



**Worship for Sunday, January 3, 2021 - 2nd Sunday of Christmas/Celebration of Epiphany
St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church
Greendale, WI www.ssmelca.org**

Introduction to the day

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

WELCOME

PRELUDE - "How Lovely Shines the Morning Star" *arr. Johann Pachelbel*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C: Amen

L: Together let us honestly and humbly confess
that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Loving and forgiving God,

**C: we confess that we are held captives by sin.
In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.
We have not welcomed the stranger:
we have not loved our neighbor:
we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God.**

**Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

L: People of God, hear this glad news:
by God's endless grace
your sins are forgiven, and you are free-
free from all that holds you back
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
May you be strengthened in God's love,
† comforted by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

OPENING PRAYER - Bishop Elias Kotoi Nasari

GOSPEL: John 1:[1-9] 10-18 *(Bishop Elias Kotoi Nasari)*

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

MESSAGE - Bishop Erickson & Bishop Kotoi

HYMN OF THE DAY - "Once in Royal David's City"

CREED *(Please stand)*

L: With the whole church

C: **We affirm that we are made in God's image, befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

L: With people everywhere

C: **We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

L: With all creation

C: **We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life, the unfolding purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNOD

Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER

C: **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.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION - "Oh, How Good It Is" *Used with permission from the Luther College Nordic Choir*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING PRAYER - Bishop Erickson

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE - "As with Gladness Men of Old" *arr. Henry Markworth*

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KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER

Melissa Cooper, Joyce Gagliano, Terry Gillespie, Greg Guiliani, Sue Herman, Sue Jarchow, Lynda Johnson, Ken & Carolyn Kahl, Vic & Sandy Peterson, Teri Peterson, Patrick Rafalski, John Rech, Joan Retzlaff, Dean Rockstad, Rob Rutzen, Richard Sontvedt, John Winter.
The Burns Family at the death of Joanne Burns.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Roberta Henrichs, sister-in-law of Joan Retzlaff	Dawn Salopek, sister of Karen Miller
Laurence Freemont, friend of SSM	Janet Heino, great aunt of Stephanie Falksen
Katie Stull, granddaughter of Phil & LaVerne Morgan	Tinsley Marie, great granddaughter of Sue Herman
Jane Janicki, sister of the Winter Family	Cameo Abifarin, friend of Julie Herman
Jerelie Caston, daughter of Joan Retzlaff	Cathy & Mark Kossow, friends of Lynda Johnson
Nancy & Mike Andritsch, sister/brother-in-law of Barbara & Dan Davies	Tippecanoe's "Larry under the bridge", friend of the Homeless
Josh Knapp, friend of Amy Billman	Katie Manzeck, friend of Carol Manning
Linda Radike, friend of Julie Herman	Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski
Karen Stolz, neighbor of Julie Herman	Jon Kowalewski, husband of Susan Kowalewski
Roger & Kathy Blanchard, cousin of Bob Lieske	Lauryn Ramintho, great-granddaughter of Karen Miller
Billy Waters, husband of Darlene Waters & Stepdad of Lori Salas	Lucy Copeland, granddaughter of Dianne Niese
Daniel Kilimann, son of Joy Kilimann	Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese
Carson Wudtke, grandson of Dan & Barb Davies	Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt
Sharon West, friend of Lynda Johnson	Maria Hill, friend of Lynda Johnson
Ted P., brother-in-law of Gail Jakus	Ann Scorzynski, friend of LaVerne Morgan
Jay Lessing, friend of LaVerne Morgan	Kristin White, daughter of Sue Herman
Jeanne Jimenez, daughter of Shirley Rau	Laura Sussman, mother of Kimberly Carroll
Cindy Molter, mother of Fred Ankebrant	Louie Baumgartner, son-in-law of Bob Lieske
Mark Molter, uncle of Fred Ankebrant	Sharon Maschke, sister-in-law of Pam Maschke
Ashton Miller, nephew of Jenny & Kurt Koeff	Finn Morgan, great-grandson of Shirley & Bob Lieske
Terry Betchner, friend of Dianne Niese	Tim Ingram, grandson of Carole & Ron Ropel
Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt	Denise Hajos, friend of Kelly Sachse
Tom Ervin, former father-in-law of Shelly Rosenstock	Sandy, sister of Kevin Ernst
The Lynn Gillen Family, granddaughter to Fred & Carol Mueller	Bonnie, friend of Kurt & Jenny Koeff

Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others