

## Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

Peachtree City, Georgia

January 7, 2024 9:45 a.m.

### EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor

Larry Peterson, Director of Worship & Music

P= Pastor C = All L = Leader

#### PRELUDE: *JOY TO THE WORLD*

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

#### OPENING SONG: *NOEL*

#### ↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

☒ 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: Matthew 2:1-12**  
*see insert*

**SERMON** Pastor Miriam

↑ **SONG OF THE DAY: *GOD REST YE, MERRY GENTLEMEN/WE THREE KINGS***

↑ **OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH:  
THE APOSTLES' CREED**

#### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

When the petition concludes "Hear us, O God" please respond, "Your mercy is great."

When the prayers conclude, please respond, "Amen."

#### OFFERING

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

We acknowledge that you may have given Online or through the mail. Thank you.



#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

☒ The Lord be with you.

☒ And also with you.

☒ Lift up your hearts.

☒ We lift them to the Lord.

☒ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☒ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

☒ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

☒ Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name; your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**SHARING COMMUNION AT CHURCH**  
or at home with your household

**COMMUNION SONG: *SILENT NIGHT***

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING &  
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 SONG: *GO TELL IT  
ON THE MOUNTAIN***

#### DISMISSAL

☒ Go in peace. Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.

☒ Thanks be to God.

#### POSTLUDE

# 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.

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

<sup>3</sup>All nations will come to your light;  
mighty kings will come to see your radiance.

<sup>4</sup>“Look and see, for everyone is coming home!

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

<sup>5</sup>Your 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.

<sup>6</sup>Vast 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.

<sup>1-3</sup> 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.

<sup>4-6</sup> 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.

<sup>7-8</sup> 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.

<sup>8-10</sup> 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.**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> 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.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘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.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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.” <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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.**