**Worship Plan for Sunday, 7, 2018 - Epiphany**

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations,

who gives breath to us all.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence*

Loving God,

**we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways.**

**Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly;**

**we have not spoken or acted at all;**

**we have hurt those closest to us;**

**we have hurt those we have yet to know;**

**we have thought more about ourselves than we ought.**

**Turn us around, and give us a fresh start,**

**so that we can live again as your children. Amen.**

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right.

Even when we have messed up, God puts us together.

God’s love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children.

Hear God say to you now:

Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of + Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE** *This is the Feast (ELW p. 169)*

**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 and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

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

**The lesson 1 Kings 2:1-4**

*A reading from the First Book of Kings.*

2When David’s time to die drew near, he charged his son Solomon, saying: 2“I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, be courageous, 3and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his ordinances, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn. 4Then the Lord will establish his word that he spoke concerning me: ‘If your heirs take heed to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail you a successor on the throne of Israel.’

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand to welcome the Gospel.*

*(The gospel is read by the pastor)*

**THE GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

3In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; 6and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDEN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Bright and Best of the Stars (ELW 303)*

Vs. 1, 3, 4

**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**

As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

You are water that washes us into the communion of faith. Shower us anew with the sense of belonging, and revive our commitment to the visible unity of the one holy catholic and apostolic church. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

You are water that replenishes the earth. Help us see our place in the river of life, and inspire us to seek ways to cool warming tundra and warm cooling tropics.

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

You are water that touches near and distant shores. Bring an end to conflict among the rulers of this earth carried out on land and sea, and provide just and equitable access to water among all people. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

You are water that refreshes parched bodies, minds, and spirits. Accompany refugees fleeing their homes by boat and by foot, heal those whose bodies are weak or fragile, and be near to those whose breath of life is fading. We pray especially for….

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

You are water that flows from countless streams into rivers, lakes, and oceans. Give us vision to see and proclaim in our great diversity the singleness of humanity created in your likeness. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

You are water that enlivens dry bones. Keep us in communion with all the saints who gather at the great and shining river, until at last we see you face-to-face. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Tribes and nations bow down before you, O God. Hear our prayers and praise, and raise us up to be your living body, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** *Jesus Come! For We Invite You (ELW 312)  
 to the tune of Regent Square*

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One,   
the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son, Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which 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 for the 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 for the remembrance of me.”

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in hi death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.  
And teach us to pray…

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**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**

*(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.**

**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** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (ELW 815)*

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

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

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