



## THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

JANUARY 4, 2026 ☰ 8:00 AND 10:15 AM

## A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

We're thrilled that you are here and we want you to feel at home.

- \* Restrooms are near the door that you came in today.
- \* The service is printed in this worship folder. Join in as you're comfortable. Ask anyone if you're lost - they'll be glad to help!
- \* We're glad you brought your kids! We know and Jesus knows that little kids have a hard time sitting quietly sometimes. They are still welcome here. Jesus said: Let the little children come to me! If your little one is restless, feel free to spend a minute in the entryway, you should still be able to hear through speakers.
- \* If you could use some hearing assistance, please ask the usher in the entryway, we have headsets available.

Please introduce yourself to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil. They would love to meet you and serve you however they can!

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## A SAVIOR IS BORN FOR ALL THE NATIONS

The twelve days of Christmas culminate with the celebration of the Epiphany of our Lord.

We commemorate the day when magi from afar worshiped the Christ child. Before that day, Jesus had been worshiped by individuals of Jewish descent: the shepherds, elderly Simeon, the prophetess Anna. But Scripture said the coming Savior would be God's gift to all nations. Epiphany proves that God keeps his promises, as he miraculously led foreigners to worship their Savior. Thus, Epiphany is sometimes called "Gentile Christmas." (The celebration of Epiphany likely precedes that of Christmas. Evidence of the Festival of Epiphany dates to Clement of Alexandria at the end of the second century.)

Epiphany continues to play out to this very day. God worked through a special star to bring the magi into the presence of their Savior—for Christ's glory and the magi's blessing. Likewise, God has controlled time and space to bring you into the presence of your Savior—for Christ's glory and your blessing. Thus, the magi were only the first in a long line of Gentiles who would join Israel in worshiping Jesus as King. Indeed, a Savior is born for all the nations! Come, let us adore him!



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## THE DIVINE SERVICE

∞ *The congregation speaks and sings the words in **BOLD** type.* ∞

### Hymn | 375 Arise and Shine In Splendor

#### Invocation

*Please stand at the minister's direction if you are able*

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✡ and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19*

Amen.

#### Epiphany Dialogue

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. **God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.**

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

**See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples.**

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

#### Hymn of Praise

How lovely shines the Morning Star!  
The nations see and hail afar  
the light in Judah shining.  
O David's son of Jacob's race,  
my Bridegroom and my King of grace,  
for you my heart is pining.  
Lowly, holy, great and glorious,  
O victorious Prince of graces,  
filling all the heav'nly places.

**Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

**We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.**

*(CW 370, st. 1+3)*

O highest joy by mortals won,  
true Son of God and Mary's son,  
the highborn King of ages!  
In your blest body let me be,  
e'en as the branch is in the tree,  
your life my life supplying.  
Sighing, crying  
for the savor of your favor,  
resting never till I rest in you forever.

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

2 Timothy 4:22

Let us pray. Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## First Reading

*1500 years before magi followed a star to Jesus, the Lord used a man named Balaam to predict the coming Messiah.*

“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.

O mighty Father, in your Son  
you loved me ere you had begun  
this ancient world's foundation.  
Your Son has made a friend of me,  
and when in spirit him I see  
I joy in tribulation.  
What bliss is this!  
He is living, to me giving  
life forever;  
nothing me from him can sever.

## Isaiah 60:1-6

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 Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God**

Oh, joy to know that you, my friend,  
are Lord, beginning without end,  
the first and last, eternal!  
And you at length—O glorious grace—  
will take me to that holy place,  
the home of joys supernal.  
Amen, amen!  
Come and meet me, quickly greet me!  
With deep yearning,  
Lord, I look for your returning.

## Second Reading

*Paul explains that that people from all nations are united as equals in the Savior's kingdom of grace.*

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

*Please stand*

**Lift up the voice and strike the string,  
let all glad sounds of music ring  
in God's high praises blended.  
Christ will be with me all the way,  
today, tomorrow, ev'ry day  
till trav'ling days are ended.  
Sing out, ring out, triumph glorious,  
O victorious chosen nation;  
praise the God of your salvation.**

## **The Holy Gospel**

*Magi from the east were the first in a long line of Gentiles who would join Israel in worshiping Jesus as King.*

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

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 Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## **Matthew 2:1-12**

had appeared. 8He 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 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 be to You, O Christ!**

*Be seated.*

## **Hymn of the Day | 372 As With Gladness Men of Old**

**Sermon Matthew 2:1-12**

*Please stand.*

## **Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church and the Lord's Prayer**

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

**Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.**

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

**Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.**

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

**Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.**

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

**Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.**

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless . . . special intercessions may be inserted here.] Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

**Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

**Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

**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**

## Offering



*Moved by God's love in Christ, we return to God our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him.*

*There is an offering plate in the entry way for those who wish to give in that way.*

*To donate online, either scan the QR code on the left or text **princeofpeace** (no spaces) to **(833) 693-7056**. You'll receive a link in response. Follow the link to the Prince of Peace secure giving page.*

### A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS

*Children and those who are not communicant members of our church may come forward for a blessing. Those who do are asked to cross their arms on their chest to indicate this.*

Prince of Peace practices closed communion, because the Bible teaches it and because we love you. That means we ask that only members of Prince of Peace or other congregations in our fellowship take the Lord's Supper this morning. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith, it is simply our desire to uphold what God says in 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 about who should receive Holy Communion and how. Because we believe from these words that Jesus' body and blood is really present in and with the bread and wine, we want to be sure that it is received in the manner He has commanded us.

Please speak to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil about communing with us in the future if you're not part of our congregation. **Thank you for your understanding!**

## THE SACRAMENT

*Stand*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is good and right so to do.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

**Sing, "Holy, holy, holy  
Lord God of hosts on high,  
your everlasting glory  
fills earth and sea and sky."  
Our voices cry, "Hosanna!"  
Lord, hear our humble plea:  
in mercy, come and save us;  
in love, come set us free.**

**Hosanna in the highest!  
How blest is Christ our King,  
who died as our Redeemer,  
eternal life to bring!  
How blest are you, Lord Jesus,  
now coming in God's name!  
"Hosanna in the highest!"  
our grateful hearts proclaim.**

## The Words of Our Lord Jesus

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

**O Lamb of God, once lifted high  
upon a cross to bleed and die,  
in perfect love you took our place—  
bestow on us your saving grace.**

**O Lamb of God, your sacrifice  
has cancelled sin, has paid its price;  
your perfect love will never cease—  
have mercy, Lord, and grant us peace.**

*Be seated*

## Distribution of the Lord's Supper

**Hymn | 375 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here**

**Hymn | 352 Joy Has Dawned**

*After the distribution, the minister speaks this blessing:*

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting.  
Your + sins are forgiven.

**Amen.**

*Stand*

## Prayer

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;  
**His mercy endures forever.**

*Psalm 118:1*

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.**

*1 Corinthians 11:26*

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

*Numbers 6:24-26*

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

*Stand*

## Closing Hymn | 950 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go In Peace

*Thank you to Amy Sehloff for using her gifts to serve us and our Savior with music this morning!*



