



Apostles Evangelical Lutheran Church & Preschool

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Mission Statement of Apostles Evangelical Lutheran Church & Preschool of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

As God's disciples, we the men, women and children of Apostles, are united in the preaching, teaching and sharing of God's Word in its truth and purity. By God's grace, we will nurture believers and joyfully spread the Word of God in our community and throughout the world, all to His glory.



JESUS' HIDDEN GLORY REVEALED!

The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 15, 2012

Prayer before Worship

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. (CW82:5)

Holy Spirit, through the power of your Word, cause my faith to see more clearly the glory of the Christ-child who lived for me. Amen.

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Divine Service II

OPENING HYMN

As With Gladness Men of Old
(Hymn 83)

please stand

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **Amen.**

CONFESSION

P: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

ABSOLUTION

P: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

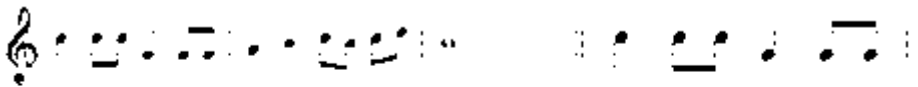
P: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

GLORY BE TO GOD



Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo-ry! Glo-ry to God in the
 high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.
 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly
 Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God,
 Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us.
 You are seat-ed at the right hand of the
 Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer, re-
 ceive our prayer, Glo-ry to God in the

(continued on next page)

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

P: 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

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
2 See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
3 Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
4 "Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the arm.
5 Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.
6 Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.
Alleluia.

ALLELUIA RESPONSE



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!

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 3:2-12

2 Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, 3 that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. 4 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. 6 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

7 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. 8 Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. 10 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11 according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

HYMN OF THE DAY

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star
(Hymn 79 vs. 1-4)

THE SECRET SAVIOR SHARED WITH YOU!

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

please stand



EXCOMMUNICATION

P: Beloved in Christ, as pastor of this congregation, it is my sad duty to announce to you that our fellow member, Corey Obenauer, was under Christian discipline and, although repeatedly admonished from the Word of God, has refused to repent. In keeping with the words and desires of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has been admonished by two or three witnesses on several occasions, but without success. Finally, he has also refused to hear the Church.

It is the will of our gracious Savior that none should perish but turn and live. In keeping with that will and so that the seriousness of his sin may be shown to him as a final effort to win him back to the Lord, in the name of Christ and this congregation, I announce that Corey Obenauer is excommunicated from the Church until he repents. May the almighty and merciful God give him grace to confess his sin and work in him repentance to life and renewal in faith.

P: Let us pray.

Gracious heavenly Father, you want all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Grant that Corey may yet be led to repentance, receive forgiveness, and be restored to the family of faith and fellowship with your Church, to the praise and honor of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

please be seated

OFFERING

Our offerings are the way we give thanks to God for his grace to us, as well as the way we support the spread of the Gospel. Guests need not feel obligated to contribute.

please stand

EPIPHANY PRAYER

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

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

Silent prayer.

P: 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 SACRAMENT

In the Lord's Supper, Jesus comes to us with his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. God's Word also tells us that when we come together at the Lord's table, we are confessing the oneness of faith that exists between those who believe and confess the same truths of Scripture. For this reason, if you had not had the opportunity to learn what this congregation teaches and to confess your agreement, we ask that you please speak with a pastor if you desire to commune in the future.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

(continued on next page)

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came as the Light of the world so that the world may have light and life through him.

Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

(there will be a musical introduction; sung to the tune of Hymn 19)

1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'rand
2 Ho - san - nu in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is
might. Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In
he Who in God's name is com - ing To
count - less ways re - cite, Ho - san - na! Come and
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -
save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -
in your grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry,
liv - er us from bond - age—Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

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.*



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

I Come, O Savior, to Your Table
(Hymn 310)

SONG OF SIMEON

(there will be a musical introduction; sung to the tune of Hymn 336)

1 O Lord, now let your ser- vant De- part in peace,
2 All glo- ry to the Fa- ther, All glo- ry to
as- sured: For I have seen your prom- ised In-
the- Son, All glo- ry to the Spir- it, For-
car- nate, say- ing Word— A Light that will en-
ev- er three in one; For as in the be-
light- en All gloom where Gen- tiles dwell: The bril- liant,
gin- ning, Is now, shall ev- er be, God's tri- une
crown- ing glo- ry Of those in Is- ra- el!
name re- sound- ing Through all e- ter- ni- ty.

P: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: 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.

CLOSING HYMN

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star
(Hymn 79 vs. 5)

