

Elstad/Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish
The Feast of the Epiphany
January 3.2021

*Please consider sending your offering by mail to either Jennifer Nepstad (Elstad) or Karen Bakken (Highland Prairie).

Prelude

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

L: In the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

L: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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 neighbor as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

Opening Hymn "God, Whose Almighty Word"

God, whose almighty word
Chaos and darkness heard
And took their flight:
Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the gospel day
Sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light.

Christ, who came to bring,
On your redeeming wing,
Healing and sight;
Health to the troubled mind,
Sight where illusions blind;
Oh, now to humankind
Let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,
Life-giving, holy dove,
Speed forth your flight;
Move on the water's face
Bearing the lamp of grace,
And in earth's darkest place
Let there be light.

Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might:
Boundless as ocean's tide,
Rolling in fullest pride,
Through the earth, far and wide,
Let there be light.

Greeting

L: 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.

Kyrie

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

C: O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Lesson

Isaiah 60.1-6

Psalms 72.1-7, 10-14

Second Lesson

Ephesians 3.1-12

Gospel Acclamation (spoken by all)

"Alleluia! Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!"

Gospel

Matthew 2.1-12

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "Bright and Glorious is the Sky"

Bright and glorious is the sky,
Radiant are the heavens high
Where the golden stars are shining.
All their rays to earth inclining
Beckon us to heav'n above,
Beckon us to heav'n above.

On that holy Christmas night
Through the darkness beamed a light;
All the stars above were paling,
All their luster slowly failing
As the wondrous star drew nigh,
As the wondrous star drew nigh.

Sages from the east afar,
When they saw this wondrous star,
Went to find the king of nations
And to offer their oblations
To the child, the newborn king,
To the child, the newborn king.

Him they found in Bethlehem,
Yet he wore no diadem;
There they saw a maiden lowly
With an infant pure and holy
Resting in her loving arms,
Resting in her loving arms.

Guided by the star, they found
Him whose praise the ages sound.
We too have a star to guide us,
Which forever will provide us
With the light to find our Lord,
With the light to find our Lord.

Nicene Creed

**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 our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who 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.**

Prayers of the Church
Lord's Prayer
Announcements

Benediction

Closing Hymn "Rise, Shine, You People!"

Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
Our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
With grace unbounded.

See, how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
Now are forgiven.

Come, celebrate; you banners high unfurling,
Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
Of Jesus' glory.

Tell how the Father sent his Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
God's new creation.

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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Announcements

7th and 8th grade confirmation instruction is on Christmas break through the rest of December 2020. We will meet again on Wednesday, January 13th, 2021, @ Elstad Church. A reminder will be sent to class members on Monday, January 11th, 2021.

Tomorrow, Monday, January 4th, parish leadership will be discussing proposals regarding how worship can be offered safely as we move into the rest of January 2021 and beyond. Information will be posted on the congregations' Facebook pages and websites. Keep alert.

Parish congregational leaders: All annual reports should be submitted to our church secretary, Lisa, no later than January 7th, 2021, so that they can be made available to congregational members before the annual meeting. Elstad's annual meeting is Sunday, January 17th; Highland Prairie's is Sunday, January 24th.

An adult Bible study on Epiphany season texts will take place at Elstad at 10 a.m. on the following Thursdays: January 14th, 21st, & 28th. Please let Pr. Luther know if you are interested in participating.

Bobbi and I wish to thank members of the parish for all the kindness shown to us in 2020. We are thankful to be a part of this community of faith. God bless you all. And Happy New Year! Pr. Luther+