

Epiphany Sunday

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
January 4, 2026 8:30 & 11:00 am

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Wes Smith, Associate Pastor
Larry Peterson, Director of Worship and Music

☐ = Pastor ☐ = Assisting Minister ☐ = Lector [reader] ☐ = Congregation
ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)

*Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion. Communion is offered by intinction.
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

Please stand as you are able

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

☐ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

☐ **Amen.**

☐ Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word
you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

☐ **We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life
in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

☐ To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

☐ **Amen.**

EXCHANGING THE PEACE *We share a sign of God's peace.*

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☐ **And also with you.**

GATHERING HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old

ELW Hymn 302

Please use either the red hymnal in the pew rack or the LED projection screens for the music and words.

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.**

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.

You may be seated

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

see insert page 5

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

see insert page 5

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We Three Kings

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 is in the public domain.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

see insert page 6

You may be seated

SERMON

Pastor Wes

Please stand as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW Hymn 815

Please use either the red hymnal in the pew rack or the LED projection screens for the music and words.

OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES' CREED

☞ Let us profess 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.**

You may be seated

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, "With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Savior." Please respond, "Amen."

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

We now dedicate the financial gifts we offer to the Lord and the Lord's agenda, gifts either already given online, or before or after the service in the offering box. Likewise, we prayerfully consider the ways we offer ourselves to God's kingdom throughout the whole week.



MUSICAL OFFERING

Please stand as you are able

OFFERTORY

What Child is This

ELW Hymn 296, st. 3

**3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898.

Text is in the public domain.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray. God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

G Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

G We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G 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:

**G 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

**G 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.**

You may be seated

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 the chalice of wine, or you may also choose a packaged cup with grape juice and a gluten-free wafer. Please indicate to the ushers if you need to have communion brought to you.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

ELW page 154

**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.**

COMMUNION HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

ELW Hymn 294

**1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**2 Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.**

Hymn continues on next page.

3 **What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.**

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894. Text is in the public domain.

Please stand as you are able

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

- P** May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- G** **Amen**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- P** Let us pray. Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.
- G** **Amen.**

BLESSING

- P** The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, + bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.
- G** **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

ELW Hymn 677

Please use either the red hymnal in the pew rack or the LED projection screens for the music and words.

SENDING

- A** Glory to God in the highest!
- G** **And peace to God’s people on earth!**
- A** Go in joy. Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus’ pathway of joy and life.
- G** **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgements

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Altar flowers given by Madelyn Lee in honor of Family Birthdays

THE LESSONS

Sunday, January 4

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 in 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 in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL *Matthew 2:1-12*

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

☒ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ In 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.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☒ **Praise to you, O Christ.**