

Grace Lutheran Church

8th and Holt – PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530

“Where is He
who has been born king of the Jews?
For we saw His star when it rose
and have come to worship Him.”
+ Isaiah 7:14b



Serving This Week THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD (OBSERVED) January 5, 2020

Celebrant:	Rev. Douglas Griebenaw
Head Elder:	Mr. Henry Nilson
Lay Reader:	Ms. Anita Slobig
Acolyte:	Miss Danielle Ostermann
Organist:	Ms. Anna Brinkman
Ushers:	David and Therese Ostermann

This Morning's Schedule

9:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion

Coffee and Fellowship in the Parish Hall after the Service

10:45am Bible Study

PASTOR'S COLUMN

In many Christian cultures, the day of the Epiphany of Our Lord is known as “Three Kings Day.” Special celebrations that include foods associated with the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus happen around the globe as the “new King” is welcomed by His subjects.

Jesus is no ordinary King. He is the “King Most Wonderful” as Bernard of Clairvaux (*LSB* 554), who lived some 1,100 years ago, expressed in poetic verse. Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords.

The Epiphany season recalls a journey by Magi to visit and worship the infant Jesus and to bring Him gifts. This day we have made a journey to this place to do the same. With the Magi of old, we share the wonder of the Epiphany, as God with us—Immanuel—is shown forth.

EXPLORING THE HYMNS

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright (LSB 395)

Philipp Nicolai (1556–1608) was a pastor, poet, and composer. He was a part of what is called the Meistersinger tradition, where both the text and the melody stem from the same artist. We know Nicolai best for his two hymns, “O Morning Star” and “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” (LSB 516), often called the Queen and King of Chorales. His work inspired many great musicians, including J. S. Bach who wrote famous cantatas based on these two hymns (BWV 1 & BWV 140).

Nicolai lived and served at a time when sickness and disease were rampant, especially in the heat of a German summer. One of the roles that the pastor often played in these circumstances was to help his flock to realize that there is hope, that God has not abandoned them, and that they have a bright future in Christ. Nicolai did this well through his hymns and poetry.

Stanzas 1–3 of this hymn are addressed to Jesus as Morning Star (Rev. 22:16), heavenly Bridegroom (Matt. 25:1–13), and Lord (Matt. 17:4). Then God the Father is addressed in stanza 4 as “Almighty Father.” Stanza 5 is addressed to the Church, His holy bride. The final stanza extols how our Lord is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end (Rev. 22:13). It concludes by praying to Christ Jesus that He would return quickly as we yearn for His returning (Rev. 22:20). This final stanza is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful hymn stanzas ever written. It points us to the source of our joy (Christ), and the fact that He encompasses all things. It ends with our yearning for His coming back to take us home.

Pastor Nicolai looked out of his study at the graves of so many of his flock whom he loved. What his eyes told him is that they were dead and gone. But with the eyes of faith, he saw their resurrection and the bright Morning Star that keeps them in His bosom until the Last Day.

Yours in Christ Jesus, +Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor's phone: (760) 679-3699

Pastor's email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Sundays at 10:45am – Adult Bible Study in Fellowship Center
- Tuesdays at 6:30am – Men’s Breakfast and Bible Study at Denny’s (Ocotillo Drive)
- Wednesdays at 9:30am – Women’s Bible Study in Fellowship Hall

Life Quote from Lutherans for Life – www.LutheransForLife.org

As this New Year begins and you make resolutions of thing to do for yourself, consider ways in which you could spend one hour a week helping someone in need – at a crisis pregnancy center, a hospice house, a nursing home, etcetera.

– Rev. Scott Licht, National Director of *Lutherans for Life*

CHURCH NEWS AND UPDATES

Radio Ministry: The Pastor’s sermon and information about our congregation is aired each Wednesday at 11:30am on *KGBA, 100.1 FM*. Please tune it. Donations, memorials, and designated gifts are welcome to help continue the broadcast – the cost is \$67.50/week.

The Lutheran Witness: Anyone wishing to have copies of *The Lutheran Witness* mailed to your home may subscribe for \$15.96/year. The June/July issue is a combined edition. Grace is happy to make the subscription for you – simply note your desire for a subscription on the blank line of a contribution envelope and enclose the subscription cost of \$15.96.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF): The LCEF offers many different investment accounts. One of the best is the Family Emergency Steward Account that is designed to help families establish a savings account to deal with those unexpected moments that we all face from time-to-time. It can be opened for as little as \$25 and offers a great interest rate! Visit with our congregational representative Carl Stolberg or call 1-800-THE-LCEF for info.

