

Welcome to worship at **Augustana** Lutheran Church

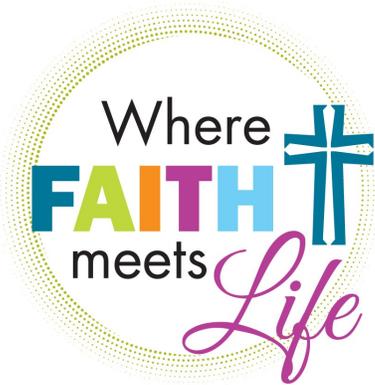
January 6, 2019 11:00 am

Liturgical Season: Epiphany

What does this mean?

Remember in our first month in the season after Pentecost, Pentecost, marked as a time of the Holy Spirit's wild presence, is followed with spiritual growth for both individuals and communities. As we grow this

The season of Epiphany is a bridge between Christmas and Lent. The Day of Epiphany remembers the Magi's visit to the young Jesus. This event and its celebratory white color remind us that the good news of God's Son has come to the whole world. The season of Epiphany continues to reveal Jesus' identity as son of God in his baptism and in the miracles he performs. The color green signifies this season's growth in our understanding of Jesus' identity and what that means for followers of Jesus.



Today's Theme: Revealing

The star of Bethlehem and the coming of the Magi reveal Jesus to the world. The news of an infant King born in Bethlehem also brings joy, suffering, and the opportunity to make choices about our part in God's plan. God's plan is revealed through dreams and is carried out by those who listen to those dreams.

Opening Song

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Paul Baloche

Announcements

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God

Praise Music

Hear Our Praises

Reuben Morgan

We Fall Down

Chris Tomlin

The season of Epiphany is a time to be intentional about growth. This week, seek out ways to:

- *Pause and be aware of how you are showing up each day. Ask how you are following Jesus' example.*
- *Grow in your awareness of where and how God is at work in your life.*
- *Examine, challenge, and reframe your faith values.*
- *Put your faith into action.*

WORD

God speaks to us through scripture, preaching, and song

A New Year can mean new growth. In the gospel of Matthew, we are in conversation with Jesus who brings the promise of new beginnings both now and then.

This week, challenge yourself to look for Christ's new beginnings.

Lesson

Matthew 2:1-23

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.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead. Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Questions

What is the main reason the Magi travel from the east to see the infant King?

What do you notice about the decisions Joseph makes for his family?

Who does King Herod serve and how do you feel about the decisions he makes?

Do you believe that you have a part to play in helping to carry out God's work in this world? What holds you back from playing your part?

When we say the Apostles Creed, we join the church around the world in declaring our faith. We also learn the foundations of belief. The three sections, or articles, of the creed teach us about the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The second article of the creed focuses on Jesus, the son, and his nature as both human and divine. Reflect on this during Epiphany. Consider how you are known by Jesus and share what this means to your life.

Sermon

Two Men and the Magi

Pastor Mark Aune

RESPONSE AND MEAL

We respond to the Word, and God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Anthem

The Way

arr. Jeremy Camp

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

After each portion of the prayers:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Words of Institution

We welcome you to Holy Communion. We extend the hand of Christian fellowship and invite all who believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior to participate as His guest at His table. Communion will be by intinction, meaning that we will hand you a wafer and ask that you dip it into the wine. We have non-wheat wafers available; simply notify the pastor when you come forward. Children who do not yet commune are welcome to receive a blessing. Please indicate your participation in Communion on the Connection Card in the bulletin. If you are unable to come forward to receive Communion, please notify an usher and a pastor will come to you.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Communion Distribution/Offering

When Love Crossed Over

arr. Rita Baloche

As you leave worship today, be filled with the light of Christ. Let your words and actions reflect God's joy and light to everyone you meet. Show kindness and truth in all you do.

SENDING

The Holy Spirit sends us into the world

Benediction

Worship Leader:

Amen, Amen!

I'm alive, I'm alive because He lives!

Congregation:

Amen, Amen!

Let my song join the one that never ends

Because He lives,

Because He lives!

Closing Hymn

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Paul Baloche

✙ ✙ ✙

SERVING TODAY

Pastor Mark Aune

Pastor Megan Torgerson

Pastoral Intern Eric Nelson

Music Director: Lisa Griffin

Band Members: Carrie Kuehl, Tim Kuehl,
Jodi Tripp, Jay Matuzak, Erik Saxton,
Dave Hofgren

Media Team: Wayne Worth
Matt Howard

Lay Readers: Darci Knowlton
Karen Ollie

Acolytes: Emma Brown
Haley Redding

Following worship we invite you to stop at the Information Center. It is staffed with individuals eager to answer any questions you may have.

You are welcome to pick up our monthly newsletter, Augustana Life, at the Information Kiosk in the Narthex. It is also available online at www.augustana.com, click on RESOURCES.

Augustana uses the Narrative Lectionary as a basis for our weekly Bible readings. Next week we will read Matthew 3: 1-17.

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Lutheran Church

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