EPIPHANY SUNDAY

JANUARY 7, 2024
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod



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Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor 956.463.1305 eweber10@aol.com

<u>Website:</u> lutheranmercedes.com

> Sunday 9:00 AM Worship Service

> > 10:30 AM

Adult Bible Class Sunday School

Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday

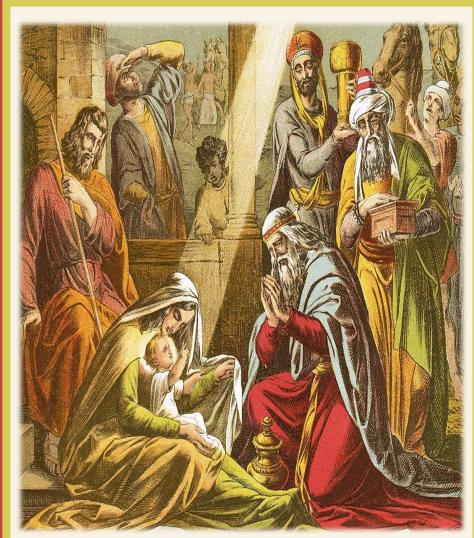
www.facebook.com/lutheranmercedes/

Website:

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Office Hrs, M-F 8 am to 12 pm

CCLI # 2585510



"And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

(Matthew 2:11)

EPIPHANY SUNDAY JANUARY 7, 2024

WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

This week we celebrate Holy Communion. We teach that in the receiving of the Lord's Supper each person receives the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. If you are not a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and desire to partake of Communion, please ask to speak with Pastor Weber or one of the elders prior to the service.

A Prayer Upon Entering Church - Lord God, buried with Christ by His Baptism into death, and assured of being raised with Him, fill me with Your Spirit that claimed as Your own child, welcomed into Your family, washed clean from my sins, given the gift of faith, and joined together with Jesus, I may walk in newness of life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - A new season in the Church Year begins today. Following Advent hope and Christmas joy in the Savior born for us, we enter Epiphany, which can be summed up with words such as revealing, shining forth, and manifestation. The Word we hear today is fitting as epiphanies are things the Lord has done since the beginning of time. The first creation was light shining forth on the first day. From that day of creation to the fall into sin to the first promise of the Savior, God has shone His light and enabled His people to see and know what is needed. As the time was right for Jesus to begin His earthly ministry, it began with His Baptism.

With John the Baptist in the Jordan River, the Lord reveals and shines forth the manifestation of the Word made flesh for us when He says: "You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11).

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

PAGE 203

WELCOME

PRELUDE

(A quiet time for prayer and meditation)

OPENING HYMN The Star Proclaims the King Is Here LSB 399;V1,2,5



Please stand

INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(We take a moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Savior.)

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

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT Psalm 2:7–11, 12c; antiphon: Isaiah 42:1a

- P "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights!
- C "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.
- P Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.
- C You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' "
- P Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth.
- C Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
- P Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.
- C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- P "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My

soul delights!

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

GLORIA in EXCELSIS



2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray; 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth! O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way. For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry, You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King. Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

SALUTATION

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And with your spirit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. 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.

C Amen.

Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 60:1–6

(The future glory of Israel)

1 Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. 2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. 3 The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

4 "Lift 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 nursed at your side. 5 Then you shall see and become radiant, and your heart shall swell with joy; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. 6 The multitude of camels shall cover your land, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come; they shall bring gold and incense, and they shall proclaim the praises of the Lord.

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 72:1–11; antiphon: v. 18*

- P Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Give the king Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to the royal son!
- C May He judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice!
- P Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!

- C May He defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!
- P May they fear You while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- C May He be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!
- P In His days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
- C May He have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!
- P May desert tribes bow down before Him and His enemies lick the dust!
- C May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render Him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!
- P May all kings fall down before Him, all nations serve Him!
- C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- P Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 3:1–12*

(The mystery of the Gospel revealed)

1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, 3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: 6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, 7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