Food Pantry: There is a food donation box in the narthex (front lobby) of the church. Please consider bringing non-perishable foods (e.g. canned tuna snacks, peanut butter crackers, pop tarts, and etcetera) on Sunday to contribute to our ministry to the men and women of El Centro who struggle with hunger.

This Week's Events

- Today After Divine Service, we will take down our Christmas Decorations.
You may also take your Christmas poinsettia and enjoy it at home.
- Tuesday 6:30am – Men's Breakfast and Bible Study at Denny's (Ocotillo Drive)
- Wednesday 9:30am – Women's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall
11:30am – KGBA Broadcast of Sunday Sermon
3:00pm – Youth Catechesis in the Fellowship Hall
- Saturday 9:00am to Noon – Sewing Group Meets in the Fellowship Hall
- Next Sunday 9:00am – Divine Service with Holy Communion
 *** Special Voter Meeting after Divine Service – 2020 Budget ***
2:00pm – Youth Catechesis in the Fellowship Hall

NEWS OF INTEREST AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Birthdays this week:** Carolina Ornelas and Deborah Zale
- **Anniversaries this week:** Jack and Joan Tyler
- **Update from Voter Meeting of December 15, 2019:**
 - There will be a jar for coffee donations in our kitchen starting next year.
 - The catechumens will be confirmed on February 2, 2020.
 - “Undie Sunday” will be held on February 9, 2020.
 - The LWML Retreat will be February 21 through 23 (details to come).
 - The LWML Spring Rally is on March 21 at Calvary Lutheran Church in Yuma.
 - We will continue with donations to “Spread the Love.”
 - There is a Special Voter Meeting on Sunday, January 12, 2020 to finalize and adopt the 2020 Church Budget.

Grace Evangelical-Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The Epiphany of Our Lord (Observed) – January 5, 2020 at 9:00am

Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Three – Page 184 of the Hymnal

Stand and turn to face the processional cross.

Processional Hymn: Of the Father's Love Begotten – Page 384

Confession and Absolution – Page 184

Service of the Word – Page 186

Introit – Ps. 45:6–8a; antiphon: Ps. 45:17

P (*Antiphon*) I will cause Your name to be remembered in all gener- | ations;*
therefore nations will praise You forever and | ever.
Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.
The scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of up- | rightness;*
You have loved righteousness and hated | wickedness.
Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness
beyond Your com- | panions;*
Your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and | cassia.



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

(Antiphon is repeated)

Kyrie – Page 186

Gloria in Excelsis (Hymn of Praise) – Page 187

Salutation and Collect of the Day – Page 189

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament – *Isaiah 60:1–6*

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned 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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

Gradual – *Ps. 117:1–2a; 96:8*

☐ Praise the LORD, all | nations!*

Extol Him, all | peoples!

For great is His steadfast | love toward us,*

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due His name;*

bring an offering, and come in- | to His courts!

Epistle – *Ephesians 3:1–12*

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of His power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that He has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse – Matthew 2:2 – Page 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

P Alleluia. Where is He who has been born king | of the Jews?*

For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him. Alle- | luia.



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel – Matthew 2:1–12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a Ruler
who will shepherd My people Israel.”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the Child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Nicene Creed – Page 191

Sit

Children’s Sermon

Hymn of the Day: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright – Page 395

Sermon

Stand

Offertory – Page 192

Sit

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament – Page 194

Distribution of the Lord’s Supper

Sit

+ OUR BELIEFS REGARDING HOLY COMMUNION +

At Grace, we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper every Sunday and hold to the historic practice of “closed communion” meaning that we ordinarily commune only those who are in full confessional fellowship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Members in good standing of congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are asked to announce themselves to the pastor prior to the service. All others are invited to speak with the pastor about preparing for communion fellowship at this altar.

In this Sacrament, we receive the true Body and the most precious Blood of our Lord Christ Jesus, under bread and wine, given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins (Mt 26, Mk 14, Lk 22). We also give public confession to our unity in the Christian Faith (1 Cor 10) as we celebrate the Sacrament and are to have made a careful examination of ourselves (1 Cor 11) before coming to the table of our Lord.

Those not communing may come forward to receive a blessing, kneeling with arms crossed.

Distribution Hymn: O Sing of Christ – Page 362

Stand

Post-Communion Cantic: Nunc Dimittis – Page 199

Thanksgiving and Post-Communion Collect – Page 200

Salutation, Benedicamus, and Benediction – Page 201

Recessional Hymn: Joy to the World – Page 387

Please be seated for announcements following the divine service.

**+ SOLI DEO GLORIA +
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)**

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