

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 4-5, 2025

“Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education”

“Persevere With Thanksgiving”



**Music of Preparation,
Welcome, Announcements, Greeting**

Our Ministry: We are a people of God who are: **“Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education.”**

Welcome! The Magi followed a star to worship Jesus and present him gifts. We too have been guided here by God’s light, to worship Jesus and offer him our gifts of love. Welcome.

Devotions & Publications are available in the Main Entryway. Please leave donation envelopes in the offering plate.

..... WORSHIP NOTES

Communion: *The Lord’s Supper - A Reverent Sacrament

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:27,29, “Anyone who eats the bread or drinks the Lord’s cup in an unworthy way is guilty of sinning against the Lord’s body and blood. Anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the Lord’s body brings judgment on himself as he eats and drinks.” In view of the serious nature of the Lord’s Supper, Paul commands us to examine ourselves to see if we are partaking the supper for the purposes for which Christ instituted with our hearts properly prepared. We heartily invite Confirmed members of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod to receive of the Lord’s Supper. Other guests, we ask you to see the pastor or lay minister first so that you may receive the supper to your benefit rather than to your harm as the Apostle Paul warns.

NOTE: If you are allergic or cannot drink full strength wine, The two (2) cups in the center of each tray have water with a drop or two of wine.

Note About Attendance Cards...Remember that the only way we may know you are worshipping with us is by seeing your name on an attendance card. These cards may be completed as you enter for worship and will be collected after the offering. Use one card for each family that is gathered. **Please list the name of each person in worship.** (Parents, please take responsibility for signing in your children) There is a "Member" side as well as a "Guest" side. Please fill out the appropriate side and pass them to the center aisle during the gathering of the offerings. The cards are gathered after the offering has been collected.

To Our Visitors...Please sign our guest book found in the main entryway. Our school has a few nooks and crannies, so don’t be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastor and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available near the guest register in the main (west) entryway.

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE

(The music for the liturgy may be found on page 151 in the Hymnal)

Notes for Worship: As you prepare to receive the Lord's Supper this day, we invite you to turn to the prayer section of the Hymnal (page 305). In addition to prayers for before and after worship, there are prayers for use before and after receiving the Lord's Supper (page 308 as well as on the inside front cover of the hymnal). May these prayers be useful in your worship.

Before worship prayer

We implore You, O Lord, in Your kindness to show us Your great mercy that we may be set free from our sins and rescued from the punishments which we rightfully deserve; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

We're So Glad God Brought You Here Today!

Opening Hymn: "As with Gladness Men of Old"

LSB, hymn #397

As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King.

INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b*
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.** *1 John 1:8-9*
P: Dear Friends in Christ, let us humble our hearts before our Holy God and silently reflect upon our sins.

(Moment of silent reflection)

- P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen**
P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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. *John 20:19-23*
C: **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the Feast

Revelation 5:12-13, 19:5-9

- C: **(Sung)**
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

P: The Lord be with you. 2 Timothy 4:22
C: **(Sung) And also with you.**
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 be Seated)

THE READING OF THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6 *(The Light Of The Messiah)*

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.

Stand (as you are able)

Alleluia and Verse - Common

John 6:68

C: **(Sung) Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.
C: **(Sung) Glory to You, O Lord.**

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12 *(The Wise Men Meet The Messiah)*

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: **(Sung) Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Please be Seated)

Sermon Hymn: “Arise and Shine in Splendor”

LSB, hymn #396

Arise and shine in splendor;
Let night to day surrender.
Your light is drawing near.
Above, the day is beaming,
In matchless beauty gleaming;
The glory of the Lord is here.

See earth in darkness lying,
The heathen nations dying
In hopeless gloom and night.
To you the Lord of heaven—
Your life, your hope—has given
Great glory, honor, and delight.

The world’s remotest races,
Upon whose weary faces
The sun looks from the sky,
Shall run with zeal untiring,
With joy Your light desiring
That breaks upon them from on high.

Lift up your eyes in wonder—
See, nations gather yonder
From sin to be set free.
The world has heard Your story;
Her sons come to Your glory;
Her daughters haste Your light to see.

Your heart will leap for gladness
When from the realms of sadness
They come from near and far.
Your eyes will wake from slumber
As people without number
Rejoice to see the Morning Star.

Sermon: “Wise Men?”

