

January 7, 2024
Epiphany



ONCE FAR OFF,
BUT NOW *invited.*



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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #127

"As With Gladness Men of Old"

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

C *♩ Amen.*

P Pastor

Confession of Our Sins

C Congregation

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

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.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C *♩ Who made heaven and earth.*

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

C *♩ And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.*

P O Almighty God, our Maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution from Our God

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given us His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He gives the power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C *♩ Amen.*

The Introit

Ps. 72:1-2, 10-11; Liturgical Text

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- P** Behold the Lord, the ruler, has come, and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in his hand.
- G** **Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!**
- P** May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!
- G** **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!
- G** **Behold the Lord, the ruler, has come, and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in his hand.**

The Gloria Patri

TLH 131:5

Latin for "Glory be to the Father."

- G** ♪ **All glory, Jesus, be to Thee
For this Thy glad epiphany;
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Ghost forevermore.**

Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

- P** 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.
- G** ♪ **Amen.**

Exodus 34:1-14

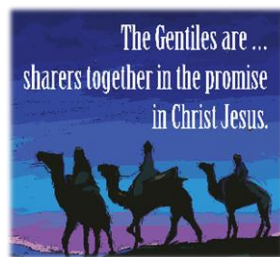
The LORD said to Moses, "Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. ² Be ready by the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to me on the top of the mountain. ³ No one shall come up with you,

and let no one be seen throughout all the mountain. Let no flocks or herds graze opposite that mountain." ⁴ So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. ⁵ The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." ⁸ And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. ⁹ And he said, "If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance." ¹⁰ And he said, "Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been created in all the earth or in any nation. And all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the LORD, for it is an awesome thing that I will do with you. ¹¹ "Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I will drive out before you the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ¹² Take care, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you go, lest it become a snare in your midst. ¹³ You shall tear down their altars and break their pillars and cut down their Asherim ¹⁴ (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.)

Ephesians 3:1-12

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles-- ² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ how the mystery was

made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴ When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which 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. ⁶ This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ Of 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. ⁸ To 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, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.



Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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 Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: TLH #129

"Hail, Thou Source of Every Blessing"

Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "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." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They 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.'" ⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And 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." ⁹ After 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. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And 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. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

"The Days of Herod the King" Bring Only Darkness

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**"The Days of Jesus the King" Bring Light to Those in Darkness**

### The Offertory

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**☩ ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me Cast me not away from Thy presence; And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with thy free spirit. Amen.**

## ✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: WS #718

“O Jesus, King of Glory”

## ✠ The General Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer ✠

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** *♫ And with thy spirit.*

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** *♫ We lift them up unto the Lord.*

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, Our God.

**C** *♫ It is meet and right so to do.*

**P** It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should, at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, everlasting God, for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

**C** *♫ Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav’n and earth are full of Thy glory; Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest. Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest.*

### **The Words of Institution**

*Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, “Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, “Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**C** *♫ Amen.*

## The Order of Holy Communion



## The Agnus Dei

*Latin phrase meaning, "Lamb of God."*

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- C** *♪ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, That takest away the sin of the world. Have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God That takest away the sin of the world. Have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, That takest away the sin of the world. Grant us Thy peace. Amen.*

### Communion Today is for Members Only Please

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 11:26-30, among other Bible passages. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, please speak with our Pastor to find out about communing with us in the future!

### ✠ The Distribution of the Lord's Supper ✠

#### The Nunc Dimittis

*Luke 2:29-32*

- C** *♪ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant Depart in peace according to Thy word, For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation; Which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, A Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.*

#### The Benediction

*Numbers 6:24-26*

*The blessing given by God for His people.*

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- 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 His peace.

- C** *♪ Amen, amen, a – men.*

**Hymn: WS #717**

*"Bright and Glorious Is the Sky"*