

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of South Hills

*January 4, 2025 // 10:15 am Worship Service
Epiphany*

*The mission of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is to know and praise
Christ, to grow in Christ and to share Christ with others.*



As we gather together for worship today, we remember...

"Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of every people: A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen - Luke 2:29-30

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~PRESERVICE MUSIC

~WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

~INVOCATION

~OPENING HYMN Here I Am to Worship

Verse 1 Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Chorus So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Verse 2 King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

Chorus

Verse 3 And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

Chorus

Tim Hughes
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~CALL TO WORSHIP

A: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

A: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

A: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given and the government will be on his shoulders.

C: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

~CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(our silent confession)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are my nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in through, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your Holy name.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

~HYMN OF PRAISE O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

LSB 395

Verses 1 & 3

~PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

A: O glorious, holy, almighty God,

C: you always have compassion for the many wanderings of humanity. For this reason, you guided the Magi, who lived in a land of dark superstition, to your sacred cradle by the light of the star, that you might enlighten all with the desire of

**knowing you. Enlighten us also with burning love for you,
that we who already know you by the gracious illumination
of Your Word, may cling to you forever. Amen.**

~OLD TESTAMENT *Isaiah 60:1-6 (The Future Glory of Israel)*

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

² *For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;*

*but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.*

³ *And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

⁴ *Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.*

⁵ *Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.*

⁶ *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 bring good news, the praises of the Lord.*

~EPISTLE *Ephesians 1:3-14 (Spiritual Blessings in Christ)*

*For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you
Gentiles— ² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace
that was given to me for you, ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly
places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we
should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined
us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the
purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has
blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the
forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he
lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of
his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the
fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on
earth in him.*

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

~GOSPEL *Matthew 2:1-12* *(The Visit of the Wise Men)*

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

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men[a] from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Please be seated

~CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

~HYMN OF THE DAY

We Three Kings

Verse 1

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain moor and mountain
Following yonder star

Chorus

O star of wonder star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light

Verse 2

Born a King on Bethlehem plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever ceasing never
Over us all to reign

Chorus

Verse 5

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and sacrifice
Alleluia alleluia
Sounds through the earth and skies

Chorus

Gerry Page, John Henry Hopkins Jr.

CCLI Song #4184515

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~MESSAGE

*“Epiphany Blessings in Jesus Christ”
Matthew 2:1-12*

~APOSTLES' CREED

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

~OFFERING

Please stand

~PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

A: In peace, we pray to You, Lord God. For all people in their daily life and work;

C: **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

A: For this community, the nation, and the world;

C: **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

A: For the just and proper use of Your creation.

C: **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

A: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble.

C: **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

A: For the unity of the Church of God.

C: **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

A: We exalt You, O God our King.

C: **And praise Your Name forever and ever. Amen.**

~PRAYERS

**following all prayers, the response will be:*

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

~LORD'S PRAYER

LSB Back Cover

~BENEDICTION

~CLOSING SONG

As With Gladness Men of Old

LSB 397

~POST SERVICE MUSIC



*Thanks for worshiping with us!
See you next week!*