

Epiphany (Observed) – Sunday, January 9th, 2022 – 9:00 am

Music Today

Mark Gould

AS WE GATHER

Today we consider Jesse's tree, that is, his family tree. His son David kept faithful to God, but succeeding generations wandered away, until only a stump remained. From that stump, a Branch would come: our Lord Jesus, who fulfills all ancient promises. Each week, we hear the story of several ancestors of Jesus - Each story showing God's plan of salvation and how He guided humanity to prepare for His coming. The tradition of the Jesse Tree dates back to the Middle Ages, and derives its name from Isaiah 11:1, "*Then a shoot will spring from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.*" Jesse is the father of King David, and from the family line of David, our Savior came. Today, come and see YOUR place in God's family tree!

Gathering Song *Wie Schon Leuchtet (Prelude on O Morning Star)*

Welcome & Invocation

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Opening Song **O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright LSB 395 1-3**

Confession and Forgiveness (Psalm 80:19; Isaiah 61:1)

Pastor: As God's people today, we confess our brokenness and ask to be restored into a right relationship into our Lord's family.

People: Heavenly Father, we confess that we are bound to sin and cannot free ourselves. Like Adam in the beginning, we have "eaten forbidden fruit" in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have not produced spiritual fruit in living the new life of faith You have won for us. We have acted as if we are not part of your family. For the sake of Jesus' sacrifice on the tree of the cross, grant us Your mercy.

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given to us His only Son to suffer and die for our salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: O almighty God, we come before you today, remembering your ancient words: *A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse. And from His roots a Branch will bear fruit.*

Long before Jesus was born you gave life to a man named Jesse, whose son came Your promised King, David. And from David, you fulfilled your promise of a Savior, your Son Jesus Christ. Dear God, as members of your family today, we thank you that you have a plan for each of us in these last days. Help us to be patient as we wait for Jesus again.

People: Amen.

Reader Carol Wagner

Old Testament Reading

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,^[a]
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.

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading *Ephesians 3:1-12* (God's Marvelous Plan for the Gentiles)

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

² Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading *Matthew 2: 1-12* (The Star of Bethlehem Leads the Magi)

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^[b] 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Song of the Day

The Star Proclaims the King Is Here LSB 399 1, 2, 5

Sermon

The Jesse Tree: The Magi

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Creed: Apostles' Creed

The Second Article

Pastor: With the Church around the world, we confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed, which was formed as the Church expanded to Gentile lands, such as were represented by the Magi who visited the Christ Child. Today we confess the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed and speak together the section of Luther's Small Catechism that explains it.

People: I believe 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.

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Prayers of God's People

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Celebrating that the Lord is revealed in our midst, we pray for an increase of the Word that we rejoice in sins forgiven in Christ alone. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: As the Magi brought their gifts to the place where the child Jesus was, direct us, O Lord, to love the place where Your presence dwells and to cherish the fellowship of faith and love that we enjoy as God's holy people. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Remembering the journey of the Magi as they were led by the star, grant that we be led throughout our lives in ways that lead us to Your presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: On this day of reflection and of celebration, we also make our petitions for the sick, the shut-in, and all who at this time are in need of our intercession that their prayers soon be answered and that they be supported by God's people with care in the name of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: As we bring forth our gifts, grant that we also offer the gift of ourselves and our lives, that we be directed by the Holy Spirit to do the work of God, bringing aid to the poor and hope to the oppressed, working for justice in our communities and being agents of peace in our circles of relationships. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: With gratitude we remember those sisters and brothers in Christ whose earthly journeys have been completed and who now enjoy the promised Sabbath rest. With hope we anticipate the heavenly life that we look forward to sharing with them. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, Hear us on behalf of those in our congregation and all who stand in need:

Local concerns are added by congregational elder here.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Sharing the Peace

Offering We Three Kings

Presentation of Gifts

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto Yourself and use them to Your glory. *[Psalm 145:15, James 1:17]*

People: Amen.

Holy Communion

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *[2 Timothy 4:22]*

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

The Words of Our Lord *[Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25]*

Proclamation of Christ

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *[1 Cor. 11:26]*

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. *[Revelation 22:20]*

Lord's Prayer

[Matthew 6:9–13]

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: 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.

Distribution

As with Gladness Men of Old LSB 397

Announcements

Blessing [Numbers 6:24-26]

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

People: Amen.

Sending Song **Go Tell It on the Mountain LSB 388**

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