Matthew 2:1-12

Stand (as you are able)

P: Let us confess our faith, using the words of the 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

1 Timothy 2:1-4

P: Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus, for His church, and for all people according to their needs. . . . Almighty God, You revealed Your Son to Gentiles on the day of Epiphany. Use us, we pray, to bring light and peace where there is none right now. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord Jesus, You were willing to shed Your blood on the cross for our forgiveness and have given us the hope of salvation. Thank You for shedding Your blood and giving us the waters of Holy Baptism to make us Your own sons and daughters through faith in You.. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: As You cared for the sick and still do, we remember before Your throne those among us who are sick and in need of Your care. We lift up before You those

hospitalized this past week (*Especially, . . .*). Also be with those who continue treatment and healing at home. We pray for them and all those that we name in our hearts . . . (*Silence*). As You did in Your earthly ministry, continue to love, care, touch, and heal them according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For Your kingdom, invisible to human eyes yet so very real, we lift up our voices in prayer. We pray that You would use us by the working of Your Holy Spirit to open hearts and eyes to Your love and see Your kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful Father in heaven, You hold all authority and power in Your hands. Use those whom You have installed as rulers over us for our good and not our harm. Use them to bring about blessing to those who are bringing justice and peace to our lands and to stop evildoers in their tracks. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We also remember those who are persecuted for Your name. For those who have to endure torture and persecution, give them the hope of their eternal reward. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty God, You are the fountain of all wisdom. You know what we need before we ever ask, even when we do not know what to ask or even how to ask. We are but mortal men and women, but You are immortal, invisible, and wise. Look upon us with compassion, care for us, and meet our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

(Additional prayers of the congregation. Each petition concludes with. . .)

P: . . . Lord, In Your Mercy,

C: Hear Our Prayer.

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

C: Amen

(Please be Seated)

Tithes and Offerings/Attendance Cards

OFFERTORY - Let The Vineyards

LSB, Hymn # 955

C: (Sung) Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

HOLY COMMUNION

(In preparation to receive the Sacrament, please read the Communion notes on page 2)

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: (Sung) And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

C: (Sung) We lift them to the Lord.

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

Psalms 136

C: (Sung) 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. He is the long-awaited prophet and Savior, the Holy One who has destroyed the power of the devil and gives forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation by His sacrifice on the cross. 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

Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9

C: (Sung) 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.

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us, Your children, and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts that he may establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to remember our Redeemer and receive him who comes to us in his body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

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 \dagger body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me. 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 is my \dagger blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Mt 26:26-28, Mk 14:22-24, Lk 22:19-20, 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. *John 20:19*

C: And also with you.

Agnus Dei ~ The Lamb of God

John 1:29

C: (Sung) 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 HYMNS

LSB387 - Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

LSB411 - I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus. *Refrain*

Refrain

In Him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,

And show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race,

We shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

LSB367 - Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. *Refrain*

Refrain

*Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. *Refrain*

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. *Refrain*

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. *Refrain*

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the_ eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: Thank The Lord:

C: (Sung) Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone 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 PRAYER

P: Let us pray. . . . Lord Jesus, we give You thanks for this Meal of Your all-availing sacrifice of Your true body and blood on the cross. Continue to reveal Yourself to us through Your Word and Spirit until that great day comes when we join You at the marriage feast of the Lamb in Your kingdom, which will have no end. This we ask in Your name, who with the Father and Holy Spirit is one God, yesterday, today, 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: (Sung) Amen

Closing Hymn: "What Child Is This"

LSB, hymn #370

What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

See You In Worship Next Week!

After worship prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, through Your Son You have promised us forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that in our daily need, and especially in all time of temptation, we may seek Your help and, by a true and lively faith in Your Word, obtain all that You have promised; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

There is a Prayer Ministry Member(s) in each service that is wearing a prayer ministry tag around their neck. Please look for them if you want a prayer for someone else, a concern or situation you may have, or yourself.

Please join us for coffee and donut holes in the cafeteria after Sunday services.

Altar Flowers Altar flowers this weekend are given in loving memory of my father, Ulysses Curwick, and my sister, Florence Banks, on their birthdays, by Carol Ginger; also with thanks to God at the birth of our grandson, Nathanael Richard Engel, and for our birthdays on January 9th, by Richard & Nadine Engel.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Roger A. Drinnon Associate Pastor	Rev. Ross Engel Adopt-A-Chaplain
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