



New Life Ev. Lutheran Church

Lake Zurich, IL

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

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The Epiphany of Our Lord (Observed) **January 9, 2021**

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entryway of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the basement of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entryway. Also, refreshments are served in the basement after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system that is wired directly to the fire department.

<p><u><i>Before Service Prayer:</i></u> It is not new or strange, blessed Jesus, that sinners should want to see You and bring their gifts of gratitude to You. The Wise Men did it many years ago. Give me such a grateful heart also. Let me carry the message that You have showed Yourself as Savior. In this season, warm my heart through the power of Your Word, that I may witness to Your grace and confess You before the world as the only Savior from sin. Let the Gospel be the bright beacon that leads beyond Bethlehem to the very home You have promised to all who receive You in faith. Amen.</p>
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Today's Theme: This week Americans have been bombarded with re-runs of a riot that took place at our nation's capital one year ago on January 6, 2021. January 6 for Christians will always be the anniversary of something else, not the invasion of rioters into our nation's capital, but the visit of the magi to Bethlehem. January 6 will always be the Epiphany of Our Lord. Today we hear how the mysterious Wise Men from the East are led by the Lord to follow the star of wonder to the everlasting, eternal Light. Jesus shines the brightness of heaven into the darkness of their hearts, and they respond with gifts of honor and praise. Jesus does the same for you today as you receive His Word and Sacrament. Dispelling the darkness of sin, He covers you with the light of His presence and invites you, as He did the Wise Men, to respond to Him in honor and praise.

Pastor's Welcome

Opening Hymn: **CW 356** "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"

Invocation and Opening Verses

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May desert tribes bow down before Him and His enemies lick the dust!

People: May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render Him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

Pastor: May all kings fall down before Him, all nations serve Him!

People: For He delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper.

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

People: From oppression and violence He redeems their life, and precious is their blood in His sight. (Psalm 72:9-14)

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,

People: and thick darkness the peoples; Isaiah 60:2

Pastor: Therefore, let us call out to Christ Jesus, our source of Light and forgiveness.

People: Shine on our darkness, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.

People: Forgive us, dear Lord.

Pastor: For sinning in our thoughts,

People: forgive us, dear Lord.

Pastor: For sinning in our words,

People: forgive us, dear Lord.

Pastor: For sinning in our actions,

People: forgive us, dear Lord.

Pastor: Through Your sacrificial death on the cross,

People: forgive us, dear Lord.

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. (Isaiah 60:1)

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. Therefore, 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.

C: Amen.

Pastor: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord. (tune, old CW 53)

**What star is this with beams so bright, More lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn king, Glad tidings of our God to bring.**

**'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, "From Jacob shall a star proceed";
And lo! the eastern sages stand, To read in heav'n the Lord's command.**

**O Jesus, while the star of grace Impels us on to seek your face,
Let not our slothful hearts refuse The guidance of your light to use.**

**To God Creator, heav'nly light, To Christ, revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit blest we raise An endless song of thankful praise!**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Wise Men of old.
Guide us also to Him, the Light of the world, and lead us to respond in worship and praise; through the same
Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

The First Lesson: ISAIAH 60:1-6 (Nations shall come to the light of the Lord.)

¹ "Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

² See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and His glory appears over you.

³ Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ "Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.

⁵ Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.

⁶ Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD. (NIV 2011)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Second Lesson: **Ephesians 3:1-12** (*Hidden for ages, the mystery of the Gospel is now revealed.*)

¹ 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. (NIV 2011)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclimation (read by the pastor): Alleluia. We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him. Alleluia. (Matthew 2:2b)

Stand

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

The Gospel Lesson: **Matthew 2:1-12** (*The Wise Men follow the star and come to worship Jesus.*)

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² 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."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ 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. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "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."

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ 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."

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. (NIV 2011)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

The Hymn of the Day: "We Three Kings"

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a -
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a -
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri -

far, field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
gain; king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
nigh; prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
fice; heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

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!

The Sermon

Nicene Creed (*Responsively for Christmastide*)

Pastor: We believe in God,

People: the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

Pastor: We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

People: 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.

Pastor: For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven,

(Silence for meditation.)

Pastor: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,

People: and became fully human.

(Silence for meditation.)

Pastor: For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

People: 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.

Pastor: We believe in the Holy Spirit,

People: the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Offering

The ushers will gather the offering which will then be placed on the Lord's Altar. Offerings can also be given electronically by using your smart phone and the QR code which takes you to the donation part of New Life's website.



