



## **As We Gather      Epiphany of Our Lord      Jan. 5, 2025**

Have you ever received a surprise present, one that was out of your own price range to get? That, in a nutshell, describes Epiphany. The Wise Men came to give presents, and instead received one their wealth could not have bought. We are included in this. We are baptized for the forgiveness of sins by His blood on the cross that covers our sins, once for all. That water and blood give us the greatest—and most expensive—gift in the world. Here we see Jesus revealed, manifested, in a star, in the coming of the Magi and the gifts they bring.

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**Please meet with an usher for prayer requests.  
Ask us about Associate Memberships for Lutherans who are part-time residents.**

**A Gentle Reminder to turn off cell phones and hold any applause for acknowledgements during the announcements. Thank You.**

### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION**



As Lutheran Christians, we believe that our Lord's Body and Blood are truly present (not symbolic) in the Bread and Wine and received by all who attend. Since our Lord reminds us that thoughtless or faithless reception of the Sacrament can incur His judgment, all are encouraged to examine themselves that they may receive it worthily. (1 Corinthians 11:27-32)

Please use the following questions and LSB p. 329 as a personal guide before partaking of this Holy Sacrament:

- \*Do I renounce sin, Satan and my own flesh, and seek true forgiveness and reconciliation with God and my neighbor?**
- \*Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil?**
- \*Do I believe that Christ's own words, this is my body and this is my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins (Mt. 26:28), mean exactly what they say for us today?**
- \*Do I earnestly desire to live a Godly life by the power of the Holy Spirit and in thanksgiving to Christ?**

Because attendance at Communion is also a testimony to this faith in the Triune God confessed and taught here, and to unity in belief as brothers and sisters in Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16-17), we ask that any visitors not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation, and who desire to receive the Sacrament introduce themselves to the Pastor or Elder beforehand if possible.

#### **Please Note**

An invitation for children not confirmed in the Lutheran church to come and receive a blessing at the altar.

We offer a traditional communion wafer,  
Off-White Color Wafers are Gluten Free.

While communing, please point to the bread meeting your preference.  
Clear Color Wine is Alcohol Free

## PRELUDE Fugue in C - Handel

## WELCOME

## PREPARATION

### OPENING HYMN # 400 “Brightest And Best Of The Stars Of The Morning”

### INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### OPENING SENTENCES *Colossians 1:15–20*

**P** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

**C** For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him.

**P** And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

**C** And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.

**P** For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

**C** and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.

**P** Do you recognize the truth—that you have not loved God with your whole heart nor loved your neighbor as yourself?

**C** I confess that I have failed to keep the two great commandments by what I have done and what we have failed to do. Heavenly Father, I don't deserve Your forgiveness, but ask for it because of the greatest love shown at the cross.

**P** Hear the great news: God has used two common earthly elements—water and blood—to forgive your sins and make you His very own. Through the cross of Christ and the blood of Jesus shed there, and because you have been baptized, I

forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Thank You, Lord, for revealing Your mercy and grace to us.

**P** Lord Jesus, thank You for shedding Your blood and giving us the waters of Holy Baptism,

**C** by which You sacrificed Your life for ours and made us a part of Your family forever. Amen.

## WORD

**INTROIT** *Psalm 45:6–8a; antiphon: v. 17*

**P** I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise You forever and ever.

**C** Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;

**P** You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

**C** Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions; Your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. 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** I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations;

**C** therefore nations will praise You forever and ever.

## KYRIE

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For peace shining down on us from above and for the salvation of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For peace so that the Church of God would more brightly shine the light of the Gospel in the nations of the world, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For all who join us here to thank God for the unsearchable riches of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** Amen.

## **HYMN OF PRAISE** LSB 790

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!**

## **SALUTATION**

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

## **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.

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 60:1–6

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. 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 carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. 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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.”

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

## **EPISTLE READING** Ephesians 3:1–12

“For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you

read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him."

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**VERSE**      *Matthew 2:2b*

**P** Alleluia. Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?

**C** For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him. Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL**      **Matthew 2:1–12**

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

"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, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they

saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## **HYMN OF THE DAY # 397 “As With Gladness Men Of Old”**

**SERMON “Chosen For The Praise Of His Glory” Ephesians 1:3-14**

## **NICENE CREED**

**C** 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 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.

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God and for all people according to their needs. [*Petitions are offered...*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

- P** May Your light shine on us and bring forth the fruits of repentance in our daily lives. Give us confidence in Your Word, that we would embrace Your holy will without fear. Hear and answer us, we pray, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY *LSB 192*

- C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

## SACRAMENT

### PREFACE

- 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 Him thanks and praise.

### PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and all places give thanks to You, almighty God, for revealing Your Son to the first Gentiles on this day. We thank You that You not only revealed Him but that He also shed His blood on the cross for our forgiveness. Through Your Holy Spirit, You give us access to the waters of Holy Baptism, making us Your own family. 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 *LSB 178*

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.



## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### LORD'S PRAYER

- 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.

### PAX DOMINI

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

### AGNUS DEI *LSB 163*

- C** 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.

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

- #412 The People That In Darkness Sat # 394 Songs Of Thankfulness And Praise  
#398 Hail to the Lord's Anointed #839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light

### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P** Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, by Your blood, You have redeemed us from sin, death, and Satan, and through the waters of Holy Baptism, You have made us Your own people. Continue to guide us by Your Holy Spirit that You would be revealed to us more each day through Your Word and Sacrament; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

### BENEDICTION

- P** 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.  
**C** Amen.

### CLOSING HYMN # 825 "Rise, Shine, You People"

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POSTLUDE

+ + + + +

**Reader Today: Sherri Church    Attendance Last Week: 97    12/31: 38**

**PRAYER LIST: Den Hood, surgery recovery.**

### WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sun. Jan. 5    3:00 p.m.    Small Group (Fellowship Hall)  
Mon. Jan. 6    10:00 a.m.    Women's Bible Study  
Mon. Jan. 6    1:00 p.m.    Men's Bible Study  
Tues. Jan. 7    10:30 a.m.    Preschool Chapel  
Wed. Jan. 8    8:00 a.m.    Breakfast at the Eureka, Mason Street Courtyard  
Thur. Jan. 9    10:30 a.m.    Support Group  
Thur. Jan. 9    10:30 a.m.    Jesus Time  
Thur. Jan. 9    3:00 p.m.    CHOIR  
Sat. Jan. 11    1:00 p.m.    MLC Game Day! (Fellowship Hall – board/card games)  
**Sun. Jan. 12    8:30 a.m.    Bible Study; 10:00 a.m. Worship; 11:00 a.m. Fellowship.**

**OUTDOOR NATIVITY** will be **taken down Sunday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> after service.** We appreciate any help! Many hands make light work! Thank you!

**THANK YOU!** to everyone for meals and prayers during my recent illness! Jim Bean

### BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 1 Alice Hampsten    Jan. 4 Scott Asay    Jan. 18 Bonnie Semmler  
Jan. 20 Annie Black

### ANNIVERSARIES

1-31 Gordon & Carol Shepherd

**GAME (Card & Board) DAY MLC!** Saturday, **January 11th 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.** or whenever you're done playing! Plan on joining us every 2nd Saturday of the month. It's also an opportunity to bring your friends to some non-threatening fun and fellowship! Bring your favorite game or we'll provide some - easy to learn. Wear your favorite team jersey/shirt or come as you are!

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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