

*Arise, shine, for your
light has come,
and the glory of the LORD
has risen upon you!*



Isaiah 60:1

*St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS
605 South Center Street
Bremen, Indiana 46506
574.546.2332
stpaulsbremen.church*

There's one word in the Gospel for today that demands our attention. One word that Matthew uses to focus us on the hope that comes to us in the Son of God being born into our world. One word that directs us to God keeping His promises to send a Savior, a Messiah, to all people: **BEHOLD!**

We welcome everyone to God's House this morning!

The Lord's Supper is a very special privilege God gives to His people. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because the Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. If you are not partaking of the Lord's Supper but would like to receive a blessing, please come up to the communion rail when sent by an elder, kneel, and cross your arms over your chest. The Pastor will then know that you desire a blessing.

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD FROM HIS BLESSINGS TO US. Offerings remind us of the blessings God has given us and are an opportunity to thank Him for what He has done in our lives. Please place your offerings in our Offering Box located in front of the water fountains in the narthex of the church.

In Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." We welcome children and all the joy and little chatter that comes with them. If for any reason you want to take your little one out, there is a Nursery (Cry Room) available for use, located just outside the sanctuary.

Epiphany means the shining of a light, a revelation. Every year, we hear the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Arise, shine for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you" (Is. 60:1). Epiphany enlightens us as it proclaims great Scriptural truths. It emphatically declares that Jesus, born at Bethlehem, is true God made man. It announces that God has appeared among us as the Promised One to be the Savior of all people of every nation, Gentiles as well as Jews. Jesus Himself announced: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). Jesus is our light and He emboldens our faith and sets our lives ablaze to be what Christ called us to be: the light of a dark world.

Opening Hymn 394 "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTION ✠

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(Matthew 28:19)*

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

(Hebrews 10:22)

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.** *(Psalm 124:8)*

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.** *(Psalm 32:5)*

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(John 20:19-23)*

C **Amen.**

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit

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

P I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations;

C **therefore nations will praise You forever and ever.**

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

C **You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.**

P Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions;

C Your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

All: 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.

P I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations;

C therefore nations will praise You forever and ever.

Kyrie ~ *Lord, Have Mercy* (Mark 10:47)

LSB 186



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis ~ *Glory to God in the Highest*

LSB 187

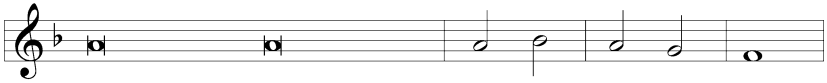
(Luke 2:14; John 1:29)



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



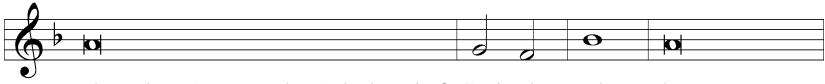
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



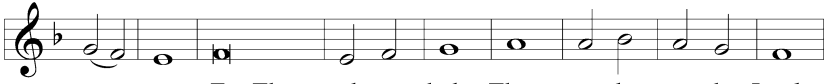
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



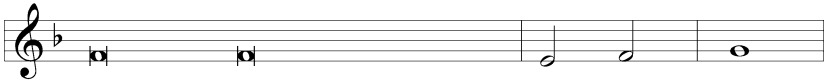
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)



C And with thy spir - it.

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.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

- 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8

P Praise the LORD, all nations!

C **Extol Him, all peoples!**

P For great is His steadfast love toward us,

C **and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**

P Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

C **bring an offering, and come into His courts!**

Epistle

Ephesians 3:1-12

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

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia

LSB 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, 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.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Hymn 400 "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"

Sermon Text

Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon "Look Here! Hear!"

1. Look here at all the places we _____ !
2. Look here and see how God has _____ !
3. Look here and see where God reveals _____ !

Hymn 396 "Arise and Shine in Splendor"

Prayers

Lord's Prayer (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

C 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.

Benedicamus ~ Let Us Bless (*Psalm 103:1*)

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction (*Numbers 6:24-26*)

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn 397 "As with Gladness Men of Old"

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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SHUT-IN OF THE WEEK *Phyllis Brown*

Autumn Trace Senior Community #110
2560 W. Lake Ave.
Plymouth, IN 46563

The flower chart for 2024 is up! It is hanging in the Narthex next to the Altar Guild room. Please feel free to sign up if you'd like to place flowers on the altar.

