

"Wisemen Follow the Star"

January 8, 2023

The Epiphany of Our Lord

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Opening Hymn #80....."Angels From the Realms of Glory"

1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story;
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing --
Yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

3 Magi, leave your contemplations;
Brighter visions beam afar.
Seek the great desire of nations;
You have seen the Savior's star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

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.**

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.

Taste and See



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Prayer of the Day

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: A - men.

Old Testament LessonIsaiah 60:1-6

The Savior will bring light to the nations

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is dawning upon you. ²Look, darkness covers the earth, and deep darkness covers the peoples, but the Lord will dawn upon you, and his glory will be seen over you ³Nations will walk to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Look up. Look all around and see! All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you. Your sons will come from far away, and people will carry your daughters on their side. ⁵Then you will look and be radiant. Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy. For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you. The wealth of the nations will come to you. ⁶Caravans of camels will cover your land, young camels from Midian and Ephah. All those from Sheba will come. They will carry gold and incense, and they will announce the good news of the praise of the Lord.

Psalm of the DayPsalm 72

M: God, give your authority to judge to the King. Give your righteousness to the Son of the King.

C: **He will obtain justice for the afflicted among the people. He will save the children of the poor**

M: They will fear you as long as the sun remains, and as long as the moon endures, through all generations.

C: **He will come down like rain on a mown field, like showers, like a downpour on the earth.**

M: All kings will bow down to him. All nations will serve him.

C: **They will be blessed through him. All nations will call him blessed.**

M: Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds.

C: **May the whole earth be filled with his glory.**

Epistle LessonEphesians 3:2-12

The Gentiles are heirs along with Israel

²Surely you have heard of the administration of God's grace given to me for you, ³namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly). ⁴When you read this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. ⁵This 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. ⁶This 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. ⁷I 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. ⁸To 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 ⁹and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God in the heavenly places might now be made known to the rulers and authorities. ¹¹This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

Verse of the Day

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Children's Sermon

Young children are invited forward to the chancel steps

Hymn #83....."As With Gladness Men of Old"

- 1 As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore your foll'wers be.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to your lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
You whom heav'n and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek your mercy seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare
At your cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heav'nly King.

4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds your glory hide.

5 In the heav'nly country bright
Need they no created light;
You its light, its joy, its crown,
You its sun which goes not down.
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King!

SermonMark Bartels....."Wisemen Follow the Star"
Matthew 2:1-12

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: ⁶You, 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." ⁷Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸He 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." ⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹After 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. ¹²Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

Hymn #84 vs 1, 3 & 5....."Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"

1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

3 People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Praise his great love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name.

5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Worship and honor to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen.

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Offering

Prayer of the Church

M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death:

C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

M: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

M: Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: Amen.

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.

Closing Hymn#82 vs 1 & 5....."Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

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.

Closing Prayer

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Benediction

M: 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 lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Announcements

If you attended online services at Holy Cross, please send an email to frontoffice@holycrossmadison.org, and in the subject line write "Attended" and after that the number of people who watched from your home. So if three of you watch the service on Sunday, your subject line would say, "Attended 3". Please don't write anything in the text of the email, since our secretary, Jodi Hougán, will not be responding to emails that say "Attended" in the subject line. Thanks.

Holy Cross News & Notes

January 8, 2023

Calendar for the Week - January 9th - 15th

Monday

- Worship - 6:30 pm
- Bible Information Class - 7:30 pm

Tuesday

- Coffee at Elie's - 9:00 am
- Endowment Fund Committee - 4:00 pm
- PTO Meeting - 6:30 pm

Wednesday

- Wednesday Bible Study 10 am
- Public School Catechism - 4:30 pm
- Handbells 6:15 pm
- Choir 7:00 pm

Thursday

- Lydia Circle - 1:00 pm
- Jesus Cares Meeting - 6:30 pm

Sunday

- Worship - 8:30 and 10:30 am
- Adult Bible Study - 9:45 am
- Sunday School - 9:45 am

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK Bryan Sowatzke and Kathleen Peters were hospitalized this week. Please pray for him and our homebound and for those in nursing homes.

