

Epiphany of Our Lord

January 4 and 5, 2026



The Gentiles' Christmas

Welcome to Worship

Thank you for joining us for worship today! We are honored that you are with us. We pray that the Word of God you hear will strengthen your faith and increase your love for the Lord! Please fill out a “Welcome to Worship” card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in an offering plate, located near the sanctuary doors, as you leave worship. If you are a guest, know that we are thankful you have joined us and hope that you will join us again soon.

Prepare for Worship

To prepare for worship, read through the service focus and the Scripture readings. Ponder the words of the Psalm of the Day. Spend time in prayer, using the prayers on the inside cover of the hymnal or on pages 255-258. For those intending to receive the Lord's Supper, read through the “Christian Questions” on pages 295-296. Consider reading through portions of the Small Catechism on pages 286-293.

Today's Focus for Worship – The Gentiles' Christmas

Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning “reveal.” When the Savior was born, he was first revealed as love's pure light to Israelites: Mary, Joseph, the shepherds. Today we see the Lord miraculously guiding foreigners across countless miles so the Savior's holy face could be revealed to them as well. The Festival of Epiphany is sometimes known as Christmas for the Gentiles. We Gentiles (non-Jews) rejoice in the good news that this Jewish baby is a gift for all people, Christ the Savior of the world.

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Kirk Lahmann

Preacher: Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

Accompanist: Vicki Jensen

Acknowledgments

Today's service is adapted from *Christian Worship: Hymnal*, © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House – “The Service, Setting Five” (available through *Service Builder*). Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by *Christian Worship: Service Builder* © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. The Closing Collect is reprinted from *Now and Forever: Contemporary Collects...*, © Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission. Artwork by Ed Riojas, © higherthings.org.

The Service

Setting Five



Opening Hymn

Arise and Shine in Splendor | 375
Please stand to sing the final stanza.

Invocation

Matthew 18:20; 28:19-20

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 32:1-2; Romans 4:25; 5:1

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

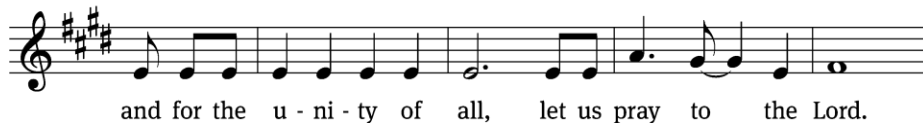
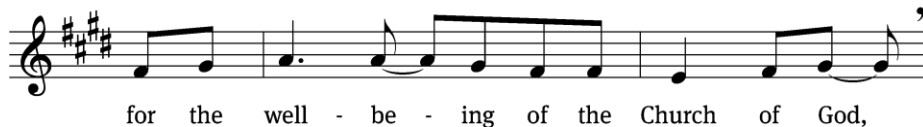
Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

Matthew 15:22; 17:15; Mark 10:47



For this ho - ly house and for all who of - fer here their
wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
A - men.

Glory Be to God *Gloria in Excelsis*

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the
high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al -

might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we

give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the

high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.

Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the

high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth. For you a - lone are the

Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the

Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther.

Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the

high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and

peace to his peo - ple on earth.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. ²See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. ³Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴“Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. ⁵Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. ⁶Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-12

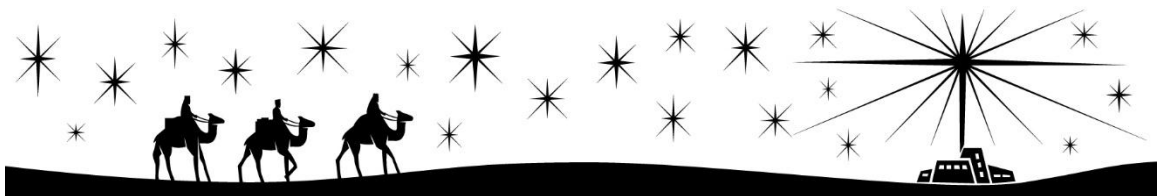
²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand



Gospel Acclamation

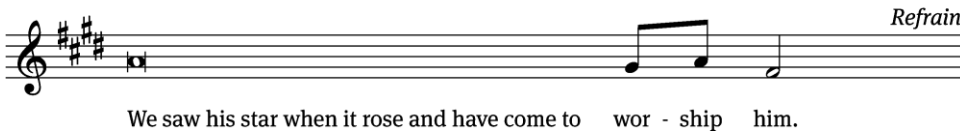
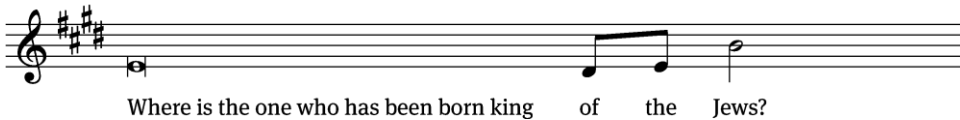
Matthew 2:2



Refrain



Tone



Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ “‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’” ⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star | 370:1-3

Sermon

Matthew 2:10-11

They Saw

Stand

Apostles' Creed *Credo*

Matthew 16:15; Luke 12:8; 2 Corinthians 4:13

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn.

Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

Amen.

Offering

2 Corinthians 9:7

Offerings given in thanks to the Lord are brought to the Lord's altar. We ask all worshipers to fill out a "Welcome to Worship" card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in the offering plates at the sanctuary doors following the service.

Hymn

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star | 370:4-5



4 Oh, joy to know that you, my friend, are Lord, be - gin -
5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, let all glad sounds



ning with-out end, the first and last, e - ter - nal!
of mu - sic ring in God's high prais - es blend - ed.



And you at length— O glo-rious grace— will take me to
Christ will be with me all the way, to - day, to - mor -



that ho - ly place, the home of joys su - per - nal.
row, ev - 'ry day till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.



A - men, a - men! Come and meet me, quick - ly greet me!
Sing out, ring out tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious



With deep yearn - ing, Lord, I look for your re - turn - ing.
cho - sen na - tion; praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, abr., adapt; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Closing Collect

O Lord, your glory shines on us in your Son Jesus Christ. You revealed your glory to all nations and led the Wise Men to your Son with a star. Reveal the unsearchable riches of Christ to us in your Holy Word; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer *Pater Noster*

Matthew 6:9-13

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing *Aaronic Benediction*

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

As With Gladness Men of Old | 372