



The Epiphany

January 5, 2025

TRINITY CHURCH IN NORTHERN BERGEN COUNTY

Worship in the Beauty of Holiness ✠ Service and Hospitality in the Name of Christ

SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER

RINGING OF BELL

Angelus

OPENING HYMN

We Three Kings

Hymn 128

Officiant: Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

ALL: *Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen*

Officiant: ✠ Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen**

INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Together: **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Officiant: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: Come let us adore him.

VENITE (*Psalm 95:1-7, 96:9, 13*)

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

In his hands are the caverns of the earth,

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

All may be seated

THE PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 *Deus, iudicium*

1 Give the King your justice, O God, *

and your righteousness to the King's Son;

2 That he may rule your people righteously *

and the poor with justice;

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *

and the little hills bring righteousness.

4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *

he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *

from one generation to another.

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *

like showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *

there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *

and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

- 11 All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

THE LESSONS

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
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.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
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.
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.
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.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as are able for the canticle

THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH *Benedictus Dominus Deus (Luke 1:68-79)*

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.**

**He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.**

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

**Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.**

**You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**

**To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

All may be seated.

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and

prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

All stand

SEQUENCE HYMN

On this day earth shall ring

Hymn 92

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

Officiant: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

People: ***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

Officiant: ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

People: ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

`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."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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." 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

All may be seated

HOMILY

Mrs. Karen Roy

All stand as are able

APOSTLE'S CREED

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.***

THE PRAYERS

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Officiant: Let us pray.

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord:

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. Your saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

THE COLLECTS

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

Let us now offer our prayers of thanksgiving and intercession for our neighbors and ourselves up unto God.

A time of silence is kept. Prayer intentions may be said aloud if desired.

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

✠ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

How bright appears the Morning Star

Hymn 497

Announcements

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord—Sunday, January 12th

Annual Parish Meeting

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, January 12, 2025** after the 10:00 AM service.

Compassionate Outreach

St. Paul's Men's Shelter - The 2025 schedule for providing meals for the St. Paul's Men's Shelter is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please prayerfully consider signing up to help with this important part of our outreach ministry, on the 3rd Thursday of each month. You can also call and leave a message or email Lana with your requested date, or contact Donna Speizer.

CFA - The theme for JANUARY is Fruit and Vegetables – canned fruits and vegetables

Joyful Fellowship

Coffee Hour - The Signup Sheet for JANUARY is on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex. January 12th is our Annual Meeting and we ask for donations of Brunch type of food for that coffee hour. Anyone needing help, contact Janet Zacco.

Community Thrift Shop

The Shop continues to be open on Tuesday, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10:00am to 4:00pm for shopping! They accept in season merchandise only on Mondays from 9:00am to 12 noon. Donations should be in a maximum of 2 white kitchen bags, marked with Trinity's account #66. Any questions, contact Janet Zacco