

Immanuel Lutheran Church



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Epiphany Sunday
January 4, 2026



AS WE GATHER

The Singing Camels of Sheba

We humans aren't the only ones celebrating Epiphany! Though the whole earth shall be covered with darkness, "nations shall come to Your light" (Isaiah 60:3). Isaiah mentions the wealth of all nations, and we are reminded of the Magi bearing gifts. We have gifts, too, of a spiritual nature, connecting other people with our gracious God, "in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith" (Ephesians 3:12). "Singing camels"? Well, who really carried the gold and silver so far? The camels, Isaiah writes, "shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord" (Isaiah 60:6). If the camels are praising God, so must we. Get ready to celebrate!

PRELUDE

"We Three Kings of Orient Are," arranged by Christopher Uehlein

WELCOME

HYMN “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” #384

Please stand as you are able.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

CONFESSTION AND ABSOLUTION

Ephesians 3:12; Psalm 72:11

Pastor: In Christ, we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.

People: **May all kings fall down before Him, all nations serve Him!**

Pastor: In repentant faith, we come before our Lord in confession. Almighty God, King of all,

People: **we confess to You that we are sinful by nature. We have lived in darkness rather than light. Our selfish thoughts, harmful words, and faithless actions reveal our sinfulness. But for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, who became flesh for us, we pray, forgive us our sins. Amen.**

Pastor: God’s grace is revealed in the birth, life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He has brought light to this world darkened by sin. In the stead and by the command of Jesus, I announce to you the full forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

✖ WORD ✕

KYRIE *pew hymnal page 151*

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: **♪ Lord have mercy**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **♪ Lord have mercy**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **♪ Lord have mercy**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **♪ Lord have mercy**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord.

People: **♪ Amen**

HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the Feast" *pew hymnal page 155*

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1. Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. **Refrain**
2. Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. **Refrain**
3. Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation.
4. Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. **Refrain**
5. For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. **Final Refrain**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **♪And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord of all creation, You announced the birth of Your Son by arranging a new star to appear. As all who saw it and believed were included in His saving work, lead us and people around the world to receive the light of Your grace with joy, becoming lights ourselves, that many others may join us to praise Your gracious love; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **♪Amen**

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 60:1-6

(The Lord's coming will be good news for everyone.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE Ephesians 3:1-12

(Everyone is welcome to partake in the promise in Christ Jesus.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

ALLELUIA and VERSE

pew hymnal page 156

**♪ Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12 *(Gentiles bring gifts for the baby.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 2nd chapter.

People: **♪ Glory to You, O Lord.**

The Gospel is read

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: **♪ Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE NICENE CREED

(found on the last page of the pew hymnal)

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY “The Star Proclaims the King Is Here” #399

SERMON *Pastor Mark Croucher*

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come. We pray for the church here and around the world. For as the Magi saw the star, many people will see the glory of the Lord and come to faith, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Wonderful Counselor, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: For the leaders of this nation and the nations of the world, that they use their many resources for the poor, remember the disadvantaged, and seek peace with their neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Mighty God, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lift up your eyes all around and see. We pray for the lonely—those alone at home; those separated from loved ones, including armed forces deployed; and all those forgotten by the rest of society—that God would move caring people to surround them with His love. We especially ask that you bring Your healing and comfort to all who are sick or in any need, especially Liz, Myron, Betty, Karl, Dan, Ian and Luetta. Give confidence in suffering and thankful hearts for Your every blessing. Lord, in Your mercy, Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Everlasting Father, hear our prayer.

Pastor: The Magi brought gold and frankincense. We pray for charitable organizations in our parish and community, that by the grace of God, we all may experience growth in faith as the Gospel moves from ears to heart, and from conviction to serving God and loving one another. Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, gracious God, who sent Your Son to be light in this dark world, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

People: Amen.

Please be seated.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

"Watchman Tell Us of the Night," arranged by Wilbur Held

Please stand as you are able

⌘ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ⌘

pew hymnal page 160-166

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: ⌈And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: ⌈We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: ⌈It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is indeed good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Jesus 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. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

**♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You sent Your only-begotten Son to take our place on the cross and be our Savior. We receive the salvation He accomplished for us by that sacrifice. Gather us together from near and far to the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. To You alone, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, be all glory, honor, and worship, now and forever.

People: **♪ Amen**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and Passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

PAX DOMINI

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

People: ♫ Amen

AGNUS DEI

♫ Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION "Of the Father's Love Begotten," arranged by Kevin Hildebrand

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

♫ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.

Thanks be to You, heavenly Father, for refreshing our minds, bodies, and spirits with this Sacrament. Rule us always by Your Holy Spirit that we may serve You constantly; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: ♫A-men

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

People: ♫ A-men

HYMN "Hail, O Source of Every Blessing" #409

POSTLUDE

"Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning," arranged by Wilber Held

THE MESSENGER

January 4, 2026

WELCOME! Dear guest, we pray that your worship with us is as spiritually enriching for you as your presence is encouraging to us. We invite you to sign our guest book in the foyer. Please leave your email address if you would like periodic updates from Immanuel. Most importantly, come back and worship with us again next Sunday.

SERVING US TODAY: Pr. Mark Croucher
Linda Rayburn, Organist

IN OUR PRAYERS: Liz Kraft, Myron Kimber, Betty Peuster, Karla Kass, Dan and Ian Henggeler and Luetta Buchholz.

LAST SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE: **27 total: 10 guest**

THE LUTHERAN HOUR theme for next Sunday, January 11th is **"Solidarity"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler Solidarity is how Christians understand their relationship to Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus, the Son of God, went where we had gone so that we might go where He goes. Romans 6:5 Listen online at <https://www.lutheranhour.org>.