



# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Marked with the cross of Christ we are called to love, serve,  
and celebrate Christ, our community, and one another.*

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## **Epiphany of Our Lord**

### ***Epiphany – Say What?***

**January 5, 2025**

**9:30 a.m.**



The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

### **Welcome to Worship!**

We’re so glad you’ve joined us today.  
We hope you are blessed by today’s service.

**GATHERING + WORD + MEAL + SENDING**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING SONG**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ELW #283 (verses 1-3)

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the king of angels:*

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! Refrain*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest: Refrain*

**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.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God-with-us,

**we confess that we have turned away  
those seeking shelter,  
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.  
We have made power and wealth our idols,  
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.  
We have overlooked the shepherds,  
expecting good news in prettier packaging.  
Too often, we have valued violence  
instead of your peace.**

**Turn us from our ways to your ways.  
Grant us the grace to begin again.  
Free us from all that keeps us bound,  
and forgive our sin,  
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.  
Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice!  
You are God's chosen ones,  
holy and beloved,  
✠ forgiven in Christ,  
and freed to respond in joy.  
**Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

GATHERING + **WORD** + MEAL + SENDING

### **FIRST READING**

Isaiah 60:1-6

- <sup>1</sup> 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.

*Holy wisdom. Holy Word.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING**

Ephesians 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup> This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> 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: <sup>6</sup> that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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, <sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*Holy wisdom. Holy Word.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Please stand.*

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

ELW #289 (verse 1)

***Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.***

*Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.*

## **GOSPEL**

Matthew 2:1-12

*The holy gospel according to Matthew.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> 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.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **TIME WITH THE CHILDREN OF GOD**

**SERMON**

*Epiphany — Say What?*

Rev. Ken Anderson

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Please stand.*

**"Bright and Glorious Is the Sky"**

ELW #301

***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.***

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

***Sages from the east afar,  
when they saw this wondrous star,  
went to find the king of nations  
and to offer their oblations  
to the child, the newborn king,  
to the child, the newborn king.***

***Him they found in Bethlehem,  
yet he wore no diadem;  
there they saw a maiden lowly  
with an infant pure and holy  
resting in her loving arms,  
resting in her loving arms.***

***Guided by the star, they found  
him Whose praise the ages sound.  
We too 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.***

***And the 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.***

## **APOSTLES' 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**

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*A brief silence.*

Your glory fills the earth. Bless the work of all who engage in dialogue with people of other traditions and faiths (local interreligious organizations may be named). Bridge our differences with a shared mission of revealing your boundless love to the world. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Restore the glory of creation. Send rain to water-parched lands. Revive ecosystems and habitats threatened by a changing climate, and protect the peoples and creatures who live in them. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Give the rulers your justice and reveal your righteousness to those who govern. Frustrate the plans of tyrants and oppressors. Encourage the work of community organizers and activists who speak out against injustice (local organizations may be named). God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Help those who have no helper. Draw near to those who have no one to advocate for them or those who feel forgotten. Deliver those who call to you (especially). Precious are they in your sight. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Liberate this congregation from a yearning for the past that forgets the future. Fuel in us a passion for discovery. Give us the boldness to dream and to imagine our ministries in new and different ways. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for (names of local saints and all) your holy ones who now rest in your radiant glory. Make us, with them, sharers in the boundless riches of Christ, our hope and promise. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **A TIME FOR SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

GATHERING + WORD + **MEAL** + SENDING

### **THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS**

### **THE OFFERING OF OUR LIVES**

“What Child Is This”

ELW #296 (verses 1 & 3)

*What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

*Let us pray.*

God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

**Amen.**



## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

ELW #270 (verse 1)

***Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"***

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

## THE COMMUNION MEAL

*(Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Please note that Gluten-free wafers are also available — just ask the assistant at the time you commune.)*

### **A note to those visiting with us:**

*All are welcome at the Lord's table. In this meal Jesus offers his grace, forgiveness, and presence to all. To learn more about the gifts of God's grace given in Baptism and Holy Communion, please speak with the pastor after worship.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

"We Three Kings"

CCLI #38002 (verses 1-3)

*We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.*

***Oh, star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to Thy perfect light!***

*Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown Him again;  
king forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign.*

*Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, gladly raising,  
worshiping God most high.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Let us pray together:*

**Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.**

GATHERING + WORD + MEAL + **SENDING**

## BENEDICTION

The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

A musical score for the word 'Amen'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'A - men, a - men, a - - - men.' are written below the treble staff. The first two measures of the treble staff contain chords. The third measure has a melodic line with a slur over it, and the fourth measure has a whole note chord. The bass staff has chords in the first two measures and a melodic line with a slur in the third measure, followed by a whole note chord in the fourth measure.

**SENDING HYMN**

“We Three Kings”

CCLI #38002 (verses 4-5)

*Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone cold tomb.*

***Oh, star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to Thy perfect light!***

*Glorious now behold him arise,  
king and God and sacrifice;  
heav'n sings alleluia:  
alleluia the earth replies.*

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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.  
**Thanks be to God.**