



Where the Gospel is Proclaimed

January 14, 2024

Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church
Crossville

EPIPHANY SERIES OVERVIEW

Today we are on leg two of a six-week worship journey through the season of Epiphany. As we see our God reveal his Son, our Savior, to the world, we rejoice with the gifts we find in Christ. Today we see that Christ (X) is the spot where the gospel is proclaimed.



ABOUT THE SERIES LOGO

The symbol to the left is called a Chi Rho, the first two Greek letters of the title “Christ.” (A “Chi” looks like the English “X”, which is why you may see Xmas as an abbreviated way of writing Christmas.) The Chi Rho is a common symbol throughout Christianity and has been used for roughly 1800 years. You may notice that it also serves as the symbol on the front of our blue hymnal in each pew.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Holy Spirit, light divine, shine upon this heart of mine. Amen

SUGGESTED READING BEFORE WORSHIP

1 Corinthians 1:20-25. Try the YouVersion app or biblegateway.com on your phone.

CONNECT CARD

Please give us feedback, suggestions, questions, or prayer requests on the “Connect Card.” You may place it in the offering plate when the offering is gathered.

TODAY’S SONGS

Today we’ll sing from *Christian Worship* (the blue hymnal): 386, 527, 381, 642

OUR GUESTS

- **Thank you** for choosing us. Please make yourself at home!
- There’s **coffee** before worship for you and more coffee & treats after worship.
- Help yourself to materials on our **guest table** in the entryway.
- **Restrooms** are easily accessible in the entryway.

Visit us online at our Facebook page or
www.ascntn.org

John Qualmann, pastor
(920) 209-5437 or johndqualmann@gmail.com



WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Christian Worship 386:1-4

OPENING DIALOGUE

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

Congregation: **Amen.**

M God, our Father, each day is a gift of your grace.

C **Your mercies are new every morning.**

M Guide our steps by the light of your Word.

C **Shield us from harm and keep us from evil.**

M Better than life is your love.

C **Put joy in our hearts and praise on our lips. Alleluia!**

M O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C **Amen.**


M Your Word is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. Having the Word worked on our hearts, we confess our sins:

C **Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.**

M Jesus proclaimed the good news of God saying, "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" Because of his life, death, and resurrection you hear the good news today: you are forgiven!

C **Amen.**

M In the peace of God's forgiveness, let's praise the Lord!

C  **Grant us grace to see you, Lord,
mirrored in your holy Word.
May our lives and all we do
imitate and honor you
that we all like you may be
at your great epiphany
and may praise you, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY – SPOKEN IN UNISON

ALL Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON FROM GOD’S WORD

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: ²“Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

³Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. ⁴Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” ⁵The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON FROM GOD’S WORD

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

to the tune of “Alleluia, Sing to Jesus”

♪ I believe in God the Father, Maker of the heav’ns and earth.
And in Jesus Christ our Savior, God’s own Son, of human birth.
Virgin born, the Lord incarnate, whom the Spirit did conceive;
suffered under Pontius Pilate, he’s the God whom I believe.

Crucified, was dead and buried, down to hell in victory,
from the dead he rose the third day, up to heav’n triumphantly.
There at God’s right hand he’s ruling, by his will the world is led.
He will come to judge the nations, both the living and the dead.

I believe in God the Spirit, in his church, his chosen band.
They are joined in sweet communion, holy in his sight they stand.
I believe in sins forgiven; that the dead will rise again;
I believe in life eternal. Amen! Amen! Amen!

GOSPEL

Mark 1:14-20

¹⁴After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

¹⁶As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ¹⁸At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

HYMN

I Will Sing of My Redeemer

Christian Worship 527

MESSAGE

based on Mark 1:14,15

¹⁴After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

RESPONSE

The People Who in Darkness Walked

Christian Worship 381: 1 & 5

The people who in darkness walked have seen a glorious light;
the heavenly dawn broke forth on those who dwelt in death and night,
who dwelt in death and night.

Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, and make us yours alone,
for you are with the Father and the Spirit ever one,
the Spirit ever one.

OFFERING

*For our guests, please do not feel obligated to give a gift, but we would be honored if you would fill out your **Connect Card**. You may place it in the offering plate.*

*If you are interested in **giving a gift electronically**, simply use the **QR code** on your phone and it will take you to our secure online giving platform.*



PRAYERS AND 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.

OR

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.

CLOSING HYMN

O Word of God Incarnate

Christian Worship 642

CLOSING DIALOGUE

Ascension's Mission-Vision Statement

M Your word is a lamp to my feet

C **and a light for my path.**

[Psalm 119:105]

M I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God

C **that brings salvation to everyone who believes.**

[Romans 1:16]

M Faith comes from hearing the message,

C **and the message is heard through the word of Christ.**

[Romans 10:17]

M Jesus has given us a specific *mission* in Matthew 28:

C **"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."**

M Jesus has given us a glorious *vision* in Revelation 21:

C **I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."**

M United in faith and in purpose, our Mission-Vision statement reads:

C **As a family of believers in our Savior Jesus Christ, we learn, live, and share the good news of God's forgiveness with our community."**

BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

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*You are all invited for coffee and treats in our fellowship hall
immediately following dismissal.*

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*Today's Bible study topic: A Look at Evolution – Part 2
Please join us at 11:20 today in our fellowship hall.*

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*Copies of today's message and Life Group discussion questions are
available in the guest information table in the entryway.*

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Bible references are from *New International Version*, Zondervan, 2011.