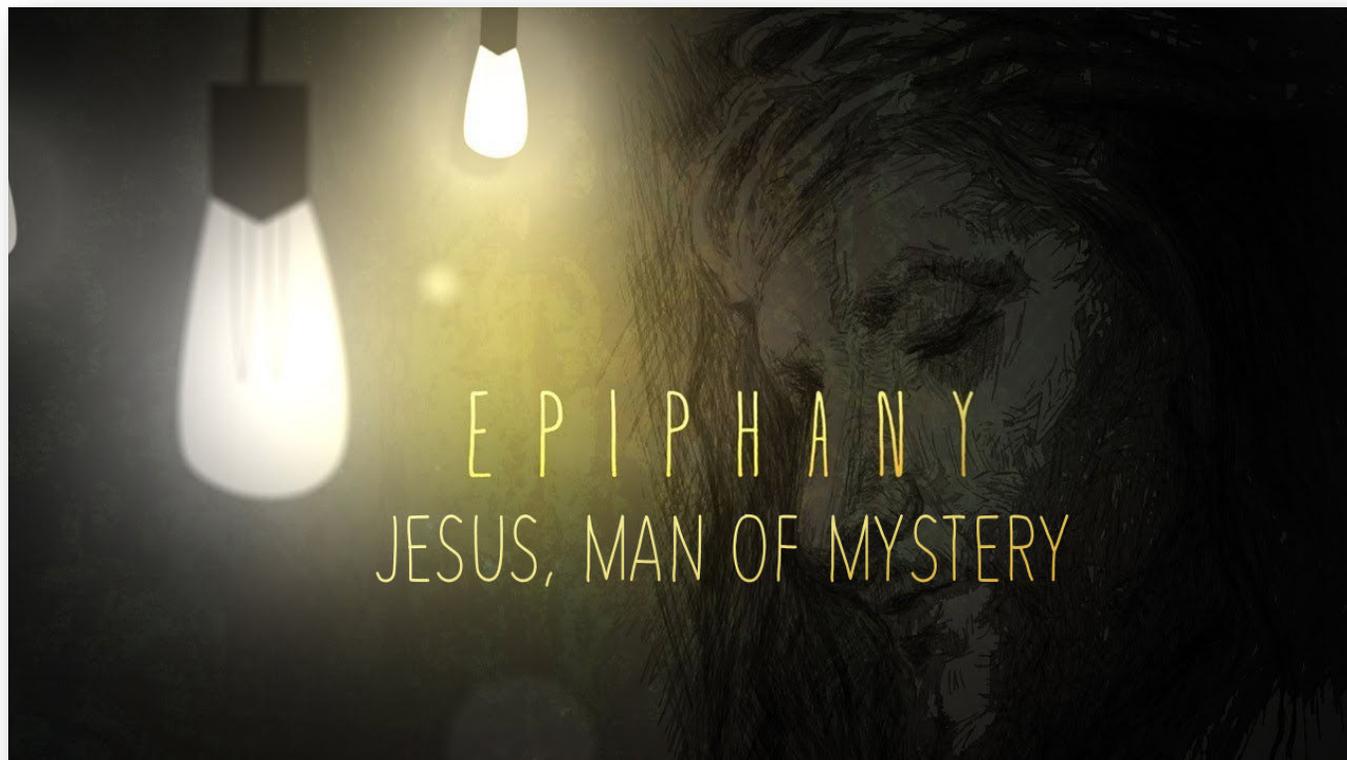


The Season of Epiphany



Advent Lutheran Church

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Phone: 704-549-1555
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“Love God, Serve Neighbor”

February 7, 2021

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

“He Touched Me”

Annette Nolan

Pastoral Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

L: We gather in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: God, your light shines in the darkness, and we confess that sometimes we prefer to hide under cover of darkness, where we are free to participate in injustice, to hurt others and ourselves, to do whatever it takes to get ahead and to operate only in our comfort zone without challenge. We forget that your light of true freedom will shine, calling us to a more excellent way.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: God, you have forgiven us in Christ and freed us by your Spirit. Filled with your life, may our light so shine before others that they may see our good works and glorify you forever.

