

the festival of



the Epiphany of our Lord

*Huntersville Lutheran
2021 A.D.*



Huntersville Lutheran

*A Changeless Message for
A Changing Community*

Worshipping at the Brick Row 19725 Oak St. Cornelius, NC

Bible Class @ 8:45am | Worship @ 9:30am

Pastor@huntersvillelc.com | huntersvillelc.com | 248-807-3057

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Our service is centered on our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose from the dead so that we would have eternal life in him. God reveals this soul saving message in his Word. We gather to find strength though God's powerful and holy Word. Take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the order of service, readings, and hymns, and fill out the take action card. May God bless our time together this morning.

About Our Worship

The gospel is the good news about what Jesus did to be the Savior for sinners. It is also the power of God—the very thing he uses to work faith in our hearts and transform our lives. Therefore, gospel-centered worship places the gospel in central focus. This order of service is called the liturgy. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Gospel-centered worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children).

For Your Convenience

Restrooms are located in the hallway at the rear of the building. Simply follow the arrows once you are in the hallway.

Service Participants

Rev Doug Van Sice, *pastor of Huntersville Lutheran*
Andrea Van Sice, *keyboardist*

Service Notes | *The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord* |

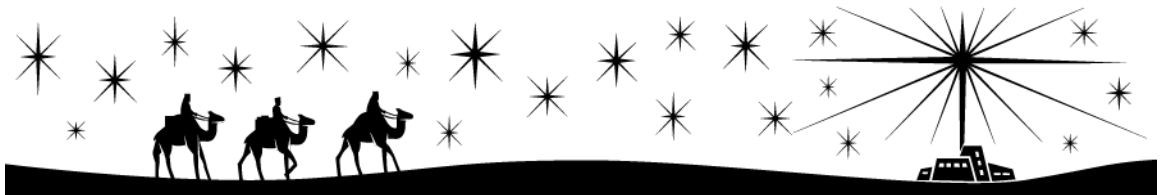
Epiphany is Christendom's second oldest festival; it has been celebrated continuously by the Church for nearly 1900 years. The festival was originally a general celebration of the incarnation of Jesus Christ which included the commemoration of his birth, the visit of the Magi (wise men), and all of Jesus' childhood events up to and including his baptism.

Today, the Eastern Orthodox Church celebrates Epiphany as the festival of Christ's birth, and the Western Church stresses the visit of the Magi. The season of Epiphany (the Greek word for "appearance") celebrates God's revealing or manifesting of Jesus' identity as true God, Messiah, and Savior of the world. Epiphany not only commemorates the fact that Jesus appeared to save us, but that God revealed the identity of Jesus to the world. The season of Epiphany will conclude on February 23rd with the Festival of the Transfiguration of our Lord.

Epiphany Sermon Series | *One For All* |

In so many aspects of life, a team is better than an individual; a group working together is better than a singular person working alone. Except, when it comes to your eternal standing with God. A team couldn't earn forgiveness of sins for you. A team couldn't extinguish death forever. A couldn't defeat Satan for good. There is only one. Only one who could. Only one who had the strength, the power, the willingness, and the love to do it all for you; for all people. God revealed his Son to be the one to do all this for you. Jesus is the One for All.

- 01.10.21 The One Savior for All
- 01.17.21 The One Substitute for All
- 01.24.21 The One Prophet for All
- 01.31.21 The One to Reverse Satan's Work for All
- 02.07.21 The One Forgiver of All
- 02.14.21 The One Transfigured for All



ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Hymn | *Angels from the Realms of Glory* |



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; Brigh - ter vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in



all the earth; Once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry;
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing—
beam a - far. Seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
Yon - der shines the in - fant light. Come and wor - ship,
You have seen the Sav - ior's star.
In his tem - ple shall ap - pear.



come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession of Sins

L 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.

L 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. As a called servant of Christ, and by his authority, I say to you what God says to you:

Your sins are all forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Lord, Have Mercy | *Kyrie*¹ |

L For all that we need in life, and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C **Christ, have mercy.**

L Merciful God, maker and preserve of life, uphold us by your power, and keep us in your tender care.

C **Amen.**

¹ The word *Kyrie* is a Greek word from the phrase *Kyrie Elieson* which means, "Lord, have mercy!" This is the most heartfelt cry of a believer to his Lord. It is not a cry for forgiveness, but a cry for mercy that our Lord and King hear us and help us in our necessities and trouble. Christians have been praying the *Kyrie* at Sunday worship for more than 1700 years (that's why its name is Greek, the language most commonly spoken at the time). This morning, may it also be our heartfelt cry to our Lord and King.

L In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Song of Praise | *Angels We Have Heard on High* |

3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the
an - gels sing; Come, a - dore on bend - ed
knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of six staves of music. The first three staves contain the main melody with lyrics. The fourth staff is the start of the refrain, marked 'Refrain', and is followed by two more staves of the refrain melody. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

Prayer of the Day

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L 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.

THE WORD

Children's Message

First Reading | *Numbers 24:15-17a* |

¹⁵ Then he spoke his message:

"The prophecy of Balaam son of Beor,
the prophecy of one whose eye sees clearly,
¹⁶ the prophecy of one who hears the words of God,
who has knowledge from the Most High,
who sees a vision from the Almighty,
who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened:

¹⁷ "I see him, but not now;
I behold him, but not near.
A star will come out of Jacob;
a scepter will rise out of Israel.