The Offering Hymn: CW 87 (vs 1,3) “Hail, O Source of Every Blessing”

**Hail, O Source of ev’ry blessing, Father of our human race!
Gentiles now, Your grace possessing, In Your courts obtain a place.
Grateful now, we fall before You, in Your church rejoice to live,
See Your glory and adore You, Thankful for the grace You give.**

**Hail, O all inviting Savior! Gentiles now their off’rings bring,
In Your temples see Your favor, Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.
May we, body, soul and spirit, Live devoted to Your praise,
Glorious realms of bliss inherit, Grateful anthems ever raise.**

The Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For the peace of the whole world, that wars cease and that people of every nation find lasting, perfect peace in Jesus, the Prince of Peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, let Your light shine upon all nations.

Pastor: For those who profess faith in Jesus Christ, here at New Life and in every corner of creation, that the journey of the Wise Men inspires us to follow the light of the Gospel and spread the Word of salvation throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, let Your light shine upon Your Church.

Pastor: For those who lead and guide us in our congregations, schools, colleges, and seminaries, that they be strengthened in their service to the Church in honor and praise to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, let Your light shine upon Your servants.

Pastor: For those who bring their tithes and offerings to this altar that, like the gold, frankincense, and myrrh of the Wise Men, these gifts be pleasing in God’s sight and provide many blessings to His Church, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, let Your light shine upon all who give.

Pastor: For those who lay down their lives for their fellow men and women, including first responders, members of law enforcement, doctors and nurses, and those who wear the uniform of our country, that they take shelter in the arms of our Savior, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, let Your light shine upon those who sacrifice their lives.

Pastor: For those who are sick and hospitalized, shut-in and homebound, and for all who are sick in heart, mind, and body, *especially for those suffering from Covid 19 during this most recent wave of infections*, that their lives be touched by our Father’s healing mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, let Your light shine upon all those who suffer.

Pastor: For these and all other prayers and intercessions we have, that the petitions of our hearts may be known to the One who knows and loves us all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, let Your light lead us to You. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

The 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.

The Sacrament

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is good and right so to do.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose birth was announced by a star seen by the Magi, whose coming was foretold in Scripture and followed by those Wise Men, and who was worshiped by them with gifts and great joy. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**O holy, holy, holy
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven
In countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us,
Lord God of hosts on high,
And in Your grace and mercy
Receive our fervent cry.**

**Hosanna in the highest!
How truly blest is He
Who in God's name is coming
To set His people free!
He comes to bring salvation
And with His blood outpoured,
Deliver us from bondage—
Hosanna, mighty Lord!**

Word of Institution (spoken by the pastor)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.**

Our Communion Practice

New Life Lutheran Church practices “close communion.” We ask that only members of New Life or other WELS or ELS churches partake of the sacrament. We ask our visitors to please respect our communion practice.

Distribution Hymn CW 370 “How Lovely Shines the Morning Star”

Song of Simeon

**O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in peace, assured:
For I have seen Your promised
Incarnate, saving Word—
A light that will enlighten
All gloom where Gentiles dwell;
The brilliant, crowning glory
Of those in Israel!**

**All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever three in one;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God’s triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

The Prayer for Peace

Pastor: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. Trusting in Your gracious forgiveness, we pray that we see You accompanying us each day, follow where You lead, and give You praise and worship in all that we do and say; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

The Benediction (Isaiah 60:1)

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

People: and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

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. (Numbers 6:24–26)

People: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: CW 372 “As With Gladness Men of Old”

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Bauer / Spangle

Today—The Epiphany of our Lord (observed)

Worship Service at 9:30 AM

Sunday School 10:45 AM

No Adult Bible Class / Extended Fellowship Time

No Confirmation Class

Monday—Preschool resumes

Tone Chime Choir rehearsal at 7:00 PM

Tuesday—Branch Connection at 4:30 PM

Thursday—Green Team at 6:30 PM

Friday—No Men's Bible Class

Next Sunday—Worship Service at 9:30 AM

Sunday School & Bible Class at 10:45 AM

Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

FELLOWSHIP

A new fellowship sheet has been posted. If you'd like to bring something to eat and drink after the service on Sunday, use the sign-up sheet to reserve a Sunday.

OUR WORTH TO HIM—DEVOTIONS FOR CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Devotion booklets which focus on the importance of worship are now available and can be picked up off the table in the entryway.

REV. RADUNZEL

Thanks to Pastor Steven Radunzel for leading us in worship today. Pastor Radunzel is semi-retired, still serving the people of Immanuel in Waukegan.