

The image features a dramatic sky with a bright sun on the left, creating a lens flare effect. The sun is partially obscured by large, dark, textured clouds. The overall color palette is warm, with yellows, oranges, and greys. In the foreground, the dark silhouette of a hill is visible, with three camels and their riders walking across it from left to right. The text 'THEY HONORED HIM' is centered in the upper half of the image in a serif font.

THEY
HONORED
HIM

—Matthew 2:11

The Epiphany

January 3rd / January 4th 2021

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

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Welcome to Trinity!

We're glad you're here to worship!

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tesch
(715-587-8521) or Principal Danell (715-732-2956)

Ancient Words

1. Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world
They resound with God's own heart
O let the ancient words impart

3. Ancient words ever true
Changing me and changing you
We have come with open hearts
O let the ancient words impart

5. Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world
They resound with God's own
heart
O let the ancient words impart

2. Words of life words of hope
Give us strength help us cope
In this world where'er we roam
Ancient words will guide us home

4. Holy words of our faith
Handed down to this age
Came to us through sacrifice
O heed the faithful words of Christ

Please rise
6. Ancient words ever true
Changing me and changing you
We have come with open hearts
O let the ancient words impart
(repeat 2 times)
We have come with open hearts
O let the ancient words impart

Confession of Sins

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

Assurance of Forgiveness

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray

Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Please be seated

Old Testament Lesson

Think about the difference a baby can make in somebody's life. A baby changes everything. Priorities change. Sleep patterns change. Emotions change. Our view of the future changes. There is almost nothing that changes life as much as a baby.

There was a baby named Obed that changed his grandma's life. Grandma's name was Naomi. She had gone through a lot. A famine had taken her home and she had to move to a strange country. Then, while she was in that foreign land, she lost her husband and both of her sons. Then she had lost hope. She had even lost her faith that God would take care of her. She got it all back when Ruth put baby Obed into her lap.

Baby Obed certainly changed her life, but he foreshadowed the baby who would change our eternity. We, too, lost our home and our family. By our sin, we forfeited any place in God's family. We lost any hope of life in heaven. And eternal death loomed over us, lethal and inescapable.

Then Jesus came. God placed him into our hearts by faith. And we have life again. We have family again. We have hope again. As much as Naomi's life changed when she held Obed, ours is changed even more. We are forgiven, grafted into God's loving family, and on our way home to heaven. "Blessed is the LORD who has not left us without a redeemer today!"

Ruth 4:13-17 (EHV)

¹³ Then Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife, and he went to her. The LORD enabled her to conceive, and she bore a son. ¹⁴ Then the women said to Naomi:

Blessed is the LORD, who has not left you without a redeemer today.
May his name be proclaimed in Israel!

¹⁵ He will restore your life
and care for you in your old age,
because your daughter-in-law, who loves you, has given birth to him.
She is better for you than seven sons!

¹⁶ Then Naomi took the boy and put him on her lap, and she became his caregiver. ¹⁷ The neighboring women named him, saying, “A son is born to Naomi!” and they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Gospel Lesson

There is both tragedy and joy in the Epiphany story. Our hearts break as we witness the tragedy of the ignorance and unbelief among God’s own people. Why did no one go with the Magi to worship the newborn King? How could they not see the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies? How could salvation be right there and go unnoticed? But our hearts also sing with joy as the Magi find the Savior in Bethlehem.

In the season of Epiphany God brings Jesus into our lives. Most people will miss it, but God brings the joy of Epiphany to every Christian through his Word.

Matthew 2:1-12 (EHV)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ²“Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴He gathered together all the people’s chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

⁶ You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.”

