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**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Savior Jesus, we thank you for the blessings of the past week and the past year. Assure us through your Word once again that our sins are forgiven and bless us as we praise you. Lead us to faithfulness in all things this week and this year. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** On Christmas Eve the angel told the shepherds, ***"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people"*** (Luke 2:10). One wonders if those words struck those Jewish shepherds as odd. For centuries, God had given special attention to one nation—Israel. Some Jewish religious leaders taught that only members of that special people would be saved. Not according to the Christmas angel! The birth of the Savior was good news for all people.

The Festival of the Epiphany falls every year on January 6th. "Epiphany" comes from a Greek word meaning "reveal." When the Savior was born, he was first revealed to Israelites: the shepherds, Simeon, Anna.

Today we see how the Lord miraculously guided foreigners across countless miles so the Savior could be revealed to them as well. How did the magi respond? ***"They were overjoyed"*** (Matthew 2:10). The Festival of Epiphany is sometimes known as "The Gentiles' Christmas." We Gentiles (non-Jews) rejoice in the good news that this Jewish baby is not just a gift for the Jews. He is a gift for all people—the Savior of the world indeed.

***SERVING GOD, SERVING US:***

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano/Organ: Abigail Ibsch

# Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



## Hymn: As with Gladness Men of Old

CW 372 sts. 1-3



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold,  
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,  
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy cra-dle, rude and bare,



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright,  
there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore,  
so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led by thee.  
so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.  
all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.

Please remain seated.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

**C: Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

M: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

**C: Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature  
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.  
I have not loved you with my whole heart;  
I have not loved others as I should.  
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.  
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins  
with his innocent suffering and death.  
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan's power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **(5pm & 10:30am) Sacrament of Baptism**

*The Rite of Baptism continues at the font at the 5pm & 10:30am services.*

M: The Gospel according to St. Mark: *"People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them."*

*The minister applies water to the person presented for baptism as he says:*

M: Thomas Roy Anderson / William David Heroff, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart T to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

### ***Exhortation to Parents & Congregation***

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that Thomas and William and all the children of our church may remain children of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

**C: Yes, as God gives me strength.**

M: Let us pray.

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received Thomas and William as your own children and made them members of Christ's body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to them and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### ***Prayer of the Day***

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## First Reading

1 Kings 10:1-9

*An African queen visits Israel to test the wisdom of King Solomon. Her visit results in her praising the LORD for his love. The gift of God is for all people.*

<sup>1</sup>When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the LORD, she came to test Solomon with hard questions. <sup>2</sup>Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. <sup>3</sup>Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. <sup>4</sup>When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, <sup>5</sup>the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.

<sup>6</sup>She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. <sup>7</sup>But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. <sup>8</sup>How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! <sup>9</sup>Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD’s eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day: A King on High Is Reigning

Psalm 72B sts. 1, 4



1 A King on high is reign - ing whom end - less a - ges bless,  
4 His name en - dures for ev - er who formed the fer - tile land;



from sea to sea sus - tain - ing his rule of right - eous - ness.  
the fruits of our en - deav - or shall pros - per in his hand.



Be - neath his strong de - fend - ing his peo - ple stand se - cure,  
With prayer and song and sto - ry his prais - es sound a - gain,



whose jus - tice knows no end - ing while sun and moon en - dure.  
in all the earth his glo - ry; so be it, Lord! A - men!

## Second Reading

Acts 13:46-49

*Paul's ministry to the Gentiles was blessed with faith and salvation for many.*

<sup>46</sup>Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. <sup>47</sup>For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

" 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles,  
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

<sup>48</sup>When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

<sup>49</sup>The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

*The Lord miraculously led Magi across many hundreds of miles of difficult terrain, so that they might worship the child who offered the gift of salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

<sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup>" 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

<sup>9</sup>After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Be seated.*

## Children's Devotion

### Hymn: How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

CW 370 sts. 1-2, 5



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star!      The na - tions see  
 2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won,      true Son of God  
 5 Lift up the voice and strike the string,      let all glad sounds



and hail a - far      the light in Ju - dah shin - ing.  
 and Mar - y's son,      the high - born King of a - ges!  
 of mu - sic ring      in God's high prais - es blend - ed.



O Da - vid's son of Ja - cob's race,      my Bride-groom and  
 In your blest bod - y let me be,      e'en as the branch  
 Christ will be with me all the way,      to - day, to - mor -



my King of grace,      for you my heart is pin - ing.  
 is in the tree,      your life my life sup - ply - ing.  
 row, ev - 'ry day      till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.



Low - ly, ho - ly, great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious  
 Sigh - ing, cry - ing for the sa - vor of your fa - vor,  
 Sing out, ring out tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious

Prince of grac - es, fill - ing all the heav'n - ly plac - es.  
 rest - ing nev - er till I rest in you for - ev - er.  
 cho - sen na - tion; praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

## Sermon

Based on Matthew 2:1-12

*“Christmas light and Epiphany gifts”*

# THANKSGIVING

## Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**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 is seated at the right hand of God the  
 Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Offering



 **Connect Card**

Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



 **Give Online**

Please stand.

# Prayer of the Church

## Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## Hymn: Angels From the Realms of Glory

CW 347 sts. 1, 3, 5



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your  
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er  
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the



flight o'er all the earth; once you sang cre -  
vi - sions beam a - far; seek the great de -  
Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your



a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
sire of na - tions, you have seen the Sav - ior's star.  
voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One.



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,



wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

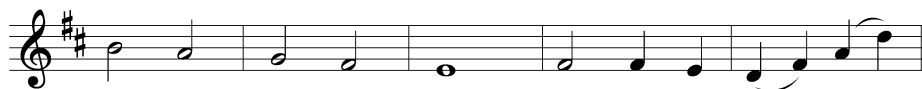
The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C: Amen.

## Hymn: Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun CW 380 sts. 1, 5



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring wor - ship and



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
hon - or to our King; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

## WELS Connection

### Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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### Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

All are invited to enjoy fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday morning, children ages 3yrs to 6th grade are invited to learn more about Jesus in Sunday JAM, starting at 9:15am in the Kindergarten room. Adult Bible study begins at the same time in the fellowship hall downstairs.

### For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Epiphany Moments: Baptism is the Cure for an Identity Crisis

Bible Readings: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Hymns: 379, 377, 679, 692

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

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## FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help!

Please take note of a few helpful things:

- ✦ Restrooms with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ Salem members give an offering to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

## FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live into the room.
- ✦ Children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the weekly children's message. Parents are welcome too!

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God  
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may  
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

