serve here with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction. Through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, 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.

*Word of God, Word of life* **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joy to the world! The Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 2:1-12 **Glory to you O Lord**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They 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." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then 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.' When 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of our Lord; **Praise to you, O Christ**

## MEDITATION

- Dreamers. I'm not sure how you feel about dreamers. In my family growing up to be a dreamer was not a great thing. It had a negative meaning, "You're just dreaming if you think that ..." or "so & so is just a dreamer." It meant that a person was impractical: a flighty flibbertigibbet.
  - But our celebration of Christmas is held within a dream. Or you could also say it is sandwiched in by dreams. On one side there is Joseph's dream telling him not to abandon Mary and her unborn child. And on the other side of Christmas there is Joseph's dream warning him of the deadly danger of Herod.
  - So Joseph was a dreamer. But Joseph definitely was not a flibbertigibbet
- I cannot think of dreamers without remembering that famous speech by Martin Luther King Jr. "I have a dream" that "... one day ... little black boys and little black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers."
- A dream that is not yet fulfilled, but a wonderful vision for the future. If only we could all dream like that.
  - And why not? Why not dream of a time past covid as life becomes more "normal" again. Dream of a time that doesn't go back to the same old, same old. Let's dream of a new wonderful normal when ...
    - No one is hungry. No one needs to come to the church asking for a grocery voucher.
    - When the colour of one's skin or one's sexual orientation or expression does not determine how you are treated
    - When ... Your street address doesn't determine the services you receive
    - When our vision is clear enough to see and name the wrongs enshrined in our way of life
    - When we listen to each other with respect before we make up our mind
    - When politics wasn't about jostling for self-aggrandizement and power .... When politics was about service to the people
    - When our relationship with creation was not for profit
    - When we worked for justice not punishment
    - When suicide and self-harm are no longer a viable option
    - When people of faith are respected and they respect one another

I could go on and on. And you might think "what a wonderful dream" and – at the very same time -- you might also think that is never going to happen. You might think my head is in the clouds. But if it is, I am in good company. The magi who chased a star across the world ... their

heads were definitely in the clouds ... searching. And Joseph the dreamer ... was he crazy? Abnormal? Not in touch with reality?

They were dreamers, but the common denominator in their dreaming was faith. Their heads may have been in the clouds but faith kept their feet on the ground. They were dreamers, but they were faithful ..... and that faithfulness kept them anchored.

Let us be dreamers. And let our faith anchor those dreams to the reality of the world around us ... the needs around us. Faithful dreamers ... that is what we need.

Prayer: O God, you revealed your child --- Jesus – to the world by the leading of a star. Lead us know by faith to know your presence in our lives. AMEN.

HYMN “O Come, All Ye Faithful” # 283 ELW

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest: [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Blessed be the Trinity + one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy. Amen.

Let us confess our sin: God of goodness and lovingkindness,

**We confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through + Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. **AMEN.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us join hearts and voices together in prayer. Each short prayer will end with the words “Hear us, O God” and you can make the prayer your own by responding **“Your mercy is great.”**

Joining our voices with the song of the angels let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. We hold up in prayer today Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of the earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imagination of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm’s way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness especially Elsie, Audrey, Orville and Carol, Hannah, Bruce, Gloria, Logan, William, Marcus, Bishop Gomez, Brodie, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Inger, Anne Jane, Deanna, Ron, Marlene, Martha, and all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts .....*(a pause to offer time to name others)*.

gather all people in your healing embrace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all who live in vulnerable circumstances: the homeless, the unemployed and under employed, those living in outbreak in care homes, correctional facilities, and prisons. We pray for safety for the Alhamad – Wahid family, the Iqbal family and all refugees living in precarious situations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Especially we pray for health care workers, care givers, essential workers, and those who are undertaking the immense task of vaccinating our province, country, and the world. Fill them with compassion and give them the strength and energy to continue their work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for international seminary student Tewodros Gebrehiwot and his family as they prepare to move to Saskatoon in the near future. Be with them as they travel and as they adjust to quarantine and winter in Canada. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith. With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Knowing how God loves us as a Mother and a Father we pray in the words Jesus taught us:

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.

#### BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherd with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day + through the Word made flesh. AMEN.

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. THANKS BE TO GOD

#### SENDING SONG "Bright and Glorious Is the Sky" # 301 v. 1 & 6 ELW

Bright and glorious is the sky, radiant are the heavens high where the golden stars are shining  
 All their rays to earth inclining beckon us to heav'n above, beckon us to heav'n above.

And this star, as bright as day that will never lead astray with its message so appealing is the word of God, revealing Christ, the way, the truth, the life, Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

#### THANKS

Worship Assistants: Sheena, Jayce, and Jayvn Galaura

Musicians: Mik Bickis, Bryan Tastad, Hannah & Elsa Lissel DeCorby

Technician: Bryan Tastad

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