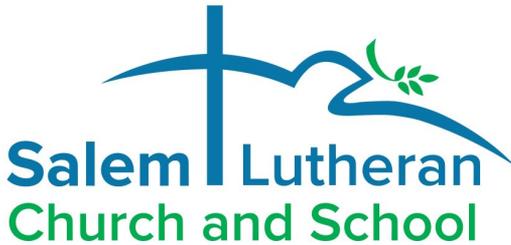




**Love's pure light beams
from thy holy face**

Epiphany



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Epiphany Observed

*Christ the Savior is Born: Love's Pure Light
Beams from Thy Holy Face*

Welcome! 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: Light of the world, call the nations to yourself by the power of your Holy Spirit that we may be led hand and hand before your throne to bow down and worship you. Grant us the great joy of the Magi as we wonder over your majesty and grant the Gospel may shine through us so we may share in the glorious task of sharing the unsearchable riches of Jesus.

THEME OF THE DAY: The Twelve Days of Christmas are the days between Christmas Day and January 6. What is special about January 6? It is the day when the Christian Church celebrates the Festival of the Epiphany. Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning "reveal." When the Savior was born, he was first revealed as love's pure light to Israelites: Mary, Joseph, the shepherds. Today we see the Lord miraculously guiding foreigners across countless miles so the Savior's holy face could be revealed to them as well. The Festival of Epiphany is sometimes known as Christmas for the Gentiles. We Gentiles (non-Jews) rejoice in the good news that this Jewish baby is a gift for all people, Christ the Savior of the world.

WORSHIP SERIES: "Silent Night" was written originally in German by Joseph Mohr, with music composed by Franz Gruber. The carol was first performed on Christmas Eve in 1818 at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria. Legend says the church organ was broken, prompting Gruber to compose a simple guitar accompaniment. Subsequently accompanied by many instruments and translated into many languages, the text paints the picture of the incarnation. The last phrase is repeated, so in the second stanza we hear it twice: "Christ the Savior is born!" Every word of that phrase is significant, and every line of the Christmas carol describes a Bible truth. We use the beloved hymn to ponder the profound message of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Worship Leader: Pastor JonAlden Pedersen

Flautist: Lydia Wolfe

Organ/Piano: Robyn Stoller

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Three



Hymn: What Child Is This

CW 344



1 What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox - en now are
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing, whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the
own him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne him. Raise, raise the



Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Please stand.

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

Congregation: Amen.

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

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: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,". The score ends with a double bar line.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
 us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus
 Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
 God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
 and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.
 C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; 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

Isaiah 60:1-6

The prophet foretold that one born King of the Jews would draw kings from distant nations to the light of his glory.

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

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

³Nations 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.

⁵Then 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.

⁶Herds 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.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day: Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Psalm 72E



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
2 He comes with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
3 Kings shall bow down be - fore him and gold and in - cense bring;
4 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
to help the poor and need - y and bid the weak be strong,
all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing.
from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark-ness turn to light
To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend,
The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;



to take a - way trans-gres-sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
whose souls, con-demned and dy - ing, are pre-cious in his sight.
his king-dom still in-creas-ing, a king-dom with - out end.
his name shall stand for - ev - er—that name to us is Love.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

Paul explains that people from all nations are united as equals in the Savior's kingdom of grace.

²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which 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. ⁶This 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.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although 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, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

¹⁰His 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, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2:2



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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. **Refrain**

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Magi from the east were the first in a long line of Gentiles who would join Israel in worshipping Jesus as King.

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

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

⁴When 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.”

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

⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And 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, 3, 5



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see
3 O might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved me ere
5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, let all glad sounds



and hail a - far the light in Ju - dah shin - ing.
you had be - gun this an - cient world's foun - da - tion.
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
Your Son has made a friend of me, and when in spir -
Christ will be with me all the way, to - day, to - mor -



my King of grace, for you my heart is pin - ing.
it him I see, I joy in trib - u - la - tion.
row, ev - 'ry day till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.



Low - ly, ho - ly, great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
What bliss is this! He is liv - ing, to me giv - ing
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.
life for - ev - er; noth - ing me from him can sev - er.
cho - sen na - tion; praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

Seek the Glory of the Lord

Please stand after the sermon.

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.**

Be seated.

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.

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: As with Gladness Men of Old

CW 372 sts. 1, 3-4



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold,

3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy cra-dle, rude and bare,

4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day keep us in the nar-row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright,

so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,

and, when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led by thee.

all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.

where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy fellowship in the entry between services.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Identity Revealed: Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One

Bible Readings: Isaiah 42:1-7, Acts 10:34-38, Matthew 3:13-17

Hymns: 384, 377, 667, 379

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

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.**