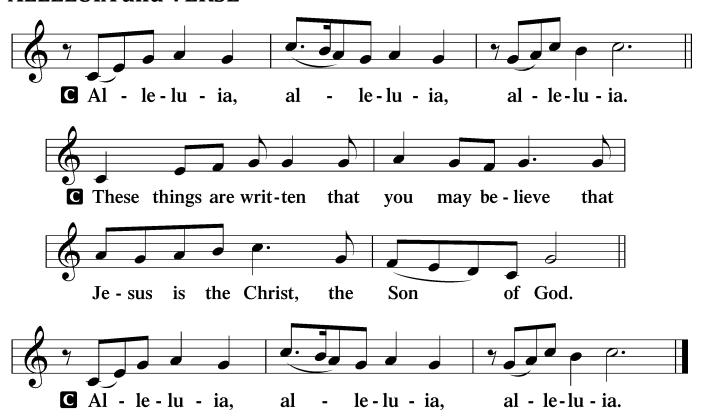
8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was

given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

ALLELUIA and VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 2:1–12* (The visit of the Wise Men)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to

Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

5 So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

All 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 (CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE) 9

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 Spirit 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 sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in 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.

Please sit

HYMN OF THE DAY

As with Gladness Men of Old

LSB 397



- 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 at ed light;



with joy they hailed its light, Lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright; As bend the knee be - fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth There to a - dore: may we with ho - ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al - loy, So when earth-ly things are past, Bring ran-somed souls our at joy, its crown, Thou sun which goes not down; Thou its light, its its



most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev - er - more be led by Thee. So. feet Ev - er seek Thy mer - cy seat. may we with will - ing So All our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King. guide, Where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide. Where they need no star to for - ev - er sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King. There may we

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SERMON

"Wise for salvation"

(Matthew 2:2)

OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY

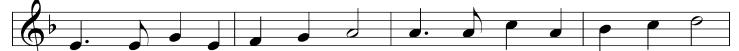
Songs of Thankfulness and Praise LSB 394 vs. 1,5



- 1 Songs of thank ful ness and praise, Je sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
- 5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres ent in Thy ho ly Word—



Man - i - fest - ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far, Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem: That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest. And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text and tune: Public domain

SHARING OF THE PEACE "Peace be with you" (John 20:21)
(Sharing through ASL (American Sign Language))

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord of all creation, You spoke all creation into being, beginning with light. In this Epiphany season and all our days, grant us faith to see the light of Your providing hand, the guidance of the light of Your Word, and our Savior as the light of the world. Help us to shine Your light of truth and grace to this dark world, that others may know You and rejoice in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord of all grace, though our many sins and shortcomings weigh heavy on our hearts, You come to us in Your means of grace and give new life. Help us to daily remember our Baptism and to daily rejoice in our identity as Your own children and part of Your family. With Christ as the head, bless this family of believers within Your Church that through worship and fellowship all may be blessed with encouragement, support, service, and a zeal for growing in and sharing Your Word. Bless all families and homes that parents and children may remain steadfast in faith, trusting in You above all things. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord of all comfort, following the Baptism of Jesus He would seek the lost, heal the sick, and show compassion to all. Enable us in boldness and confidence to proclaim the wonders of Him who has called us out of darkness and into Your marvelous light. Use our words and actions to be a blessing to others. For those who are sick and suffering, grant Your continued presence and healing according to Your will, [especially . . .]. Grant patience in trials, peace in afflictions, and hope in Your promises now and eternally. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Additional petitions may follow.

P Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

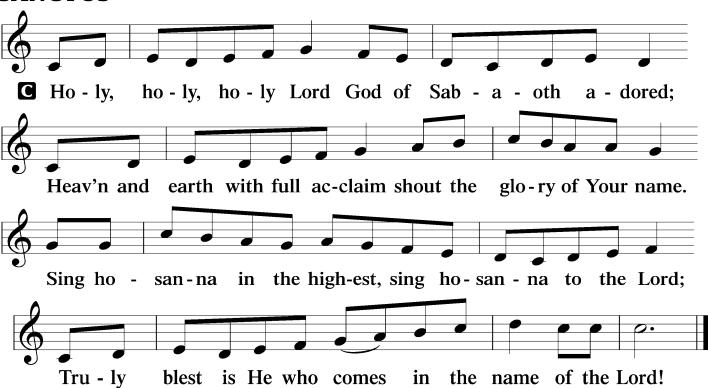
C₁₇ Amen.

+SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And with your spirit.
- 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 Him thanks and praise.
- P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for at His Baptism Your voice from heaven revealed Him as Your beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him, confirming Him to be the Christ. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

C 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. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

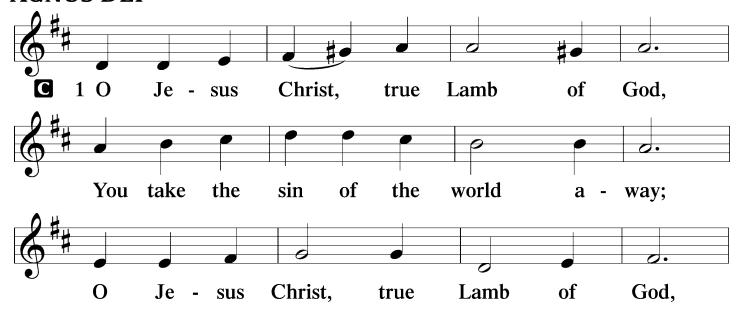
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

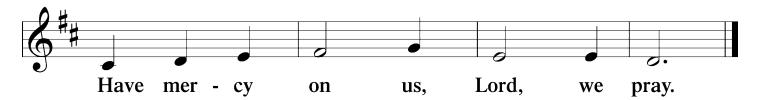
- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

AGNUS DEI



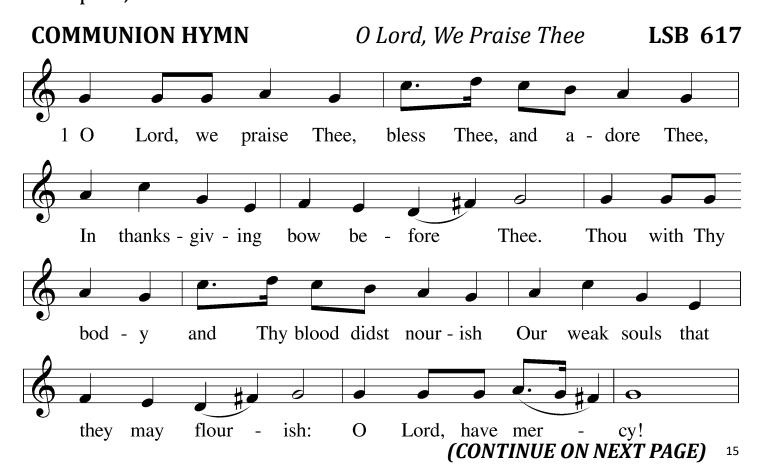


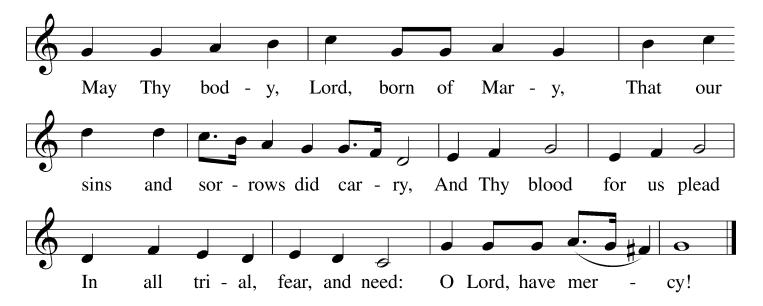
2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Please sit

SILENT PRAYER before COMMUNING

Heavenly Father, in my Holy Baptism you have called me to be Your own possession. Prepare my heart to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all my sins. Strengthen my faith, increase my love and hope, and assure me a place at Your heavenly table, where I will eat eternal manna and drink of the river of the water of life freely, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.





- 2 Thy holy body into death was given, Life to win for us in heaven. No greater love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast thereof remind us! O Lord, have mercy! Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee That Thy blood should bless and sustain me. All our debt Thou hast paid; Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mercy!
- May God bestow on us His grace and favor
 That we follow Christ our Savior
 And live together here in love and union
 Nor despise this blest Communion!
 O Lord, have mercy!
 Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
 Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
 Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
 Days of peace and unity:
 O Lord, have mercy!

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NUNC DIMITTIS



POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus

Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

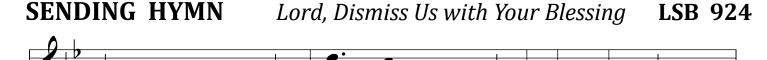
- P Let us bless the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

(Numbers 6:24-26)

- P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.
- C Amen.

