

EPIPHANY SUNDAY



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
January 5, 2025
8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor

Larry Peterson, Director of Worship and Music

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

*The prelude is the beginning of the worship service and is a time to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.
Please be respectful of the worshippers around you who are using this time for that purpose.*

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 take a pre-packaged kit with grape juice and a gluten-free wafer from the center communion server. Please tell an usher if you need communion brought to you where you sit.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑ 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: *As with Gladness Men of Old*

ELW Hymn 302

- 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.**
- 3 **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.**
- 4 **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.**
- 5 **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.**

↑ **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 3:1-12

see insert

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

WOV Hymn 646, st. 1

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!**

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

↑ **GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12**

see insert

SERMON

Pastor Fritz

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Jesus, the Light of the World*

ACS Hymn 914

1 **Hark! the herald angels sing, Jesus, the Light of the world;
"Glorify to the newborn king," Jesus, the Light of the world.**

**Refrain- We'll walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.**

2 **Joyful, all you nations, rise; Jesus, the Light of the world;
join the triumph of the skies; Jesus, the Light of the world. Refrain**

3 **Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Jesus, the Light of the world;
Christ, the everlasting Lord! Jesus, the Light of the world. Refrain**

4 **Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Jesus, the Light of the world;
Hail the Sun of righteousness! Jesus, the Light of the world. Refrain**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, stanzas; George D. Elderkin, 1845-1928, refrain
Text in the public domain.

↑ OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

P Let us confess our baptismal faith together.

C 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 "God of grace," please respond, "Receive our prayer."

The prayers are ended with these words, "We commend these prayers to you, ...Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.." 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) Karl Dietmeyer

↑ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C 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:

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

—ELW Hymn 300, refrain

↑ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

↑ THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN: *The First Noel*

ELW Hymn 300, st. 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.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

COMMUNION HYMN: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**ELW Hymn 815*

**1 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*-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.**

**2 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***

**3 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***

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

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↑ PASTORAL BLESSING and BENEDICTION

☞ The God of love, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace, illumine your path,
and increase your joy, today and always.

☞ Amen.

↑ SENDING HYMN: *Shine, Jesus, Shine**ELW Hymn 671*

***Refrain*-Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.**

**Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!**

**1 Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me: *Refrain***

**2 As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me: *Refrain***

Text: Graham Kendrick

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↑ SENDING

☞ Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.
Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.

☞ Thanks be to God.

↑ POSTLUDE

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Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, administered by Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the *New Revised Standard Version* of the Bible, copyrighted 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and are used by permission. All rights reserved.*Altar Guild: Carol Talbott**Lector: (8:30)**(11:00) Rod Barkow**Tech crew: (8:30) Davida Kilgore, Dakota Atkins**(11:00) Carol Jensen-Linton, Linda Volckmann, Brad Milburn**Usher: (8:30) Jim Basinger, Tor Brunso**(11:00) Tom Conrad, Ethan Miller**Altar flowers given in honor of the New Year by Kevin and Laura Hawkins.*

THE LESSONS

Sunday, January 5

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

The first reading is from Isaiah , the 60th chapter.

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

² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ 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 proclaim the praise of the LORD.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

The second reading is from Ephesians , the 3rd chapter.

¹ This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

☐ 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.**

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men 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 at its rising, 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 wise men 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 at its rising, 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.

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