Special Voters Meeting for the Calling of a Pastor-TODAY

The Holy Cross Board of Elders and Church Council are calling a special Voters Meeting for TODAY **Sunday, January 8**. The purpose of this special Voters Meeting is to extend a Divine Call to fill the Pastoral vacancy here at Holy Cross. Please pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in this very important matter and please plan to attend this special meeting.

New Early Learning Center Director and Interim Director

We're very happy to announce that Katie Krug has been led by the Holy Spirit to accept the Call to be our new Kids Crossing Director! Currently, Katie serves as Director at Peace Lutheran in Kissimmee, Florida. She will complete the school year at Peace Lutheran and then she and her husband, Chris, will move to Madison in June.

During the interim, Linda Grennan will continue as our Interim Director. We owe a real debt of gratitude to Linda for filling multiple roles as Director, Assistant Director and Teacher at Kids Crossing. Please continue to pray for strength and stamina for Linda as she carries this heavy load for us. Thank you!

Senior Choir

Just a reminder that the Senior Choir will resume next Wednesday, January 11th at 7:00 pm.

2023 Altar Flower Chart

The 2023 altar flower chart is posted on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center near the Fireside Room. If you would like to provide flowers for the altar, sign up with your name, contact information, and the occasion. You can bring in your own flowers or the Altar Guild will order flowers for you. The usual bouquet is \$40 but you can make it any amount you like. Make checks payable to HOLY CROSS ALTAR GUILD. Drop off or mail your check in an envelope marked ALTAR FLOWERS. You may take the bouquet after the last church service and enjoy it at home.

Bingo Is Back!

Monday, January 16th at 1:00 pm.

The Senior Ministry is sponsoring an event to play BINGO with prizes. Everyone young and old is invited. Coffee and cookies will be served following the game. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Welcome Center.

Calling all musicians!

We would love to have more people involved in the music program at Holy Cross. If you're interested in playing an instrument for a worship service or joining the Senior Choir, please email Jim Baxter, organist, at baxter4822@gmail.com or speak to him after a service. If you're interested in joining the Adult Handbell Choir, please email Nedra Griffin at ngriffinfab5@gmail.com or call 608-225-4789.

Kindergarten Information Night

Do you have a child or know a child that will be entering Kindergarten this next fall? Holy Cross is hosting Kindergarten information night on **Tuesday, January 17th at 4:30 pm**. Learn more about our program, meet the teacher, aid & principal and tour the classroom. Any question or for more information contact Pam Starkenburg at pstarkenburg@holycrossmadison.org

Holy Cross Open House - Summer in the Winter

Join Us for our School and Early Learning Center Open House on Saturday, January 28th from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Our theme this year is "Summer in the Winter." We'll have live music from Bahama Bob, bounce houses, games in the gym, summer-time treats, a photo booth and more. Bring the family and have summer fun on a cold January Saturday. Invite friends who may be interested in our School or Early Learning Center. Staff will be here to join in the fun, meet prospects, and talk with them about whether our school or early learning center is a good fit for them. More details to come soon!

Kids Crossing Job Opportunities: Contact Linda Grennan at lgrennan@holycrossmadison.org for more info

1 year old assistant teacher - full time

2 year old assistant-afternoons

3 year old lead & assistant teacher

4 year old lead teacher

OUR SAVIOR WELCOMES YOU AND SO DO WE! Whether you are a first time visitor or returning guest, we are delighted to share our worship with you! Please come back and worship with us again!

PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES We love to have children in worship! However, parents who find a need to take their children out of the service are welcome to use the narthex/lobby area while you quiet your little one. The infant care room is also available for nursing mothers. You'll be able to hear the service from the speaker system in the narthex and in the infant care room. A changing table is in the men's and women's bathrooms. If needed, please ask an usher for assistance.

A HEARING LOOP is installed in our new sanctuary for your convenience. If your hearing aid has a t-switch, you'll need to activate it when you're in the sanctuary, in order to benefit from the hearing loop.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES Holy Cross offers a full Christian elementary school (grades PreK3 – 8), Kids Crossing Early Learning Center (6 weeks – 5 years), Sunday School and children's youth activities.

Last week Church attendance: 139

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School is to bring the Gospel of Christ to our community through the Means of Grace, reaching out to the lost, and nurturing our fellow believers. This we do through worship, education, service and fellowship that God's kingdom may grow.