Please sit



- 1 Lord, dis-miss us with Your bless-ing, Fill our hearts with
- 2 Thanks we give and ad o ra tion For Your Gos pel's 3 Say ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug-gling





Tri - umph deem - ing grace. re - fresh us: in re our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev er faith - ful, Glad Your o - bey. May sum mons to ev - er. we



re - fresh Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness. us. faith ful To Your truth may we be found. Reign with You we ev er in end - less may

DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace as you serve the Lord!
- C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Sermon Notes		
Cpiphany		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Portals of Prayer for January to March 2024 are available in the Narthex or office.

Adult Bible Class/Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. Rev. Weber will be leading the class.

January Activities

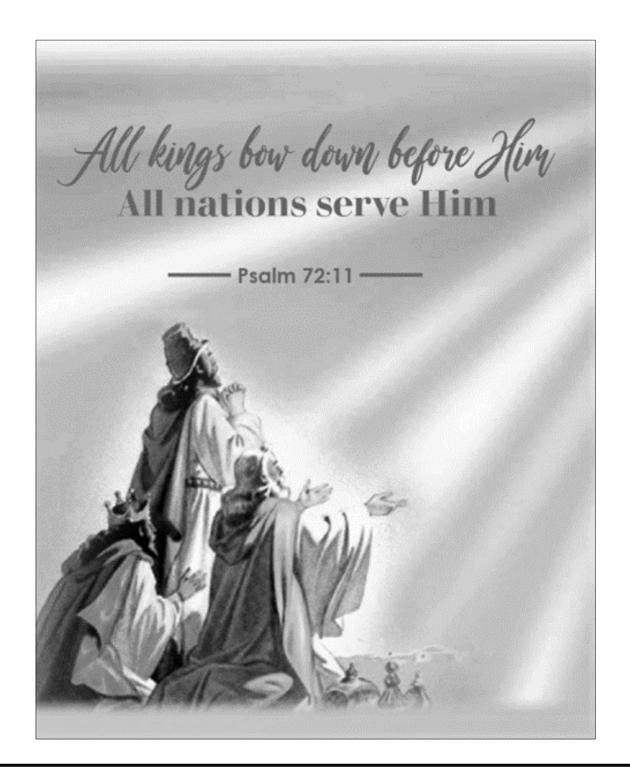
Men's Steak Night Bible Study
Thursday, January 18th, 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Sign-up sheet posted on Church door.

LWML Women's Retreat

Meant for Good: A Study of Joseph January 26-27, 2024 at the Harlingen Convention Center. January 26th from 6-9 pm & January 27th from 9 am - 6 pm

Polka Fest

Saturday, January 27th, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers needed to help with cooking! (talk to Dan Wehling)
Sign-up sheet for sides and desserts posted on Church door.



Memory Verse Challenge

This week's memory verse: John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Intentionally left blank

The Lord God Is Manifested in the Incarnate Son

The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi from the East. In that respect, it is a "thirteenth day" of Christmas, and yet it also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season. Where Christmas has focused on the incarnation of our Lord, that is, on God becoming flesh, the season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. For the Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true light (Is. 60:1-2). He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel, which He causes to be preached within His Church on earth, not only to the Jews but also to the Gentiles (Eph. 3:8–10). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ Child with His mother in the house (Matt. 2:5 -11), so does He call disciples from all nations by the preaching of His

12/31/2023			
Sunday Worship	66		
Plate:		\$	384.00
Envelopes:		\$ 2	1,303.00

On-line

Donation:

Total: \$ 1,687.00

Second Sunday after Epiphany Readings:

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) Psalm 139:1-10 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51

Bible Class:	\$ 19.00			
Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule				
	January Sunday Servants:			
Elder:	Don Vogel			
Altar Guild:	Billie Jo Neuhaus & Maggie Weber			
Music:	Doris Pickering			
This Week	The Epiphany of Our Lord			
Usher:	Earl Neuhaus			
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am		
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am		
Next Week	Second Sunday after Epiphany			
Usher:	Ken Eilers			
Sunday:	Worship Service	9:00 am		
24	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am		