**Worship Plan for Sunday, January 5, 2020 - Epiphany**

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,   
who creates us and forms us,  
who redeems us and calls us,  
who unites us and sends us.  
**Amen.**

Gathered in God’s presence, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty and loving God,

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.  
We seek our own way. We divide the body of Christ.   
In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us.   
Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts,   
and everything that we do be filled with faith, hope, and love.   
Amen.**

Hear the voice of Jesus;  
“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives.”   
In the name of + Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you,   
your sins are forgiven, and you are released.   
The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever. **Amen.**

**Gathering Song** *As With Gladness Men of Old* *(ELW 302 vs. 1-3)*

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all  
 **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Choir Anthem** *Bright and Glorious Is the Sky*

*(The reading is read by the lay assistant)*

**The lesson** Ephesians 3:1-12

*A reading from the Ephesians.*

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you,

and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,

a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:

that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power.

Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,

and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;

so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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

*Please stand to welcome the Gospel.*   
**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Alleluia (ELW p. 171)*

*(The gospel is read by the pastor)***THE GOSPEL** Matthew 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to St. John.  
**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 concludes:*The gospel of the Lord.**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDEN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *We Three Kings*

*(The pastor reads the introduction and the ending,   
the lay assistant reads the indented petitions.)*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, you make your presence known to the church in every land. Give to us a desire and will to support the diverse work of the church throughout the world.   
Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Generous Creator, in you all things came into being and without you not one thing exists. We praise you for the snow and rain that water the earth. Move us to care for the well-being of the work of your hands. Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Savior of the nations, you gather in your care people of every age and ability, from lands near and far. Inspire the leaders of the nations to work for peace within their countries and in all the world.   
Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Saving God, provide for your people who begin this new year in need. Grant shelter to those who are homeless, comfort to all who are lonely, and a strong sense of your presence to those who are sick or in want, (especially…)   
Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Word of truth, your good news of salvation is proclaimed among us. Bless us who proclaim your word in this community, especially teachers, pastors, deacons, musicians, and lectors. Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, your light shines in the darkness and it is not overcome. We thank you for the witnesses who have testified to your light. May their lives continue to inspire us.   
Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.   
**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
 **And also with you.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *This is the Feast p. 169 ELW*

**APOSTLE’S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

On the night he was betrayed,   
Our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying;  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,   
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.   
Do this in remembrance of me.

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come. Be filled with the light and life of Jesus, our Lord.  
 **Thanks be to God.**

**COMMUNION**

Distribution Songs

*Lamb of God (ELW p. 174)  
 I Come With Joy (ELW 482)  
 This Little Light of Mine (ELW 677)*

*(The prayer after communion is read by the lay assistant)***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O Morning Star, fair and bright,  
You have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure.   
Go with us now – today, tomorrow, every day – that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Blessing**

The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path;   
and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,   
be upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Song** *Christ Be Our Light (ELW 715 vs. 1, 2, 5)*

*(The dismissal is given by the lay assistant)***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Be light for the world.  
**Thanks be to God!**