

2nd Sunday of Christmas

~Celebrating the Epiphany~

January 4th, 2026 ~ 8:30am



+ Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church +

2451 Saucon Valley Rd. Center Valley, PA 18034

Office: 610-865-4144

The Rev. Lisa K. Borrell, Pastor ~ 610-762-2139

Quinette Brucker, Dir. of Music/Organist

WELCOME

() Please stand as you are comfortable and able*



Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

***Call to Worship**

P: We gather as people looking for the star, a sign that God is at work in the world.

C: God, help us find your glory.

P: We gather as people listening for the whispers of the Spirit, hints of the good news in the least likely places.

C: God, help us notice your glory.

P: We gather as people yearning for Love's presence, the assurance that we are not alone and Love will have the last word.

C: God, help us encounter your glory.

P: On this Epiphany, may the light of love shine among us, revealing divine glory through neighbors known and unknown, vulnerable children, and unexpected gifts.

C: God, reveal to us anew the glory of your expansive love that gathers us together and sustains us in loving service to one another and all creation. Amen.

***Opening Hymn #242 "Awake, Awake, and Greet ..."**

*The Greeting and Prayer of the Day

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. ~ 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.**

The First Reading ~ Isaiah 60: 1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

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 (selective verses, read responsively)

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;



² that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶ Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.

⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be
an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

¹¹ May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.

¹² For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.

¹³ He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.

The Second Reading ~ Ephesians 3: 1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

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

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

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel Acclamation



*The Holy Gospel ~ Matthew 2: 1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "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." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They 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.' ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ When 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. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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, O Christ.**

Sermon

*Hymn #510 “Word of God Come Down on Earth”

*The Apostles’ Creed (professed together)

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.

*The Prayers of Intercession

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

Anthem

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

Blessing of the Elements



The Lord’s Prayer

+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

This morning, the sacrament will be distributed by method of intinction; that is, the Pastor will dip the wafer into the chalice, hand it to the recipient so that they may place it in their own mouth.

Post-Communion Blessing, Prayer, and Benediction

P: Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: The God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Closing Hymn #314 “Arise! Your Light Has Come”**

***The Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music



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*thank
you*

... to Maureen Wagner for serving as our lector

... to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech

... to Alicia Baird for serving as our musician



To be remembered in prayer ... Richard Eisenhart, Hope Geary, Jeanne Logan, Steve Schoepple, Barb Shaneberger, Tyler and Elizabeth, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, people living in war-torn countries, victims of oppression, injustice, violence, and natural disasters, and other dear ones whom we name before God. †



The 2026 flower chart has been posted on the narthex bulletin board. Please sign up for a specific Sunday to sponsor, clearly printing your name and dedication.

Thank you!

*Blessings to you in this
new year ahead!*