

EPIPHANY SUNDAY



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
January 7, 2024
8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor
Larry Peterson, Director of Worship and Music

☐ = Pastor ☒ = Lector [reader] ☑ = Congregation *ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)*
⤴ Please stand as you are able.

PRELUDE

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion. Communion is offered by intinction: you may receive a wafer and dip it in the chalice with wine or white grape juice. Or you may pick up a prefilled communion "kit" on the altar rail as you approach the altar. Please tell an usher if you need a communion kit brought to you where you sit.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Miriam

⤴ EXCHANGING THE PEACE

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always

☑ **And also with you.**

We share a sign of God's peace.

⤴ GATHERING HYMN: *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

ELW Hymn 310

**1 Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
manifest 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 flesh made manifest.**

**2 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 flesh made manifest.**

**3 Manifest in making whole weakened body, 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 flesh made manifest.**

**4 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 flesh made manifest.**

↑ **GREETING**

☞ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☞ **And also with you.**

↑ **HYMN OF PRAISE:** *The First Noel*

ELW Hymn 300, sts. 1-2

1 **The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

2 **They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Refrain**

Text: English traditional
Text in the public domain.

↑ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

☞ Let us pray. O God,

☞ **on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

see insert

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-10

see insert

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *As with Gladness Men of Old*

ELW Hymn 302, sts. 1 & 2

1 **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.**

2 **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.**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.
Text in the Public Domain

↑ **GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12**

see insert

SERMON

Pastor Miriam

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

WOV Hymn 646

1 **We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

Refrain

**Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

2 **Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again;
king forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. Refrain**

3 **Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. Refrain**

Hymn continues next page.

4 **Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain***

5 **Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
heav'n sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain***

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891, alt.
Text in the Public Domain.

↑ OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

ℙ Let us confess our baptismal faith together.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*When the petition concludes "Hear us, O God," please respond, "Your mercy is great."
The prayers are ended with these words, "Abide with us, ... according to your abundant grace."
Please respond, "Amen."*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Link to give: <https://coslutheran.org/give/>

We acknowledge that you may have already offered your gifts electronically or by mail. Thank you.



MUSICAL OFFERING (11:00) *Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, A. Pace & R. F. Boyce Sanctuary Choir*

↑ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ℙ The Lord be with you.

☩ **And also with you.**

ℙ Lift up your hearts.

☩ **We lift them to the Lord.**

ℙ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

ℙ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

☩ **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.**

—ELW page 153

↑ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

↑ 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.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Please approach the altar using the diagonal aisles and return by the side or middle aisles.

You will be offered a wafer, which you may dip in either the chalice of wine or the white grape juice.

You may also choose a packaged cup with wine or grape juice, or a gluten-free wafer with wine.

☩ **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, grant us peace.**

—ELW page 154

COMMUNION HYMN: *Bright and Glorious Is the Sky**ELW Hymn 301*

- 1** Bright and glorious is the sky, radiant are the heavens high
where the golden stars are shining. All their rays to earth inclining
beckon us to heav'n above, beckon us to heav'n above.
- 3** Sages from the East afar, when they saw this wondrous star,
went to find the king of nations and to offer their oblations
to the child, the newborn king, to the child, the newborn king.
- 5** Guided by the star, they found him whose praise the ages sound.
We too have a star to guide us, which forever will provide us
with the light to find our Lord, with the light to find our Lord.
- 6** And this star, as bright as day, that will never lead astray
with its message so appealing, is the word of God, revealing
Christ, the way, the truth, the life, Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877-1970, alt.

Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission, OneLicense #A-701929.⬆ **PASTORAL BLESSING and BENEDICTION**

- 📖 God bless you and keep you, ✝️ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.
- 🗣️ **Amen.**

⬆ **SENDING HYMN: *The First Noel****ELW Hymn 300, sts. 3-5*

- 3** And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

- 4** This star drew near to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*
- 5** Then entered in those wise men three, full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

Text: English traditional
Text in the Public Domain⬆ **SENDING**

- 📖 Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.
- 🗣️ **Thanks be to God.**

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Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, administered by Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.*Altar Guild: Paul & Carol Talbot**Lector: (8:30) Sue Blackburn**(11:00) Patrick Bauer**Tech crew: (8:30) Davida Kilgore, Dakota Atkins**(11:00) Carol Jensen-Linton, Linda Volckmann, Brad Milburn**Usher: (8:30) Tor Brunso**(11:00) Tom Conrad**Altar flowers given in honor of the New Year by Kevin and Laura Hawkins.*

THE LESSONS

Sunday, January 7

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

The Old Testament reading is from Isaiah , the 60th chapter.

“Arise, Jerusalem! Let your light shine for all to see.

For the glory of the LORD rises to shine on you.

²Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth,
but the glory of the LORD rises and appears over you.

³All nations will come to your light;
mighty kings will come to see your radiance.

⁴“Look and see, for everyone is coming home!

Your sons are coming from distant lands;
your little daughters will be carried home.

⁵Your eyes will shine, and your heart will thrill with joy,
for merchants from around the world will come to you.

They will bring you the wealth of many lands.

⁶Vast caravans of camels will converge on you,
the camels of Midian and Ephah.

The people of Sheba will bring gold and frankincense
and will come worshipping the LORD.

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📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-10

The Old Testament reading is from Ephesians , the 3rd chapter.

¹⁻³ This is why I, Paul, am in jail for Christ, having taken up the cause of you outsiders, so-called. I take it that you're familiar with the part I was given in God's plan for including everybody. I got the inside story on this from God himself, as I just wrote you in brief.

⁴⁻⁶ As you read over what I have written to you, you'll be able to see for yourselves into the mystery of Christ. None of our ancestors understood this. Only in our time has it been made clear by God's Spirit through his holy apostles and prophets of this new order. The mystery is that people who have never heard of God and those who have heard of him all their lives (what I've been calling outsiders and insiders) stand on the same ground before God. They get the same offer, same help, same promises in Christ Jesus. The Message is accessible and welcoming to everyone, across the board.

⁷⁻⁸ This is my life work: helping people understand and respond to this Message. It came as a sheer gift to me, a real surprise, God handling all the details. When it came to presenting the Message to people who had no background in God's way, I was the least qualified of any of the available Christians. God saw to it that I was equipped, but you can be sure that it had nothing to do with my natural abilities.

⁸⁻¹⁰ And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of Christ. My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along. Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!

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📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God

(Gospel on the back.)

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter. **C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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P The Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**