

*Dismissal

Go in Peace, carry the light of Christ into the world. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:

Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Vince Besesnjak, Joan Clarke, Chuck Dick-
ey, Bill Flick, Barbara Fossa, Alan Fugo and family, Donna Franz, Barb
Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Dorrie
Kearns, Dylan King, Karen Kipfsthul, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Bar-
bara Mingee, Phyllis Nemeth, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Ginny Rob-
inson, Steve Senderak, Arlene Stoltz, Barb Toth, Maud Wright,
Charlotte Zaranka, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Rob-
ert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams,
Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.



Epiphany of Our Lord

Sunday, January 4, 2026

9:00 am

Last Week

General Fund receipts for week ending 12/28/2025:\$

*To the glory of God and in loving memory of Jean Rusher: a memorial
was given by Lisa & Tom King*

Welcome to the Lutheran Church of the Covenant!

Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the God of new life!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary.

We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns. An asterisk * indicates when you are invited to stand, as you are comfortable.

All are welcome to come forward for communion. The ushers will guide you. Juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please let your server know if you need either of these.

A basket for offerings is at the rear of the sanctuary.

A children's table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you'll find some books and activities to help children feel more at home in worship.

Serving in Worship Today

Presiding Minister	Rev. Andrea McDonough
Organist	Gerry Mass
Assisting Minister	Bert Zahn
Lector	Marie Zahn
Crucifer	Adrian Bernardo
Parish Administrator	Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vince Besednjak

*Sending Hymn: I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light ELW #815

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the
day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the
cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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Invitation to Communion

Distribution



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Post Communion Prayer

Gracious god, in this meal, you have drawn us to your heart and nourished us at your table with food and drink. The body and blood of Christ, now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to spread your light this day and evermore. **Amen.**

*Blessing

We have celebrated together that Jesus Christ came to be the light, not only for Christians, but to be known by every person, every country, every culture on earth. For he is the Savior of all. May we come to know him better and then make his light known to others, especially by the way we live. And may almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you, now and always. **Amen.**

Epiphany of Our Lord— January 4, 2026

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Epiphany Call to Worship

O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done: **The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!**

O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done: **The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!**

O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done: **The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan, making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the gospel!**

O come, let us worship the Lord, **for God has done wondrous things!**

*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, as we await the manifestation of His saving light in the world.

Merciful and loving God, we confess that we have turned away from Your true glory, seeing only darkness where You reveal Yourself in humble light, like a baby in a manger. We have sought power and wealth instead of Your peace, and failed to recognize You in the overlooked and the unexpected. Too often, we have failed to be Your light in the world. Turn us from our ways to Your ways, grant us grace to begin again, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, our true light, who gives Himself for us.

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. Amen

*Sanctus

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-
san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

*The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Christ taught us
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.
Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.

*Offertory Payer

Loving God, we follow the Magi in giving you gifts, praying that as you receive our acts of offering, you would shine the light of Christ in our hearts to lead us in lives which serve you more deeply. **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.

Bright shining God,

inner light of all faithful souls,

we celebrate your gifts of love, creation, and art.

We rejoice that you have made us in your image
and call us to live in your limitless love.

You bring peoples and leaders to the dawn of your rising.

You sent your only child, our morning star,
to light a way in our night

and lead us to justice and peace.

Your Holy Spirit shines good news into our lives.

Each daybreak you call us to
feed the hungry, bring recovery of sight, liberate the oppressed,
heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds,
and keep watch for the dawn of your commonwealth on earth.
For all of this we give you thanks.

And we praise you,
joining our voices with all life on earth and the company of heaven,
who forever sing their hymns to proclaim the glory of your name:

*Processional Hymn: Angels From The Realms of Glory ELW #275



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

***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.**

*Hymn of Praise: Glory to God

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther,
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

Father of light, today you reveal to people of faith your Word made flesh. Your light is strong, your love is sure. Draw us beyond the limits of this world into your eternal life. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

*Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

*Offertory Hymn: Voices Raised to You ELW# 845

(please stand as the offering is brought forward)

1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your
5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the
songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,
thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es
for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!
Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!
Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

Prayers of the People

On this Feast of the Epiphany, when the light of Christ was revealed to all the nations of the world, we turn to God our Father, confident that he will hear and answer our prayers:

Let the light of Christ shine on all people. That the light of Christ may shine on all nations far and near... That in our day justice may flourish and peace come to all of the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the great powers of the world, the strong nations, and mighty governments. May their power be used properly that the poor are protected, the weak are not exploited, and no one is oppressed. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For all who have died or are suffering as a result of violence, warfare or natural disasters. That peace on earth, that the peace which Christ brings will become a reality for all nations. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

That all who look for a star to guide them may discover the goodness of the Lord in people full of faith and love, let us pray: Let the light of Christ shine on all people. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For our congregation, that it will be a strong community, built on love, and a powerful witness to the presence of God. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For all who are sick or suffering, neglected or bereaved, that the light of Christ will lead them out of darkness. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:
have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right
hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -
lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
Final refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est.
A - men, a - men.

***Prayer of the Day:** Light of Christ, awaken us this hour to the glory of your presence in our midst. Shine among us in such a way that the darkness without and within may be pushed back, such that we might truly see what is real. Help us to recognize our sin for what it is. Enable us to behold the world as you created it to be, as you created us to be. Empower us to move from darkness to light, from sin to new life. May your light within us shine through into worship this day, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Children's Moment

First Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

The light shines in the darkness

and the darkness did not overcome it.

*Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ**

Sermon

***Hymn of the Day: As With Gladness Men of Old ELW #302**



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
 5 In the heav'n-ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14

(sung responsively)



¹ Give the king your jus- l tice, O God,
 and your righteousness to l the king's son;
² that he may rule your l people righteously
 and the l poor with justice;
³ that the mountains may bring prosperity l to the people,
 and the l hills, in righteousness.
⁴ Let him defend the needy a- l mong the people,
 rescue the poor, and crush l the oppressor.
⁵ May he live as long as the sun and l moon endure,
 from one generation l to another.
⁶ Let him come down like rain upon l the mown field,
 like showers that wa- l ter the earth.
⁷ In his time may the l righteous flourish;
 and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall l be no
 more.
¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the l isles pay tribute,
 and the kings of Sheba and Seba l offer gifts.
¹¹ May all kings bow l down before him,
 and all the nations l do him service.
¹² For the king delivers the poor who cry out l in distress,
 the oppressed, and those who l have no helper.
¹³ He has compassion on the low- l ly and poor,
 and preserves the lives l of the needy.
¹⁴ From oppression and violence he re- l deems their lives,
 and precious is their blood l in his sight.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3: 1-12

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

The light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness did not overcome it.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you O Lord.**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were