

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Today is Epiphany! The twelve days of Christmas (which began on Christmas Day, December 25, and end today, January 6) conclude on this special day: Epiphany.

Epiphany is the day in which the three kings, the Magi, arrived in Nazareth and saw Jesus. The Bible pericope explains that they came to Jesus' house (not to the manger in Bethlehem). Biblical scholars believe that the Magi traveled for a long time and perhaps arrived two years after Jesus' birth.

There are two options for worship today, that I would like to share with you. Several ELCA bishops have prepared, "The Epiphany of Our Lord" virtual service that will be live streamed this evening at 7 p.m. It includes all of the new bishops throughout the United States who were elected in 2019. Bishop Regina Hassanally of our neighboring synod, Southeastern Minnesota, will be preaching. You can access this service on Facebook, You Tube channels, and via many synod social media platforms. (If you are unable to access it through the La Crosse Area Synod, please try the Southeastern Minnesota Synod's Facebook or You Tube channel.)

Another option, is an Epiphany service created by the South Conference of the La Crosse Area Synod. The service features pastors from Cashton, La Farge, Westby, Coon Valley, Prairie du Chien, Tomah (East Conference), and a few other communities near us. You may access this service at any time on You Tube, by going to "Cashton Three-Point Parish" and clicking on the Epiphany service for January 3, 2021. Closed captioning is available. While the service was viewed by many persons last Sunday, it is an Epiphany service, complete with music, a homily by Rev. John Dumke and his wife, Georgi; and a children's message from Rev. Miranda Klosterboer.

Please join me in watching one of these services, as we celebrate with Lutherans throughout our synod and the United States, "The Epiphany of Our Lord." Thanks be to God.

Peace,

Pr. Cathy