



ST. MARK'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 6, 2023
EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
7:00 PM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The feast of Epiphany ("manifestation") concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people!

GATHERING

*Offerings may be placed in the plate at the entrance to the sanctuary.
The Offering will be brought forward by the usher during the Offertory Anthem.
Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.*

Prelude

"In the Bleak Midwinter"
Tune CRANHAM by Gustav Holst; Organ setting by Allen Orton Gibbs

Welcome

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Gathering Hymn

"As with Gladness Men of Old" ELW 302

DIX

1. As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.
4. Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narr ow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

5. In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing alleluias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt. Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

The congregation may kneel or sit for the Confession.

Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is
marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.

Amen.

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

Have mercy, O God,
**Against you, you alone,
we have sinned.**

**In your compassion,
cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt.**

**Create in us a new heart
and give us a steadfast spirit.
Do not cast us away,
but fill us with your Holy Spirit
and restore your joy within us.
Amen.**

As tender as parent to child,
so deep is God's compassion for you.
As high as heaven is above earth,
so vast is God's love for you.

As far as east is from west,
so far God removes your sin from you,
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God who crowns us
with mercy and love.
Blessed be God forever.

Please stand as able.

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

Let us pray. 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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. ⁶A 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 Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Read responsively

¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

²May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

³May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

⁵May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

⁶May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

⁷In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

¹¹May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

¹²For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

¹³He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

Second Reading Ephesians 3:1-12

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will

enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In 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: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of 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. ⁸Although 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, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so 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. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Read in unison

Alleluia. We have observed his star at its rising, and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

Please stand as able.

The Holy Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

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 of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“They offered him gifts”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“We Three Kings of Orient Are” Stanza 1

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

Text & Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a -

far, field and foun-tain, moor and moun-tain, fol - low-ing yon - der star.

Refrain

Oh, star of won-der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty

bright; west-ward lead - ing, still pro-ceed-ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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.**

Please be seated.

Prayers of Intercession

(Pastor McKenzie, prayers)

The congregation may kneel or sit for the Prayers.

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family. *A brief silence.*

Eternal God, bless the whole church with your grace and wisdom; help us to reveal your Son to the nations. Lead churches and the religions into deeper ecumenical and interreligious relationships of peace, that together, your glory might be revealed among all nations. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Creating God, restore your glory to the earth. Protect fragile ecosystems: rain forests, coral reefs, wetlands, prairies, and shorelines. Guide us to treasure the amazing diversity of animals and plants that share the world with us so that future generations might also know your abundance. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Righteous God, bring the nations into the way of justice and peace. Strengthen those who work for human rights, equality, and the protection of the most vulnerable. We pray for all in public office, that

they may serve all people with integrity and faithfulness. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Delivering God, help us to help those who have no one to help them. Bless all who care for the sick and dying, and transform the systems of this world that enable racism and discrimination so that oppression and violence toward the weak, different or vulnerable might come to an end. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Abiding God, accompany the ministries of this congregation in the coming year. Inspire those who lead worship, teach, visit, pray, feed the hungry, and serve the community. Strengthen our partnerships, and bless all who come to this church seeking life, forgiveness and your love. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Redeeming God, as the saints lived and died trusting in your promises, guide us by their example until we are gathered with them into your eternal kingdom of peace, light and love. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.
Amen.

Peace *(Please stand as able, sharing the peace of the risen Christ.)*
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

(Offerings for the mission of the church, and those in need, may be placed in the plates at the sanctuary entrance)

Please be seated.

Offertory "We Three Kings of Orient Are" Tune by John Henry Hopkins, Jr.
Organ setting by Barrington Pearce

Offertory Hymn *(The offering is brought forward from the Narthex)*
"What Child Is This" ELW 296 GREENSLEEVES

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898; Music: English ballad, 16th cent.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

Please stand as able.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving (*spoken*)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth.

You rescued your covenant people,
led them on all their journeys, and taught them
by the prophets.

You so loved the world that
you gave your only Son, so that
everyone who believes in him may not
perish but have eternal life.

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.

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal,
and make us one in this community of faith
and with your people throughout the world.
Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life,
Word made flesh, Power of the Most High,
now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

Glory to God in the highest!

Come to the table of peace.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Holy Communion will be offered in two ways, by a "Communion Kit" or by wafer and wine in a small cup. Communion will be continuous in front of the freestanding altar. After receiving a "kit" please return via the side aisles to your pew to partake of communion. Please seal used communion utensils in the zip-lock kit bag. The Real Presence of Jesus Christ continues to abide in the bread and the cup, blessing, renewing and forgiving us to lead lives of love, justice and service for others.

Communion Music

Please stand as able.

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray. God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

SENDING BLESSING

God bless you and keep you,
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn "Arise, Your Light Has Come" ELW 314

FESTAL SONG

1. Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.
2. Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.
3. Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

4. Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Dick, b. 1947; Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893, T&M: 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude

“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star”

Dietrich Buxtehude



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie (prayers); musician: Elizabeth (Bibba) Whitener, Assistant
Organist

Parish News

From the pastor -

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore." (Isaiah 9:6-7)

As we celebrate the Nativity of Jesus Christ, we are encountered by the God whose kingdom dwells in the human heart, a kingdom crossing all borders of nation, culture and language. Isaiah points toward a kingdom giving unity to human beings across the globe and across time. In Christ, our time has been forever interrupted by God's eternity. Isaiah's "born for us" reveals that the Messiah's kingdom of peace will be established not in one particular nation or people, but in all nations and peoples.

