

HEARTS @ HOME



A Worship Service for Your Household

Sunday January 3, 2021

2nd Sunday of Christmas/Epiphany

RCL: Matthew 2:1-12

+ GATHERING +

Gathered with God - our Father, the Light of the World, and our Sustainer. **AMEN.**

+ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS +

God of goodness and mercy, help us as we open our hearts and confess our sins.

Now standing in this new year, we are faced with possibilities, but we continue to carry the fears and doubts that have held us captive;
We celebrated the gift of Jesus, but are quick to forget that he was a gift of love to the entire world;
In our haste to get to our next destination we forget how important the relationships along the journey should be;
Sometimes, our selfishness becomes so loud we cannot hear God's call to generous living, and other times, we become quiet when our voices of advocacy are needed by others.

We are truly sorry and ask for your forgiveness.
Help us to do what's right in the days to come;
Surround us and renew us with your grace.

AMEN

God is good, and loves us unconditionally, at all times and in all places. By grace we have been saved. In the name of Jesus our sins are forgiven.

AMEN.

+ PRAYER +

Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

+ SCRIPTURE +

+ **Matthew 2:1-12**

+ **Spark Story Bible:** Wise Men (Pages 218-223)

+ **Northwest Synod of Wisconsin App:** Click the 'Bible' tab at the bottom.

+ REFLECTION ON GOD'S WORD +

Option 1: Click on your congregation's sermon video or live worship link

Option 2: Use the following questions for in-home conversation or personal reflection

Option 3: Use questions for reflection + **Coloring Sheet** (page 5)

Questions:

- + What is one thing you hope for in this new year?
- + In what way have you observed Jesus recently? How do you actively seek him out?
- + Like the magi, we are called to follow Jesus by faith, not knowing what may come; what action might God be calling you to take that is uncomfortable or difficult?

+ 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.

+ PRAYERS +

With all the people of God, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

- + Gracious God, we pray for your church, for the ongoing ministry and mission you place before us each day, for our baptisms and our unique vocations, for the difficult and important work of sharing the gospel, and for the hope that binds us together with others so that all can come to know your love. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + For those who are ill, grieving, lonely, facing addiction, food or housing insecurity, those whose lives are at risk from violence, war and injustice, for those without access to clean water, or who are suffering in other ways in mind, body or spirit; we pray that they will know the peace that can only come from you, gracious God, and that we might seek to understand their story and take action to meet the needs of the vulnerable so that everyone can live to be who you created them to be. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + Merciful God, we pray for our elected leaders, volunteers who serve the public, and for those who advocate on behalf of the population; give them the guidance and wisdom needed to make decisions based on love, compassion, and justice. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + As we begin to see the days get longer, God of mercy, we pray for creation; we seek your patience as we observe our natural surroundings, acknowledge the ways we have failed to be good stewards of the soil, water, and air, and ask that you inspire us with the motivation and resources needed to repair the damage we have done to this beautiful earth. Lord in your mercy, **AMEN.**
- + *Add your own prayers here...*

Loving God, we give all these prayers to you, trusting in your mercy and grace. **AMEN.**

+ OFFERING +

As people of faith we are called to continue strengthening the ministry of the church, even when we are physically distant. We invite you to prayerfully consider a gift to your congregation or the synod – as the body of Christ we work together to serve our neighbors.

+ LORD'S PRAYER +

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth, as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
Now and forever. **AMEN.**

+ BLESSING EACH OTHER +

Using your pointer finger, dip it in the bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on another's forehead or the back of their hand saying, **"You are a beloved child of God."**
Take turns until all in the household have been blessed.

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We have seen His star in the East
and have come to worship Him.



Matthew 2:2