

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

(OBSERVED)

January 4, 2026

HOLY COMMUNION

TO OUR GUESTS AND MEMBERS: We receive the Lord's Supper, believing the Word of Jesus, that He gives into our mouths His true body and blood, miraculously united to the bread and wine, to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins, and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His Word, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love one another, even as He forgives and loves us.

God's Word teaches us that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great harm, and that this Holy Communion is a confession of the faith that is confessed in this church. Therefore any who are not yet instructed, who are in doubt, or are members of a congregation not in the fellowship of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to commune, are asked to kindly speak with the pastor ahead of time. (*Matt. 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16-21; 11:17-34*)

The Order of the Holy Communion

Prelude

Hymn – #128

“Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning”

Stand

Invocation

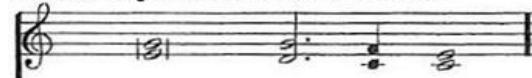
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.



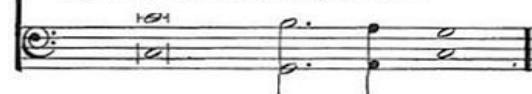
The Confession of Sins

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

V: Our help is in the name of the Lord.



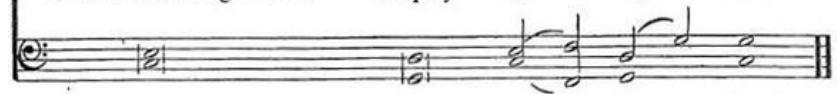
R: Who made heaven and earth.



V: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord



R: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.



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

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 Ghost.

R: A - - - men.

Introit Psalm 45:6-8a; antiphon: v. 17

*I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.*

**Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom
is a scepter of up-rightness;**
you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

*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.

**I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.**

Gloria Patri

Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Kyrie

The Gloria in Excelsis

¶: Glory be to God on high: B: And on earth peace; good will toward

men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

That taketh away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.

Thou that taketh away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-on us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Salutation

W: The Lord be with you.

R : And with thy Spir - it.

Let us pray.

The Collect for The Day

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.

R: A - - - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For 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.

³And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,

⁵and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

⁵Then 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 Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which 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. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of 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. ⁸To 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, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Stand

Hal - le - lu - - jah! Hal - le - lu - - jah! Hal - le - lu - - jah!

Holy Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

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

Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord!

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "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." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They 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.”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And 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." ⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And 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. ¹²And 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.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

The Nicene Creed

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 Ghost 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 sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe 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.

Sermon Hymn

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse a far, Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bring, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again, King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign.

Refrain

Frankincense to offer have I, Incense owns a Deity nigh; Prayer and praising, all men raising, Worship Him, God on high. Refrain

Myrrh is mine; its better perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom; Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. Refrain

Glorious now behold Him arise, King, and God, and Sacrifice; Alleluia, alleluia! Earth to the heav’ns replies.

Refrain

Sermon – “Guided to Christ”

Matthew 2:9

- I. God’s word guided the wise men, and guides us, to Christ.
- II. We can all help as guides to Christ.

Stand

The Offertory

>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.

Sit

The Offering

Stand

The General Prayer

The Preface

V: The Lord be with you.

R: And with thy spirit.

V: Lift up your hearts.

R: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

V: Let us give thanks unto the lord our God.

R: It is meet and right so to do.

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God: and now do we praise Thee that Thou didst send unto us Thine only-begotten Son and that in Him, being found in fashion as a man, Thou didst manifest the fullness of Thy glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

The Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;

Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry; Ho - san - na, Ho -

san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,

Bless - ed is He, Bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

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;

R: For Thine is the king - dom and the power and the

glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Pax Domini

V: The peace of the Lord be with you alway!

The Agnus Dei

Sit

Communion Distribution

Hymn #130 -- "O Jesus, King of Glory"

Hymn #127 -- "As with Gladness Men of Old"

Hymn LSB #402 -- "The Only Son from Heaven"

1 The on - ly Son from heav - en, Fore - told by an - cient seers,
 2 O time of God ap - point - ed, O bright and ho - ly morn!
 3 O Lord, our hearts a - wak - en To know and love You more,
 △ 4 O Fa - ther, here be - fore You With God the Ho - ly Ghost

By God the Fa - ther giv - en, In hu - man form ap - pears.
 He comes, the king a - noint - ed, The Christ, the vir - gin - born,
 In faith to stand un-shak - en, In spir - it to a - dore,
 And Je - sus, we a - dore You, O pride of an - gel host:

No sphere His light con - fin - ing, No star so bright - ly
 Grim death to van-quish for us, To o - pen heav'n be -
 That we, through this world mov - ing, Each glimpse of heav - en
 Be - fore You mor - tals low - ly Cry, "Ho - ly, ho - ly,

shin - ing As He, our Morn - ing Star.
 fore us And bring us life a - gain.
 prov - ing, May reap its full - ness there.
 ho - ly, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty!"

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand
The Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord-ing to Thy word, For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation:
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a Light to light - en the Gen-tiles and the Glo - ry of Thy
people Is - - - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; As it was in the be -

ginning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with-out end.. A-men.

The Thanksgiving

V: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

B: And His mercy en - dur-eth for - ev - - - er.

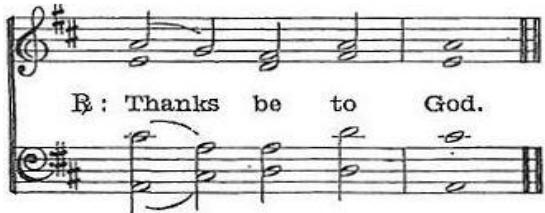
We give thanks to Thee, Almighty God, that Thou hast refreshed us through this salutary gift; and we beseech Thee that of Thy mercy Thou wouldst strengthen us through the same in faith toward Thee and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

B: A - - - - men.

V: The Lord be with you.

B: And with thy spir - it.

V: Bless we the Lord.



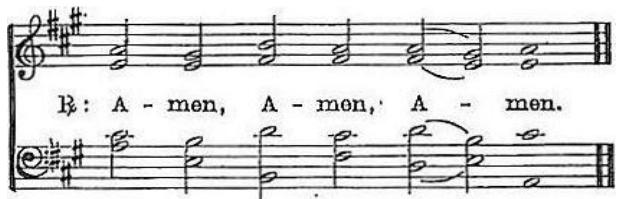
B: Thanks be to God.

The Benediction

The Lord bless thee and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace.



B: A - men, A - men, A - men.

Sit

Closing Hymn #127 (7:00 p.m.)

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

Silent Prayer & Postlude

Daily Readings January 4: Is. 63:15–65:7; Luke 2:41–52; 5: Is. 65:8–25; Luke 3:1–20; 6: Is. 66:1–20; Luke 3:21–38; 7: Ezek. 1:1–14, 22–28; Rom. 1:1–17; 8: Ezek. 2:1–3:11; Rom. 1:18–32; 9: Ezek. 3:12–27; Rom. 2:1–16; 10: Ezek. 18:1–4, 19–32; Rom. 2:17–29.

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