Calendar of Events

TODAY January 7th, 2024

Sunday School & Bible Class 8:30 am

Worship Service..... 9:30 am

No Bell or Adult Choir Practice.....

MON: ~ School Classes Resume ~

TUES:

Pastor's Conference - Mishawaka..... 9:30 am

PTL Meeting..... 6:00 pm

WED:

Men's Breakfast Bible Study 6:30 am

Day School Chapel 11:00 am

Parish Fellowship Meeting..... 11:00 am

THURS:

Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study 9:30 am

8th Grade Public School Confirmation 5:00 pm

New Member Class 2.0..... 7:00 pm

FRI:

Preschool Chapel 9:30 am

Euchre 7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY January 14th, 2024

Breakfast Potluck 8:00 am

Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am

Worship Service with Communion..... 9:30 am

Adult Basketball..... 2:00-4:00 pm

Bell Choir Practice 5:00 pm

Adult Choir Practice 6:00 pm

Parish Fellowship Meeting this Wednesday, the 10th, at 11:00 am.

Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study will resume January 11th.

YOUTH NEWS

Ice Skating: For Youth in Grades 4-High School, we are planning to go to the Iron Works skating rink in Mishawaka on Sunday, January 14th. We will meet at church at 5:30 pm and plan to return by 8:30 pm. Cost is \$5/attendee and we encourage Youth to bring a friend. Youth interested in attending should sign up on the Youth bulletin board so we can plan. If you have any questions, please contact Andy Wildauer.

CHRISTIAN MEN - AWAKE!

If you're at least 18 years of age, wake up on Wednesday morning every other week and join in a Bible Study at the Bremen Hospital cafeteria conference room at 6:30 AM. Enter the cafeteria area entrance on the south side patio to the left of the main entrance portico (presently the covid testing drive-thru). The cafeteria has an excellent breakfast menu and we enjoy our study with discussion and fellowship until 7:30 A.M. Bible study is a means of strengthening our understanding of God's plan for us and strengthening our faith, which we all can use in the daily challenges we face. Bring your Bible and join us as we study, eat and fellowship! The dates we will meet in 2024 are as follows: 1/10, 1/24, 2/7, 2/21, 3/6, 3/20, 4/3, 4/17, 5/1, 5/15, 5/29, 6/12, 6/26, 7/10, 7/24, 8/7, 8/21, 9/4, 9/18, 10/2, 10/16, 10/30, 11/13, 11/27, 12/11

If you have questions, please contact Dave Burcham or Tom Coxey.

SCHOOL CORNER

Happy New Year from the students and staff of St. Paul's schools! We hope you had a peaceful and joyous celebration of the birth of our Savior, with family and friends. We thank all of you for your support of the school, whether it is through finances, volunteering, or prayer. We appreciate all of you!

Check out our Kindergarten and First Grade Classes on the school bulletin board in the narthex! All of our kindergarteners came through our Preschool and we have one new student (Nolan Helton) in the First Grade class. That's a total of 15 students between the two classes!

We have ended our Second Quarter of school, and will start the second half of the school year when we resume January 8, 2024.

We thank you for your continued prayers this school year.

We continue to use SGO scholarships to assist with tuition, so please continue to give, and receive the tax credit and deduction for your donations! **Now, there is a link to donate to the LSGO on the church's website under the School drop-down menu.**

You can also find several (easy) ways to donate at www.lutheranSGO.org/Donate. Donations can be given through a check, IRA, stocks, Donor Advised Funds, PayPal, credit card, and **NOW electronic giving! Benefits to you are a 50% state tax credit for your donation and eligibility for a tax deduction.** These scholarships make a big difference for our families. Please contact Jennifer Harman, in the school office, if you have questions.

We also continue to take donations to St. Paul's tuition assistance fund. Checks for tuition assistance can be made out to the church.

Servants for Today's Worship January 7, 2024

Rev. Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Dakota & Tyler Schmeltz

Acolyte: Jessica Rogers

Elder: Jon Rettinger

Video Streamer: Paul Wonnacott

Servants for Next Sunday's Worship January 14, 2024

Rev. Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Joe Hughes & Paul Wonnacott

Acolyte: Gabriel Mejia

Elder: Larry Britt

Communion Assistant: Dave Burcham

Video Streamer: Bruce Schmidt