



**Liturgy of the Word**  
**The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ**  
**Sunday, January 3, 2021**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**Officiant:** Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People:** And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**

**Officiant:** Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

**Officiant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Officiant:** Let us pray.

**COLLECT FOR THE EPIPHANY**

**Officiant:** O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**THE LESSONS**

**The First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6**

**Reader:** Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will

appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift 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. Then 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. A 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.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**The Psalm for Today: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14**

**Reader:** Give the King your justice, O God, \*

*People:* and your righteousness to the King's Son;

**Reader:** That he may rule your people righteously \*

*People:* and the poor with justice;

**Reader:** That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*

*People:* and the little hills bring righteousness.

**Reader:** He shall defend the needy among the people; \*

*People:* he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

**Reader:** He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*

*People:* from one generation to another.

**Reader:** He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*

*People:* like showers that water the earth.

**Reader:** In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*

*People:* there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**Reader:** The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \*

*People:* and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

**Reader:** All kings shall bow down before him, \*

*People:* and all the nations do him service.

**Reader:** For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \*

*People:* and the oppressed who has no helper.

**Reader:** He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \*

*People:* he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

**Reader:** He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \*

*People:* and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

**The Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12**

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

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

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**ANTHEM: "Earth has many a noble city" Hymn 127**

**Susan Hollinger**

**Officiant:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

**Matthew 2:1-12**

**Officiant:** In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "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." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: `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.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then 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." When 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Officiant:** The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**SERMON**

**The Rev. Dr. Laurence K. "Larry" Packard**

**NICENE CREED**

**Officiant and People:** We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, 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. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; 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. We believe in the

Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.*

## THE PRAYERS

### Prayers of the People, Form III

**Reader:** Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

**People:** That we all may be one.

**Reader:** Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**People:** That your Name may be glorified by all people.

**Reader:** We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**People:** That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

**Reader:** We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**People:** That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

**Reader:** Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**People:** That our works may find favor in your sight.

**Reader:** Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**People:** That they may be delivered from their distress.

**Reader:** Give to the departed eternal rest;

**People:** Let light perpetual shine upon them.

**Reader:** We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**People:** May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

**Reader:** Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

**(Moment of Silence)**

### Prayers for those on Our Prayer List

**Officiant and People:** Most gracious Father, we ask your blessing upon our homes and families wherever they may be. May all whose journeys lead them through our doors and wherever our travel may take us in the New Year be blessed with the Light of the Christ Child. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and grant us good health, generosity of spirit, a joyful heart, and abiding peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### Prayer for the Church Universal

**Officiant and People:** Gracious Father, we pray for thy holy catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in any thing it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior. *Amen.*

### **Prayer for the Church Of Our Redeemer**

**Officiant and People:** Lord Jesus, we pray that you will give us ears to hear, hearts to love, and wills devoted to serve; that in the days to come this congregation may be known, not for our glory, but for yours alone – a congregation of people who know the Lord; that this place may be an oasis, a place where people come to find out about you, where lives are straightened out and made whole, where people find the peace that passes understanding. Give us, we pray, a heart to desire these things above all else. We pray through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

**Officiant:** Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Officiant and People:** Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

**Officiant:** Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Officiant and People:** 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, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **THE BLESSING**

**Officiant:** O God who by the leading of a star brought the Maji to the Christ Child, Grant that we might follow in his footsteps to shine the light of the Gospel into all the world. And may the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and those you love this day and forever more. *Amen.*

### **DISMISSAL**

**Officiant:** Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## LET US PRAY

If you have a Prayer Request, please email your request to our Prayer Chair, Bonnie Flippo at [msflip925@aol.com](mailto:msflip925@aol.com). You may also contact the office by email [redemeraldie@gmail.com](mailto:redemeraldie@gmail.com) or phone (703) 327-4060. Prayer Requests will be given to the Prayer Team so that they may pray for those in need. If you would like to include their name on our public prayer list, please let us know – only the name will appear on the public prayer list. If your request requires a more private nature, please contact Rev. Larry Packard by email [l.packard@verizon.net](mailto:l.packard@verizon.net) or phone (703) 425-8315.

### “For those whose concerns are known only to God”

All Those Afflicted by the Virus and  
Those Who Care for Them  
Bonnie Flippo  
Martin, Kristin & Family  
Tom, Resha & Bennett  
Tom's Co-Workers  
Don & Chris  
Bob Stewart  
Alan White  
Fred & Ginny Warren  
Mary Murray  
TJ Hill  
Russell & Lula  
Bishop Susan Goff

Kathy  
Candi & Taylor  
The Fairweather Family  
Tyler Gore  
Gwenivere Black  
Barbara Pavone  
Nettie Stevens  
Evan Hansen  
The Rollins Family  
Liam Ferguson  
The Pisciotta Family  
Church of Our Redeemer  
Church of Our Redeemer Vestry Members

#### Serving Our Country

Amity Hess  
All First Responders  
All Front Line Workers  
All Hospitals and Emergency Rooms Workers

#### Our Children, Our Schools, Our Neighbors, The Unemployed

O Lord, we come to you on behalf of those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work.  
Help us use our public and private wealth that they may find employment  
and receive just payment for their labor; this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord. *Amen.*