

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 3-4, 2026

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



“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. (Isaiah 60:1-3)”

**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! Long ago, wise travelers followed a star in search of the promised Savior — and their journey led them to joy. Whatever brought you here today, we're glad you came! May you find God's presence and guidance shining brightly in your life.

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 worshiping 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 in the main 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 for worship 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 all aspects of the Christian Life (some of the prayers are also located on the inside front cover of the hymnal). May these prayers be useful in your worship.

Before worship prayer - Almighty God, grant that we, who have been redeemed from the old life of sin by our baptism into the death and resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ, may be renewed by Your Holy Spirit to live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

8:30am - Pre-service "When The Angel's Song is Silent" Hope Brammer, Solo

We're So Glad God Brought You Here Today!

Opening Hymn: "The Star Proclaims the King Is Here" *LSB, hymn #399*

The star proclaims the King is here;
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?

For He who offers heav'nly birth
Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.

The eastern sages saw from far
And followed on His guiding star;
And, led by light, to light they trod
And by their gifts confessed their God.

Within the Jordan's sacred flood
The heav'nly Lamb in meekness stood
That He, of whom no sin was known,
Might cleanse His people from their own.

And oh, what miracle divine,
When water reddened into wine!
He spoke the word, and forth it flowed
In streams that nature ne'er bestowed.

For this Thy glad epiphany
All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit evermore.

INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b*

C: Amen.

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 (Sung)

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

C: **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 . . . Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father 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

(Your Light Has Come)

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.

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12

(Unsearchable Riches)

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.

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

(Visit of The Wise Men)

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: “Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning” LSB, hymn #400

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,
Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Sermon: “His Light In Our Darkness”

Isaiah 60:1-3

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 whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. . . . Heavenly Father, we give You thanks and praise for revealing to us Your divine love and the everlasting grace of Christ our Lord. As we live by faith, fortified with the power of Your grace working in us, cause our community and our world to be drawn to the light of Your Gospel proclaimed by Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Lord Jesus, help us to know the joy of life that embraces Your Word of truth and treasures complete communion with You. May Your Spirit lead us to enjoy God's purposes for life and turn from the pleasures endorsed by this world embroiled in turmoil and sin. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Spirit, when sin, death, and hell tempt us to believe that God might be against us, show us in the midst of any trial that weeping may tarry through the night, but joy comes in the morning. Give Your Church a vision of Your kingdom, which is at work in this world even through us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty Lord, raise up good and faithful leaders in this nation and throughout the world, that all people might live without fear of evil. Infuse Your peace into our lives and throughout the world. Grant Your protection for those who serve in civil offices and in all branches of the armed forces. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord Jesus, You promise to be with us always. Visit those who are in any type of distress with the assurance that You abide with them even in their infirmities. We pray for those among us who are sick, homebound, or undergoing tests and treatment. 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*). Despite their illnesses and afflictions, strengthen their faith so that they may bear any hardship in patience and trust until You grant them deliverance, peace, and health. 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.**

Colossians 3:1

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

Psalm 136

C: **(Sung) It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Sharing our life, He lived among us to reveal Your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to His own brilliant light. 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: O Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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 † 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 † 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

LSB533 - Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure

Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal,
Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End;
Godhead, humanity, union supernal,
O great Redeemer, You come as our friend!
Heaven and earth, now proclaim this great wonder:
Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal!

Jesus has come! Now see bonds rent asunder!
Fetters of death now dissolve, disappear.
See Him burst through with a voice as of thunder!
He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,
Lifts us from shame to the place of His honor.
Jesus has come! Hear the roll of God's thunder!

Jesus has come as the mighty Redeemer.
See now the threatening strong one disarmed!
Jesus breaks down all the walls of death's fortress,
Brings forth the pris'ners triumphant, unharmed.
Satan, you wicked one, own now your master!
Jesus has come! He, the mighty Redeemer!

Jesus has come as the King of all glory!
Heaven and earth, O declare His great pow'r,
Capturing hearts with the heavenly story;
Welcome Him now in this fast-fleeting hour!
Ponder His love! Take the crown He has for you!
Jesus has come! He, the King of all glory!

LSB617 - O Lord, We Praise Thee

O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish: O Lord, have mercy!
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead In all trial, fear, and need:
O Lord, have mercy!

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!

