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THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST

AS WE GATHER

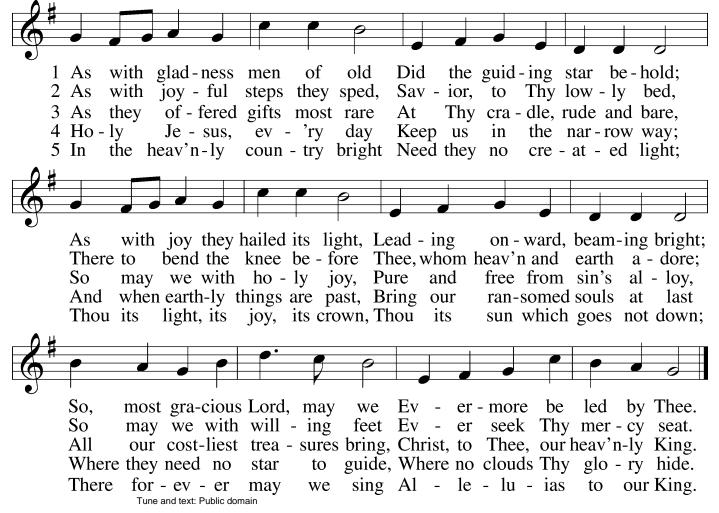
We consider the mysteries highlighted by the Readings for the Feast of the Epiphany. The Wise Men, or Magi, mysteriously show up in Jerusalem, and these strangers are looking for the King of the Jews. The King of the Jews is mysteriously an infant, born to a humble family in Bethlehem, not in Jerusalem. And this King of the Jews mysteriously invites all people from all nations into His kingdom. These mysteries, hidden for the ages, is revealed in Jesus, the Light of the world.

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING SENTENCES

- P Arise, shine, for your light has come!
- **G** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.
- P All the nations shall come to the light of Christ.
- **G** Kings shall bring Him gifts.
- **P** For Christ reveals the mystery hidden through the ages,
- **C** that all nations are partakers of the promise in Jesus Christ.

397 AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD



INVOCATION

- In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Through the Gospel, all people are fellow heirs of salvation and members of the same Body. Yet there have been times when we have failed to live in unity, when we have failed to treat our brothers and sisters in Christ with respect and honor. Our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

- P Heavenly Father,
- we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have created division and discord. We have hidden the light of Christ from others. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us with the light of Christ, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways. Amen.
- Almighty God in His mercy sent His Son, Jesus, into our world to shine as a light for all people, including You. Jesus has died for your sins and is risen for your righteousness. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **G** Amen. We are partakers of the promise. We are forgiven in Christ.

+ WORD +

INTROIT

Psalm 45:6-8a; antiphon: v. 17

I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

C Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;

you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

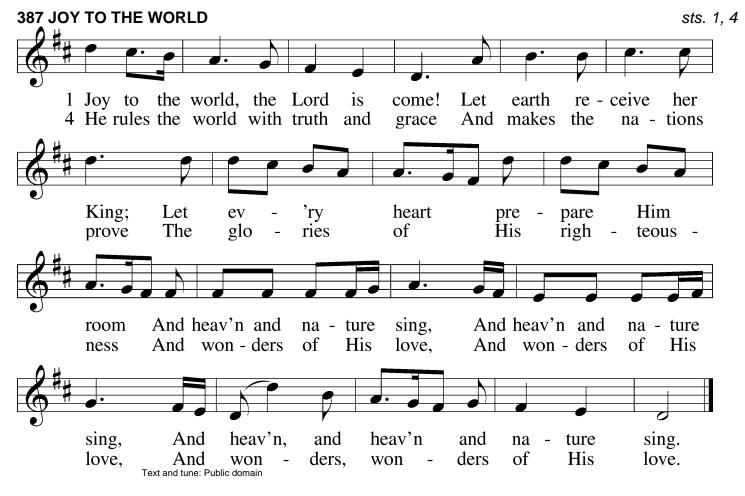
P Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions; your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

KYRIE

- A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- **C** Amen.