⁷ Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place

where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹ After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

El Shaddai

El Shaddai El Shaddai
El Elyonna Adonai
Age to age You're still the same
By the power of the name
El Shaddai El Shaddai
Erkamkana Adonai
We will praise and lift You high
El Shaddai

Through Your love and through the ram
You saved the son of Abraham
Through the power of Your hand
You turned the sea into dry land
To the outcast on her knees
You were the God who really sees
And by Your might
You set Your children free

El Shaddai El Shaddai
El Elyonna Adonai
Age to age You're still the same
By the power of the name
El Shaddai El Shaddai
Erkamkana Adonai
We will praise and lift You high
El Shaddai

Through the years You made it clear
That the time of Christ was near
Though the people couldn't see
What Messiah ought to be
Though Your Word contained the plan
They just could not understand
Your most awesome work was done
In the frailty of Your Son

cont...

El Shaddai cont...

El Shaddai El Shaddai
El Elyonna Adonai
Age to age You're still the same
By the power of the name
El Shaddai El Shaddai
Erkamkana Adonai
We will praise and lift You high
El Shaddai

Epistle Lesson/Sermon Text:

The secret to life is a mystery, impossible to solve. People search for it and sacrifice to find it. But it remains inaccessible, hidden in God. Only God can reveal it and it requires a miracle for the human heart to accept it.

God is a God of miracles. He created the universe out of nothing. And he creates life where there was none. He loves the unlovable and saves the unsaveable. He conquered death and takes life back from the grave. Now he shares the mystery of the Gospel with the world.

The miracle of Epiphany is that he uses people like us to teach it. The Holy Spirit revealed it to the apostles and prophets. They revealed it to the church. The church has revealed it to every generation since.

Revealed what? That Christ Jesus made every believer God's family, heirs of glory, and members of the same body. Now it's our turn. We are the church of our age. We hold the message of forgiveness and eternal life. The Holy Spirit works through us to bring light into the darkness and the despair of sin. By sharing the Gospel with people, we bring them into the presence of God!

Ephesians 3:2-12 (EHV)

² Surely you have heard of the administration of God's grace given to me for you, ³ namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly). ⁴ When you read this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. ⁵ This mystery was not made known to people in past generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and people who also share in the promise through the gospel.

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel, in keeping with the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me—even though I am the very least of all the saints—was given this grace: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ ⁹ and to enlighten everyone

about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

Prayers for Our family and Friends

The Beaumont Family, Melanie Bell, Milferd Behnke, Ashleigh Bourdelais, Ardice Cerney, Gladys Constine, Geri Garbrecht, Jean Harper, Dorothy Johnson, Rose Karr, Noah & Kristin Olson, Lisa Schmitt, Aaron Wood and Jesse Zach

Prayers for those called to protect

Military: **Jesse Adams** (Sue Connor’s son), **Greg Carow** (Dennis Carow’s godson/nephew), **Aeron Forsberg** (Linda and Gene Erickson’s grandson), **Dayton Godfrey** (Dave & Cindy Schacht’s great-nephew), **Joshua Jansen** (Isaac Jansen’s cousin), **Jesse Johnston** (Jim & Laurie Johnston’s son), **Patrick Noppenberg** (Denis & Deb Vieth’s son), **Aaron Stocker Jr.** (Martina (Dura) Stocker’s husband), **Dylan Vanko**, (Roy and Grace Chmela’s grandson), and **Thomas Weirich** (Mary Bush’s nephew).

Firefighter: Steve Campbell.

Police: Greg Haemker, Raymond Cashaw (Pastor Sonnemann's niece's husband) and **David Peterson** (Jamie Tesch's uncle). Ask the Lord to bless them, strengthen them, and keep them safe.

The 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.*

The Benediction:

*P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.*

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,
Manifested by the star
To the Magi from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem,
In your birth at Bethlehem.
Anthems be to you addressed,
God in man made manifest.

5 Grant us grace to see you, Lord,
Mirrored in your holy Word.
May our lives and all we do
Imitate and honor you
That we all like you may be
At your great epiphany
And may praise you, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.

Join us for our Worship Services

Sunday at 8:00 am & 10:00 am
Monday at 6:00 pm

TRINITY'S CORE MISSION

Shining the Light of the Gospel in our community.

John 8:12 - *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

Matthew 5:16 - *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*