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

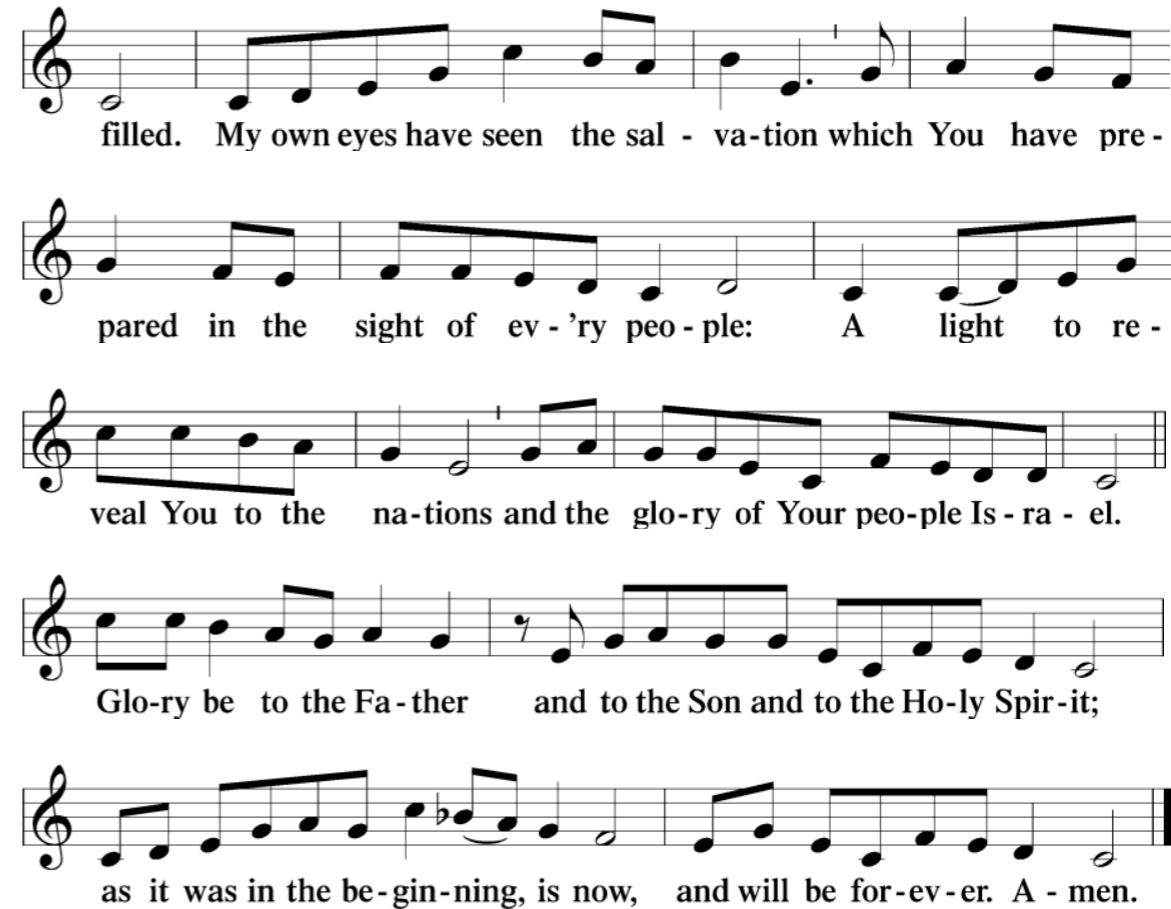
*In Him there is no darkness at all.
 The night and the day are both alike.
 The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
 Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

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*

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: Nunc Dimittis:


C Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -
 pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -
 veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.
 Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. . . . O Lord, our light and our salvation, whom shall we fear? You are the stronghold of our lives, of whom shall we be afraid? Psalm 27: 1-2
 You are the one who protects us with Your presence. We thank You for giving us the comfort of Your physical presence as You touched our hearts and lives with Your body and blood. Continue to strengthen us and lead us, to walk in Your light all of our days.

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: "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" *LSB, hymn #394*

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
Manifested by the star To the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem In Thy birth at Bethlehem:
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
And at Cana wedding guest In Thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in pow'r divine, Changing water into wine;
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight, Quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will, Ever bringing good from ill;
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Sun and moon shall darkened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
Christ will then like lightning shine, All will see His glorious sign;
All will then the trumpet hear, All will see the Judge appear;
Thou by all wilt be confessed, God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Present in Thy holy Word—
Grace to imitate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;
That we might become like Thee At Thy great epiphany
And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest.

See You In Worship Next Week!

After worship prayer

Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through 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 in loving memory of Mr. Les Jennings.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Karl J. Koeppen	Senior Pastor
Rev. Roger A. Drinon	Associate Pastor
Mr. Brian Porter	Principal

Rev. David Baker	Missionary to Mongolia
Rev. Ross Engel	Adopt-A-Chaplain
Church & School Office:	932-0312

Church Campus	348 E. Merchant, Kankakee
School Campus and Church & School Office	1780 Career Center Road, Bourbonnais
Church & School Website	www.stpaulslutheran.net

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