Psalm 72

- L** Endow the King with your justice, O God,
C the royal Son with your righteousness.
- L** He will defend the afflicted among the people
C and save the children of the needy.
- L** He will endure as long as the sun,
C as long as the moon, through all generations.
- L** He will be like rain falling on a mown field,
C like showers watering the earth.
- L** All kings will bow down to him,
C and all nations will serve him.
- L** All nations will be blessed through him,
C and they will call him blessed.
- L** Praise be to the LORD God, who alone does marvelous deeds.
C May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

Second Reading | *Romans 11:13-15, 28-32* |

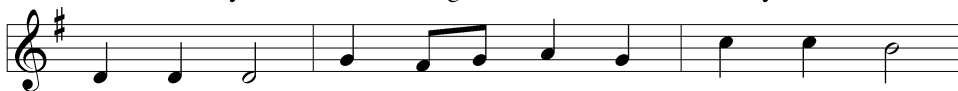
¹³ I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry ¹⁴ in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

²⁸ As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, ²⁹ for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. ³² For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

Hymn | *As with Gladness Men of Old* |



1 As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to your
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At your cra - dle,



star be - hold, As with joy they hailed its light,
low - ly bed, There to bend the knee be - fore
rude and bare, So may we with ho - ly joy,



Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, So, most gra - cious
You whom heav'n and earth a - dore, So may we with
Pure and free from sin's al - loy, All our cost - liest



Lord, may we Ev - er - more your fol - lowers be.
will - ing feet Ev - er seek your mer - cy seat.
treas - ures bring, Christ, to you, our heav'n - ly King.

The Gospel

□ The Gospel, according to Matthew, chapter 2.

☛ Glory be to you, O Lord.

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 when it rose 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 Messiah 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 shepherd 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 search carefully 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 when it rose 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, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.



□ The Gospel of the Lord.

☛ Praise be to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day | *Joy Has Dawned* |

1. Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation—
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for ev'ry nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,
But a humble gift of love—Jesus born of Mary.
2. Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels
as the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,
cling now to a mother's breast, vun'erable and helpless.
3. Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story.
Gold—a King is born today, Incense—God is with us,
Myrrh—his death will make a way, and by his blood he'll win us.
4. Son of Adam, Son of heav'n, given as a ransom;
Reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty champion!
What a Savior! What a Friend! What a glorious myst'ry!
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of hist'ry.

Sermon | *Searching for Wisemen* |

Matthew 2:1-12

Personal Sermon Notes

Confession of Faith | *Nicene Creed*² |

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

² Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided trinity.

THANKSGIVING

Offering | The members of Huntersville Lutheran have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you would like to give digitally, text any dollar amount to **84321**. Easy to follow instructions will be sent to your phone to complete your digital offering. Guests, you are welcome to participate in supporting our ministry, but certainly do not feel obligated.

Take Action Cards | In your service folder, you will find *Take Action* Cards. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment and fill it out completely to give us a record of your attendance. In addition, you may request prayers be said on your behalf today. Place your *Take Action* card in the offering plate as it comes around.

Prayer of the Church

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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord's Blessing

- ☐ 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.

Numbers 6:24

☐ Amen.

Song of Departure | *Joy to the World* |

Printed on the following page.





1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And



earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry
all their songs em - ploy, While fields and
thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to
makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries



heart pre - pare him room And heav'n and
floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re - peat the
make his bless - ings flow Far as the
of his right - eous - ness And won - ders



na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far
of his love, And won - ders of his love, And



heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
as, far as the curse is found.
won - ders, won - ders of his love.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You | You could have chosen to be anywhere this morning and you chose to spend it here, so thank you. To our guests and visitors this morning we pray that your time with us has been enjoyable. If you have any questions, feel free to speak with any of our members or pastor after the service.

Setup and Take Down Team | Every Sunday, a team of volunteers shows up and sets up everything you see here today. After the service, they stick around, take it all down, and load it into the trailer. We want to thank them for their faithful service! If you are interested in helping with setup and takedown on a Sunday morning, please just jump in. If you have questions about it, feel free to contact Pastor Van Sice or talk to him after the service.

Want to Learn More? | Aside from worship, one of the best way to learn more about Scripture and Huntersville Lutheran teaches is to join a Faithbuilders class. Faithbuilders is a class on the basics of Christianity and is our path to membership at HLC. Whether you are brand new to Christianity or a life-long believer, this class is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen your faith and grow in your relationship with your Savior. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please contact Pastor (pastor@huntersvillelc.com).

Epiphany Sermon Series | The Sundays after Epiphany give us an opportunity to explore how God revealed his Son to the one the world needed. The Word "Epiphany" means "appearing or manifesting." Leading up the Sundays in Lent, we get to see how Jesus appeared to our savior, our substitute, our prophet, our forgiver, and so much more! Join us Sundays at 9:30am to hear more.

Bible Study: Psalms for Your Every Day | Today, we began a new bible study that looks at the book of Psalms. This bible study is set up to explore the different kinds of Psalms that exist and how we can make better use of them in our daily devotional life.