

Epiphany of Our Lord (Observed)



January 11, 2026

St. John's Lutheran Churches
stjohnslutheranjc.com

Schubert

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About This Service: The heart of Christianity is not what we do for God but what God has done for us in Christ Jesus. We call our service the "Divine Service" because the Divine One, our Lord Jesus, promises to be present to serve us by His Word and with His body and blood.

Are My Children Welcome? Our Lord says, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14). Yes, your little ones are more than welcome! We are delighted to have them with us in the service!

Visitors: Welcome to St. John's! If you have not already done so, please fill out the visitor's book outside of the sanctuary. If you don't yet have a church home, or have any questions about what we believe, teach, and confess, feel free to speak with Pastor; he would be happy to talk with you!

Communion: We invite those who are communicant members of the LC-MS to commune with us. If you are not a communicant member of the LC-MS, please cross your arms when you come up to the communion rail to receive a blessing.

Ring of the Bell

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn TLH 131 "The Star Proclaims the King is Here"

**The star proclaims the King is here; But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
He takes no realms of earth away Who gives the realms of heav'nly day.**

**The wiser Magi see from far And follow on His guiding star;
And led by light, to light they press And by their gifts their God confess.**

**Within the Jordan's crystal flood In meekness stands the Lamb of God
And, sinless, sanctifies the wave, Mankind from sin to cleanse and save.**

**At Cana first His power is shown; His might the blushing waters own
And, changing as He speaks the word, Flow wine, obedient to their Lord.**

△ **All glory, Jesus, be to Thee For this Thy glad epiphany;
Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Ghost forevermore. Amen.**

The Order of Worship, Page 15 TLH

Invocation: TLH Page 15 [Responses Sung]

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

C: **Amen.**

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father,
beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

Confession of Sins TLH Page 16

ALL: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution TLH Page 16

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

C: *[Sung]* **Amen.**

Introit (P: Pastor C: Congregation) *Psalm 45:6–8a; antiphon: v. 17*

P: I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

**C: Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of
your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;
you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.**

P: Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of
gladness beyond your companions; your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

Gloria Patri: *TLH Page 16 [Sung]*

**C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

The Kyrie: *TLH Page 17 [Sung]*

C: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH Pages 17-19 [Sung]*

C: Glory be to God on high; And on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,

We glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav’nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect

TLH Page 19

P: The Lord be with you! C: And with thy spirit!

(prayed together) – **O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to
the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine
presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Response: [Sung] Amen.

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.

³And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A 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 bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

Epistle Reading – Ephesians 3:1-12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Gradual (*Pastor speaks, congregation responds with “Hallelujahs!”*)

P: Praise the Lord, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

C: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

As the Gospel reading is announced, the congregation sings... **C: GLORY BE TO THEE, O LORD!**

Gospel Reading – Matthew 2:1-12

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶“‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The Gospel ended, the congregation sings...

C: PRAISE BE TO THEE, O CHRIST!

The Nicene Creed *TLH Page 22*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn *TLH 132 "O God of God, O Light of Light"*

**O God of God, O Light of Light, Thou Prince of Peace, Thou King of kings!
To Thee where angels know no night The song of praise forever rings.
To Him who sits upon the throne, The Lamb once slain for sinful men,
Be honor, might, all by Him won, Glory and praise! Amen, Amen.**

**Deep in the prophets' sacred page, Grand in the poets' winged word,
Slowly in type, from age to age, Nations beheld their coming Lord,
Till through the deep Judean night Rang out the song "Good will to men!"
Hymned by the first-born sons of light, Reeched now, "Good will!" Amen.**

**That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death of pain, mid hate and scorn,
These all are past, and now above He reigns our King, once crowned with thorn.
Lift up your heads, ye heavenly gates; So sang His hosts, unheard by men;
Lift up your heads, for you He waits. We lift them up. Amen, Amen.**

**Nations afar, in ignorance deep, Isles of the sea, where darkness lay,
These hear His voice, they wake from sleep, And throng with joy the upward way.
They cry with us, "Send forth Thy light, O Lamb, once slain for sinful men;
Burst Satan's bonds, O God of might; Set all men free!" Amen, Amen.**

**Sing to the Lord a glorious song, Sing to His name, His love forthtell;
Sing on, heaven's host, His praise prolong; Sing, ye who now on earth do dwell:
Worthy the Lamb for sinners slain; From angels praise and thanks from men;
Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign, Glory and power! Amen, Amen.**

The Sermon

Offertory

TLH Pages 22-23 [Sung]

C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Prayers

TLH Pages 23-24

ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Preface: *TLH Page 24 [Responses Sung]*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to Thee, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God ... therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

The Sanctus: *TLH Page 26 [Sung]*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory;

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, Blessed is He,

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer: *TLH Page 27*

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;

[Sung] **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Institution: *TLH Page 27*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Pax Domini: *TLH Page 27*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: [Sung] A - - - - men.

The Agnus Dei: *TLH Page 28 [Sung]*

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Grant us Thy peace. A - - - - men.

The Distribution *(We invite those who are communicant members of the LC-MS to commune with us.)*

Distribution Hymns TLH 512 “O Christ, Our True and Only Light”

O Christ, our true and only Light, Enlighten those who sit in night;
Let those afar now hear Thy voice And in Thy fold with us rejoice.

Fill with the radiance of Thy grace The souls now lost in error's maze
And all whom in their secret minds Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.

Oh, gently call those gone astray That they may find the saving way!
Let every conscience sore oppress In Thee find peace and heavenly rest.

