

# Big Grove Lutheran Church Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

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**January 8, 2023 – Epiphany**

*Welcome in Jesus' name.*

*We extend a special welcome to guests and visitors.*



*"David Ewart, www.holytextures.com."*

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# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

January 8, 2022

Epiphany

Prelude/Procession/Bells

Welcome and Announcements

## \*Confession and Forgiveness:

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

L: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.  
(Silence for Private Confession)

Holy One, source of our renewal,

**C: we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

L: Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## \*Opening Hymn

"Bright and Glorious is the Sky"

ELW #301 (v. 1, 2, 5 & 6)

1 Bright and Glorious is the sky, radiant are the heavens high  
where the golden stars are shining. All their rays to earth inclining  
beckon us to heav'n above, beckon us to heav'n above.

2 On that holy Christmas night through the darkness beamed a light;  
All the stars above were paling, all their luster slowly failing  
as the wondrous star drew nigh, as the wondrous star drew nigh.

5 Guided by the star, they found him whose praise the ages wound.  
We to have a star to guide us, which forever will provide us  
with the light to find our Lord, with the light to find our Lord.

6 And this star, as bright as day, that will never lead astray  
With its message so appealing, is the word of God, revealing  
Christ, the way, the truth, the life, Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

Text: Nikolai F.S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Jens Hristian Aabe, 1877-1970, alt.  
Music: Danis, 19<sup>th</sup> Cent.  
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**\*Apostolic Greeting:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Hymn of Praise: “Glory be to God in Heaven”** Setting 10, page 204 ELW

1 Glory be to God in Heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth;  
We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

2 Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

3 Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;  
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all;  
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.  
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

**\*The Prayer of the Day:**

God of abundance, **receive and bless these gifts we have offered.**

**Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 60:1-6

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

<sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A 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 proclaim the praise of the LORD.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsive Psalm Reading:**

**Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14**

L: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

**C. that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

L: that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

**C. Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

L: May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

**C. Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**

L: In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**C. May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

L: May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

**C. For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

L: He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.

**C. From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.**

Children's Sermon

**\*Gospel Acclamation:**

"Alleluia"

Setting 10, page 205, ELW

Alleluia! Lord and Savior; open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**\*Holy Gospel:**

**Matthew 2: 1-12**

L: The Holy Gospel according to the Book of Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you

have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

L: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

**Hymn:**

“The First Noel”

ELW #300

1 The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**Refrain:**

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. **[Refrain]**

3 And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. **[Refrain]**

4 This star drew near to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay. **[Refrain]**

5 Then entered in those wise men three,  
full rev'rently upon the knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh, and frankincense. **[Refrain]**

“The First Noel” Music by: John Strainer Copyright: Public Domain

### **\*Apostle's Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

### **\*Prayers of the People**

#### **\*Peace:**

**L: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.**

**Offering** (children may bring offerings forward)

**Offertory Hymn:** "In the Bleak Midwinter" ELW #294 (v. 1 & 3)

1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

3 What can I give him, poor as I am  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb  
If I were a wise man I would do my part  
Yet what can I give Him, give my heart

Christina Georgina Rossetti | Gustav Theodore Holst | Walter Ehret  
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#### **Offertory Prayer:**

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free.  
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and  
shape us as people of your justice and freedom.  
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

#### **\*The 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.**

**\*Benediction:**

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod † bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn:** "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

ELW #671

Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth your word,  
Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
Shine on me, shine on me: **Refrain**

2 As we gaze on your kingly brightness,  
So our faces display your likeness,  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me: **Refrain**

"Shine, Jesus, Shine" Music by: Graham Kendrick Copyright 1987 Make Way Music  
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**\*Dismissal:**

L: Go in peace. Follow in the way of Jesus.

**C: Thanks be to God.**