SALUTATION

- P The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray.
- 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. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For 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. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. ⁶A 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.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 72:1–11; antiphon: v. 18

- P Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!
- **G** May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!
- P Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!
- May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!
- P May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- **G** May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!
- P In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
- May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!
- P May desert tribes bow down before him and his enemies lick the dust!
- May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!
- P May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which 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. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—²assuming that you

⁷Of 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. ⁸To 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, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God. С

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

VERSE

Matthew 2:2b

Matthew 2:1-12

Ephesians 3:1–12

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. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter. **P**

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "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." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶"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."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And 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." 9After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And 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. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

С Praise to You, O Christ.

EPISTLE



SERMON

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ⊣ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Light of the world,

G dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

- Lord, there are many divisions in the church, divisions based on class, race, wealth, and age, divisions that need not exist. Bring unity where there is division, peace where there is discord, and reconciliation where there is conflict. Light of the world,
- **C** dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.
- ▶ Lord, comfort all those who are suffering in the darkness of grief, [*especially*...]. Comfort them with the hope and promise of the resurrection to eternal life. Light of the world,

C dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

- Lord, strengthen all marriages, encourage those who are single, and help us to recognize the value of each person, for Your redemption stretches to all people. Light of the world,
- **C** dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

Response from LSB 400:1

- Lord, bless all pastors, teachers, church planters, missionaries, musicians, and servants in Your Church. Embolden them as they seek to reflect Your light to all the nations. Light of the world,
- **G** dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.
- Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [especially . . .]. Have mercy upon them, and heal them according to Your good and gracious will. Light of the world,
- **C** dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.
- Lord, shine Your light of hope upon all those who are caregivers. Send them rest and peace, knowing that in You their labor is not in vain. Light of the world,
- **C** dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.
- Lord, we commend all of these things to Your caring hands, trusting in Your mercy to all people. Light of the world,
- **G** dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

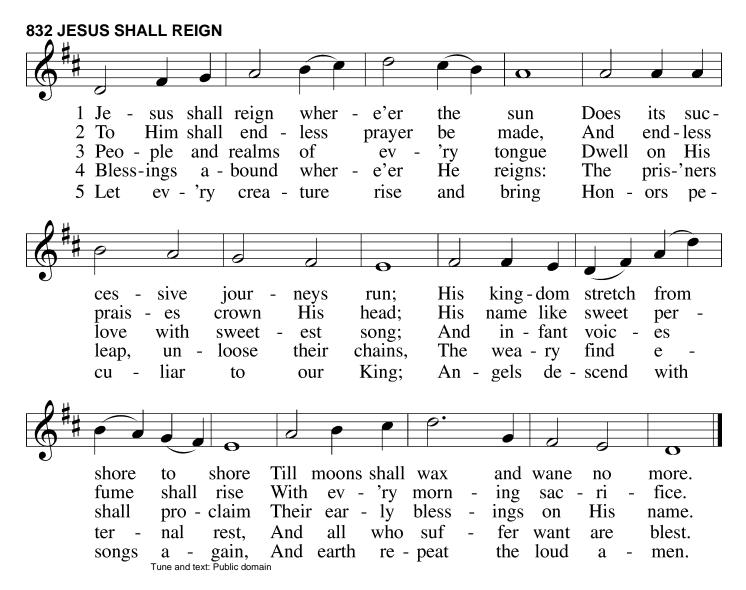
LORD'S PRAYER

 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.

OFFERING

BENEDICTION

- The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
- **C** Amen.



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Prayers

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Prayers of thanks for **Mary Hughes, Isaac Heiden, Justin Eld, Katelyn Schroeder** and **Jeff Tietjen** who are celebrating their birthdays this week.

Prayers of Comfort and Healing

For all who suffer from **anxiety and depression**.

For **Maddie** and her health issues.

For all who suffer from Covid 19

Prayers for comfort and understanding for all those who are battling cancer.

Comfort for **the family of Pat**, the grandmother of Lacey, as they mourn her death.

Other Prayers

Safety for **all who are traveling**.

All who serve in our **armed forces** and their **families**.

Can we pray for you? Share your prayer requests by email at office@concordiapullman.org or fill out one of the white cards in the pews and place it in the offering plate.