C: Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, as people came to be near you as you preached and healed, today we come to hear your words, to sing your praises, and to learn what it means to be your followers. Be with us Lord Jesus, in our songs, our prayers, and our meditation. As we come to you today, bless us, that we might continue to be a blessing for others.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31

Pam Rhynes

“Speak, O Lord”

Laura Torrence

Speak, O Lord as we come to You
To receive the food of Your holy word
Take Your truth plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
That will echo down through eternity.

CCLI Song # 4615235. Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

The Gospel

Mark 1:29-39

The Message

Pastor Ward Misenheimer

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged and think my work's in vain,

2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can-not pray like Paul,

3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
 and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

Apostles' Creed

Although the Apostles' Creed as we know it did not have the final form until the 8th-9th century AD, it was developed by the early church beginning around 150 AD. Formed around the Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – the Apostles' Creed is commonly used as an affirmation of baptism.

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.

Prayers of the People of God

L: Sisters and brothers, from the waters of baptism, we have received the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Teach us to yield to the Spirit, who shapes us to more closely embody the life of Jesus Christ and empowers us to reveal his love for the world. May our hands and feet be the hands and feet of Christ as we serve all people and strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

A brief silence.

L: God of all wholeness, you give strength to the powerless and power to the faint; you raise up the sick and cast out demons. Make us agents of healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation.

Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

L: God of all compassion, you call us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs. We pray for all of our sisters and brothers who seek comfort, healing, refuge, rest, peace, wholeness, community, acceptance, and unconditional love.

We especially pray for

- Lizzie Akins
- Trevor Basilice
- Lemont Bell
- Regina Bressler
- Paul Coleman
- Dallas Collins
- Creasy family – Karen, Brian & Hannah

- Eileen Folkerth
- Jennifer Frisina
- Herbert Goerke
- Stephanie Gonzalez
- Mary Jo Gouge
- Dick Kuklantz
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Robert Williams Lewis
- Pat Logan
- Peggy Merritt
- Ray Matthews
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Rick Messina
- Joe Moeller
- Anita Ortiz
- Pattie Quigley
- Richard Schulz
- David Townsend
- Herbert Watson
- Jenny Weems
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams
- Renate Wilson

L: We now pray aloud or in the silence of our hearts for those we wish to name (*give time for community to pray*).

L: We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially, those we name now:

- Emma Fettig, member and mother of Liz Tunnell and grandmother of Emma & Meredith Tunnell
- Robert Bird, father of Carol Riddell and grandfather of Laura Torrence
- David Nance, grandfather of Samuel & Ella Misenheimer
- Charles Barrett, father of Charlene Bakke

By your Holy Spirit, comfort their families, and all who grieve, give peace to those who mourn, strengthen all through the promise of eternal life in Christ Jesus. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

L: God of all healing and care, we pray for all healthcare professionals and relief workers, especially those who find themselves on the frontlines to bring healing, comfort and care to all impacted by the coronavirus. We are grateful for the development of a vaccine and for those who are assisting in making it available. Strengthen, encourage, and empower us to be people of peace in the midst of anxiety, impatience, worry, and dread, as we hunger for life to be normal again. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

L: Gracious God, you have called us through the goodness of your grace to be your hands and do your work, to be your voice and share your words, to bring healing to a fallen world and wholeness to broken lives. Let your light shine through us and light the path for others, so that all may experience your love and share in the joy of your Holy Spirit. Amen

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

Traven Harrington

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Epiphany Blessing

P: May the road that Christ walks to bring justice upon the earth, light to those who sit in darkness, and enduring hope to all creation run through our lives. May we be the road Christ takes.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

“Lord, Let Your Servants Go in Peace” (Song of Simeon)

Traven Harrington

Lord, let your servants go in peace;
we who have long waited.
Fearful with doubt,
we still kept watch in the night.
Now we see your light.

Lord, let your servants go in peace;
we who were rent asunder.
Biased and blind,
we labeled foes who were friends.
Now we make amends.

Lord, let your servants go in peace;
for you have kept your promise.
With our own eyes
we see salvation is won,
born in Christ, your Son.

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