Oh, make the deaf to hear Thy Word And teach the dumb to speak, dear Lord,
Who dare not yet the faith avow, Though secretly they hold it now.

Shine on the darkened and the cold, Recall the wanderers to Thy fold,
Unite all those who walk apart, Confirm the weak and doubting heart,

So they with us may evermore Such grace with wondering thanks adore
And endless praise to Thee be given By all Thy Church in earth and heaven. Amen.

TLH 126 “Arise and Shine in Splendor”

Arise and shine in splendor, Let night to day surrender;
Thy light is drawing near, Above thee day is beaming
In matchless beauty gleaming; The glory of the Lord is here.

See earth in darkness lying, The heathen nations dying
In hopeless gloom and night. To thee the Lord of heaven –
Thy Life, thy Hope – hath given Great glory, honor and delight.

The World's remotest races, Upon whose weary faces
The sun looks from the sky, Shall run with zeal untiring,
With joy thy Light desiring That breaks upon them from on high.

Lift up thine eyes in wonder; See, nations gather yonder,
They all come unto thee. The world has heard thy story,
Thy sons come to thy glory, And daughters haste thy Light to see.

Thy heart will leap for gladness When from the realms of sadness
They come o'er land and sea. Thine eyes will wake from slumber
When people without number Come thronging from afar to thee. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

TLH Pages 29-30 [Sung]

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy Word,
For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation:
which Thou hast prepared before the Face of all people,
a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Thanksgiving: TLH Page 30

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

C: *[Sung]* And His mercy endureth forever.

The Thanksgiving Prayer: TLH Pages 30-31

P: ...through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

C: *[Sung]* **A- - - - men.**

The Benedicamus: TLH Page 31

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *[Sung]* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: *[Sung]* **Thanks be to God.**

The Benediction: TLH Page 31

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: *[Sung]* **Amen, Amen, Amen!**

Closing Hymn TLH 129 “Hail, Thou Source of Every Blessing”

**Hail, Thou Source of ev'ry blessing, Sov'reign Father of mankind!
Gentiles now, Thy grace possessing, In Thy courts admission find.
Grateful now we fall before Thee, In Thy Church obtain a place,
Now by faith behold Thy glory, Praise Thy truth, adore Thy grace.**

**Once far off, but now invited, We approach Thy sacred throne;
In Thy covenant united, Reconciled, redeemed, made one.
Now revealed to Eastern sages, See the Star of Mercy shine,
Myst'ry hid in former ages, Myst'ry great of love divine.**

**Hail, Thou all-inviting Savior! Gentiles now their off'rings bring;
In Thy temples seek Thy favor, Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.
May we, body, soul, and spirit, Live devoted to Thy praise,
Glorious realms of bliss inherit, Grateful anthems ever raise! Amen.**

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Have A Blessed Week!

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Cover pic artwork: Allan Forbis

The Lutheran Hymnal: St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, © 1941.

Hymn #131: Scripture: Matthew 2:9; Hostis Herodes impie; The Star Proclaims the King Is Here; Author: Coelius Sedulius, (c. 450);
Translator: John M. Neale (1852, alt.); Tune: Wo Gott zum Haus; Source: “Geistliche Lieder,” Wittenberg, 1535.

Hymn #132: Scripture: Psalm 43:3; O God of God, O Light of Light; Author: John Julian (1883); Tune: O grosser Gott; Source: “Gesang-und
Notenbuch,” Stuttgart, 1744.

Hymn # 512; Scripture: Luke 1:79; O Jesu Christe, wahres Licht; O Christ, Our True and Only Light; Author: Johann Heermann (1630);
Translator: Catherine Winkworth (1858, alt.); Tune: O Jesu Christ, mein's: Source: “Nürnbergisches Gesangbuch”, 1676.

Hymn #126: Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6; Brich auf und werde lichte; Arise and Shine In Splendor; Author: Martin Opitz (1628, ab.);
Translator: Gerhard Gieschen (1839); Tune: O Welt, ich muss dich lassen; Composer: Heinrich Isaak (c. 1490).

Hymn #129: Scripture: Matthew 2:11; Hail Thou Source of Every Blessing; Author: Basil Woodd (1810); Tune: O Durchbrecher; Source:
“Neues Geistreiches Gesangbuch,” Halle, 1704.

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Now that we have received instruction in this revelation of God's grace, let us celebrate with spiritual joy the day of the first calling of the Gentiles. Let us give thanks to the merciful God, "who has made us worthy," in the words of the Apostle, "to share the position of the saints in light; who has rescued us from the power of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved Son." For "the people of the Gentiles, who sat in darkness, have seen a great light, and for those who dwelt in the region of the shadow of death a light has dawned." This is "the day that Abraham saw, and rejoiced to see," when he knew that the children born of his faith would be blessed in his seed, that is, in Christ. This came to be fulfilled, as we know, from the time when the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognize and adore the King of heaven and earth.

(St. Leo the Great)

Daily Bible Reading:

- **Monday, Jan. 12th**: Matthew 18
- **Tuesday, Jan. 13th**: Matthew 19
- **Wednesday, Jan. 14th**: Matthew 20
- **Thursday, Jan. 15th**: Matthew 21
- **Friday, Jan. 16th**: Matthew 22
- **Saturday, Jan. 17th**: Matthew 23
- **Sunday, Jan. 18th**: Matthew 24

Catechism Recitation for the Week: Lord's Prayer: Introduction

Our Father who art in heaven.

What does this mean?

With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.