**Worship Plan for Sunday, January 6, 2019 - 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 HYMN** *We Three Kings (WOV 646)*

**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**

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives. And bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** Evening Prayer / Engelbert Humperdinck Isaac Lewis, treble

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

**The lesson** Isaiah 60:1-6

*A reading from the Isaiah.*

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.   
2 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.  
3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.   
4 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. 5 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.   
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 proclaim the praise of the Lord.

*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 Matthew.  
**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, 2asking, “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:

6 ‘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 wise men 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 concludes:*The gospel of the Lord.**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDEN’S MESSAGE**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Come, Beloved of the Maker (ELW 306 vs. 1, 2, 3, 5)*

**SERMON**

**PEACE**

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

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,**  
**maker of heaven and earth,**  
**of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**  
**the only Son of God,**  
**eternally begotten of the Father,**  
**God from God, Light from Light,**  
**true God from true God,**  
**begotten, not made,**  
**of one Being with the Father;**  
**through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,**  
**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary**  
**and became truly human.**  
**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**  
**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**  
**in accordance with the scriptures;**  
**he ascended into heaven**  
**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**  
**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**  
**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**  
**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**  
**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**  
**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**  
**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**  
**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**  
**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

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

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Dwelling in the presence of God with us,   
let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all in any need.

*A brief silence.*

Drawn into the light of God, we pray for the proclamation of the grace of Jesus Christ. Give us courage and boldness to go forth into the world to tell the good news of what God has done.  
Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Drawn into the glory of creation, we pray for the earth. Sustain every living thing with abundant resources, clean water, and sustainable harvests. Help us to steward all that you have provided.  
Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Drawn into the brightness of God’s presence, we pray for the nations of the world. Reveal your compassion and peace for the sake of all who live in the shadow of oppression, violence, and fear.  
Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Drawn into the light of healing mercy, we pray for all who wait for healing and relief of suffering (especially…) Give us hope in the promise of new life where pain and suffering will be no more.  
Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Drawn into the dawn of a new day, we pray for the ongoing reconciliation between people. Make us bold to name sin in our lives and unite us in the promise of forgiveness and mercy.  
Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Drawn into your Story that unites us with you and one another, we pray for the youth and leaders from our congregation and across the synod that are participating in the Lutheran Youth Organization’s Winter Gathering. May this time of learning, connecting, serving, and celebrating the life we share in you, be a blessing to them and through them a blessing to the world.  
Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Drawn into the promise of everlasting light, we pray for those who mourn and give thanks for all the saints who now rest in the brightness of God’s presence (especially…) Make us confident in our worship as we reflect the light of God with eternal praise.  
Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit,   
we commend all for whom we pray, dwelling in the light and hope of Christ, our Savior.   
**Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Almighty Lord, we praise your shining light, your glowing grace.  
From before the earth’s foundation, you loved us and promised us life forever.  
Within the earth’s deep sadness, we laud your great and glorious might.  
Despite our tears and sinning, we sing of the gladness of your mercy.

We praise your Son, our Morning Star, Christ, our diamond bright and treasure dead.  
He is our living Savior who has ransomed us in love.  
He keeps us yours and fails us never- today, tomorrow, and forever.

On the night before his great salvation,   
He 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.

With joy we tell our story.   
**Alleluia!**

We call for your Spirit on us and this meal.   
Refresh our souls with this heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son.   
Nourish us as branches of your tree,  
and enlighten us with your undying flame.

We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son, we exult in the Spirit.  
Transport us in our yearning, and be for us the end and the beginning,   
our purest pleasure, our victorious crown, and never-ending love.  
And so we pray and praise.  
**Amen, amen, amen, amen!**

**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)  
 As With Gladness Men of Old (ELW 302)*

*(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 & OFFERING**

**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** *Rise, Shine You People (ELW 665 vs. 1, 3, 4)*

*(The dismissal is given by the lay assistant)***DISMISSAL**Go in peace. Be light for the world.  
**Thanks be to God!**