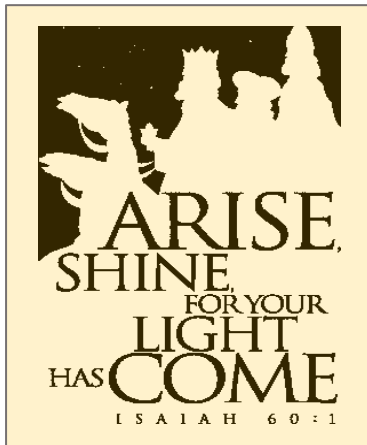


January 4, 2026
EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD, YEAR A



Ringling of Bell

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ *Please Stand*

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love and
faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

C: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with our burdens of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge and our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

P: God's grace upon grace flows over you.
† Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C: Amen.

HYMN *Rise, Shine You People* No. 665

- 1 **Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered our human story; God in him is centered. He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.**
- 2 **See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling; he brings us freedom, light and life and healing. All men and women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven.**
- 3 **Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling, your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling. To all the world go out and tell the story of Jesus' glory.**
- 4 **Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us. Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us. Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation God's new creation.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY *We pray together*

L: O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star.

C: 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.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 60:1-6

Nations come to the light

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² 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.

³ Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ 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 in their nurses' arms.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14 *We read responsively*

L: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

C: that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

L: that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness. >>

C: Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

L: May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

C: Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

L: In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

C: May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

L: May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

C: For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper.

L: He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.

C: From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 3:1-12

The gospel's promise extends to all

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

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

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

◆ PLEASE STAND

HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Revelation of Christ to the nations of the earth

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him,

"In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'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.' "

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And 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, O CHRIST.**

Please be seated

SERMON *Rev. Nancy L. Dreier*

HYMN OF THE DAY: v. 1,3,5,6 No. 301

Bright and Glorious is the Sky

- 1 **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.**
- 3 **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.**
- 5 **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. >> v. 6**

- 6 **And this 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.**

◆ PLEASE STAND

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 INTERCESSION

Hear us O God, **your mercy is great.**

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

OFFERING—GLOBE OFFERING

Children are invited to bring an offering to the globe at the front of the church

OFFERING SONG

In the Bleak Midwinter No. 294

- 1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on
snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
- 2 Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes
to reign; in the bleak midwinter a stable place
sufficed the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.
- 3 What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a
shepherd I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise
man I would do my part; yet what I can I give
him—give my heart.

◆ PLEASE STAND

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow.

C: Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *Spoken*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

God is now in flesh appearing.

Come to the feast of joy!

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION & HYMN

No. 296

What Child Is This

- 1 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!
- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!
- 3 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!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.

May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence.

C: Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The triune God, glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace,
and joy. **C: Amen.**

◆ PLEASE STAND

HYMN *Arise Your Light Has Come* No. 314

- 1 **Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.** >> v. 2-4

- 2 **Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.**
- 3 **Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born, bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**
- 4 **Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.**

Ringling of Bell

DISMISSAL

L: Glory to God in the highest!

C: And peace to God's people on earth!

L: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PARTICIPANTS

PRESIDING PASTOR—Rev Nancy L. Dreier

WORSHIP ASSISTANT—Eric Hoversten

ORGAN/PIANO—Tammy Hanson

ACOLYTE—Page Buchal

GREETER(S)—

COMMUNION SET-UP—Harris & Heidi Haugen

COMMUNION SERVERS—Cora Lee Monroe, Angie Eggert, + ?

COFFEE—Cora Lee Monroe

TECH CREW—Heidi Haugen, Steve Johnson,

Holly Aldorfer, Jack Aronson, Luke Cordes

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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PUBLIC DOMAIN HYMNS:

What Child is This, In the Bleak Mid-Winter

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OL/SKU#01597 *Rise Shine You People* ELW 665

OL/SKU#08638 *Bright & Glorious is the Sky* ELW 301

OL/SKU#08411 *Arise Your Light Has Come* ELW 314

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Jennifer Lerfald, Lavon Underdahl, Jim Fountaine,

Dax Eggert, Larry Walker, Renee Spidahl-Carmichael,

Tim Emerson & Anne Laue.

CALENDAR

- Su Jan 4** 9 AM EPIPHANY WORSHIP
No SUNDAY SCHOOL
10 AM Coffee
★ 3 PM EMMANUEL CONCERT *see below*
- Su Jan 11** 9 AM WORSHIP – LAY-LED
(12-28 rescheduled)
10 AM Sunday School-Class
10 AM Coffee
- Su Jan 18** 9 AM WORSHIP- LAY-LED
10 AM Sunday School-Class
10 AM Coffee
- Su Jan 25** 9 AM Worship
10 AM Sunday School-Class
10 AM Coffee
Annual Meeting



ANNOUNCEMENT:

Aspelund Emmanuel Choir Concert

Sunday January 4 at 3 PM

'JESUS - LOVE'S PURE LIGHT'

A light supper follows the concert

ALL ARE INVITED

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