If you have ever worshipped in another nation or language, you will readily understand that through faith, Jesus Christ is born into the hearts of people all over this world, crossing boundaries and borders, making us all sisters and brothers with Jesus. At Christmas we celebrate a holy mystery that has been, as Isaiah wrote, growing "continually" since Jesus' birth. He seeks to dwell in your heart so that through you, Christ might extend his reign of justice and righteousness further and further across time and space. Your life is the means by which God furthers this kingdom. Christ has come down to earth to raise you to heaven so that you might share God's infinite kingdom of grace and peace with all whom you meet.

A blessed Christmas to you,
Pastor Tim McKenzie
pastortimsmc@gmail.com

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Blessed Epiphany Greetings - As the bright evening star led the Magi to the Christ child, may the light of Christ lead you in 2022 so that you might share the light of Christ Jesus, giving hope to all you meet!

Thank you, Elizabeth (Bibba) Whitener for bringing your musical gifts as our guest organist while Lester Ackerman is away on vacation.

Save the Date! The 2023 Annual Meeting is scheduled for 1/29/2023 following the 10:30 service.

Fundraiser for Nursery Ministry at Brixx, Wednesday 1/11/23 Locations: Brixx Dilworth located at 1801 Scott Avenue AND Brixx Foxcroft 7814 Fairview Road. St Mark's will receive \$4 per adult entrée and \$1 per kid's meal. These funds will go towards replenishing the Nursery Fund. Forms are available in the Gathering Place-the form is required for St. Mark's to receive the funds. Forms are available in the Gathering Place. If you would like a PDF copy emailed to you, please contact the church office.

The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at Mama Ricotta's Italian Restaurant on January 17th at 7:00 PM. Mama Ricotta's is located at 601 S Kings Dr, Charlotte, NC 28204. All people are welcome! Suggestion: bring a friend or neighbor and share the fun. Contact Tom & Judy Tolbert (please call the church office).

ROOM IN THE INN is just around the corner. Until we know what our volunteer base will be, we are concentrating on only the month of February to host 10 homeless men each Tuesday in that month. Volunteers will be needed to supply dinner, breakfast and bag lunches each week, and especially night sitters and van drivers. Please sign up on the posters in the Gathering Place. You can also help by donating men's deodorant.

Stewardship

2023 Stewardship Appeal If you have not done so, please prayerfully consider making a financial pledge of support for St. Mark's in 2023. Your pledge helps St. Mark's ministries of worship, service and fellowship continue over the coming year. Your pledge of support is welcome at any time. Pledge cards are available in the Gathering Place. An online pledge option is also available from our website, or you may use the QR code.

You may use the QR code at left (hover your phone camera to connect) for immediate access to St. Mark's website donation page. Pledges and donations for Altar Flowers may be made using this code also.



2023 Offering Envelopes are in the Gathering Place. If you do not see your envelope box, and would like one, please fill out the form provided and put it in the basket. Hall.

Music Notes

"As with Gladness Men of Old" ELW 302 This popular Epiphany hymn is based on the Gospel lesson from Matthew 2:1-12 for Epiphany Day, and tells of the visit of the Magi. William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898) is the writer of this hymn. He was a marine insurance manager by trade, and fortunately for us, had a second career as a writer of Christmas and Easter carols and other devotional writings, including the carol "What Child Is This" ELW 296. The tune **DIX** was composed by German musician and composer Conrad Kocher (1786-1872), and is also wedded to the great hymn of praise "For the Beauty of the Earth" ELW 879 .



St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting

**1.29.23 4th Sunday after Epiphany
immediately following
the 10:30 am service.**

Thank you for your faithfulness in service
together to Christ at St. Mark's!

St. Mark's Prayer List

Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, Jeff Casella, Paul Davis, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Carol Marion, Vann Milheim, Shirley Larson, Diann Krewson, Mindy Curley, Steve Rach, Oakley Coburn, Stanley Davis, Connie Pope, Arlene Fielding, Anthony Perrini, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Mickey Byrd, Christopher Shirley, Kaoru Otsubo, Joan Love, Tony Ananich, Jon McKenzie, Betty Lentz, Jane Thompson, Kliffia Harman, Sandy Simon, Ingrid Keiris, John Ananich, Sam Temple, Jimmy Schwartz and Greg Bruce.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests (pastortimsmc@gmail.com)

Readings for 1/8/2022,

Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29

The voice of the Lord is

upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

Birthdays

1/6 Sam Temple

1/7 Virginia Stackel

1/7 David Platt

1/8 Diane Thornton

1/9 Michael Mobley

1/10 Steve McCall

1/13 Andrew Abbasi

1/14 Michael Huang



Do you feel like you are in crisis? In Isaiah it is written, "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God." Stephen ministers are here to show the Lord's love and comfort for you in times of trial. If you would like to confidentially speak to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tim (pastortimsmc@gmail.com)

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Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor

pastortimsmc@gmail.com

Lester Ackerman,

Director of Music Ministry, Organist

lackerman2@aol.com

Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator

stmarkselca1001@gmail.com

Jessie Craig, Finance Administrator

saintmarksfinance@gmail.com

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

1001 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207 | saintmarkscharlotte.org | 704.375.9185