

January 4, 2026 8:00/9:30/10:45am

The Epiphany of Our Lord

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN

"Arise, Your Light Has Come"

Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God
Which shines on you today.

Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken-hearted ones
And comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty,
Good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's pow'r will make us strong.

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OPENING SENTENCES

Arise and shine! For your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. (*Isaiah 60:1*)

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.

We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (*John 1:14*)

Jesus Christ the Light has come into the world that the darkness may be dispersed.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us then confess our sins and ask forgiveness in His name.

O most merciful God,

We confess to You that we are sinners. Our natural state knows only darkness and despair. But since You have given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy on us, and for His sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By Your Holy Spirit kindle in us the light of Christ, that we may sin no more and worship You in holy wisdom. By Your grace, may we come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a holy people, belonging to God by Baptism and faith, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you from the darkness of sin and death to the marvelous light of forgiveness and life. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” LSB 411, vv. 1-2

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**

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.

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**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your incarnation, You dwelt among us in light and love. Help us to be light to those who do not know You and to share Your love with those who are in darkness, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. 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 bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 3:1-12

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPIPHANY ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Cantor: *Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

All: Refrain



Cantor: *We have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Christ our Savior.*

All: Refrain

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (8:00/10:45)

HYMN OF THE DAY “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” LSB 395, vv. 1-4

O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God’s own truth and light,
Aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob’s race, King David’s son,
Our Lord and master, You have won
Our hearts to serve You only!
Lowly, holy!
Great and glorious,
All victorious,
Rich in blessing!
Rule and might o’er all possessing!

Come, heav’nly Bridegroom, Light divine,
And deep within our hearts now shine;
There light a flame undying!
In Your one body let us be
As living branches of a tree,
Your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily
Earth’s deep sadness
May perplex us
And distress us,
Yet with heav’nly joy You bless us.

Lord, when You look on us in love,
At once there falls from God above
A ray of purest pleasure.
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood
Refresh our souls with heav’nly food.
You are our dearest treasure!
Let Your mercy
Warm and cheer us!
O draw near us!
For You teach us
God’s own love through You has reached us.

Almighty Father, in Your Son
You loved us when not yet begun
Was this old earth’s foundation!
Your Son has ransomed us in love
To live in Him here and above:
This is Your great salvation.
Alleluia!
Christ the living,
To us giving
Life forever,
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!

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SERMON

“Finding the One”

Pastor Snow

CHRISTMAS CREED

I believe in one God, the Father, Creator of all things, who sent His Son as my Savior.

I believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by angels, worshipped by the Wise Men, who lived to suffer, die and rise again, to free me from sin, death and the power of Satan.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, Who has brought me to faith in the Christ and by Whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ my worship, my life, my love; to live under Him as my King, both now and forevermore. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs...

That the light of Christ may shine within the Church by the Word and Sacraments, that the light of Christ may be proclaimed to the world in the Word of the Gospel, and that all nations and peoples may be drawn to this light with faith. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

That the light of Christ may bring peace to the nations, that all the leaders of the nations may walk in the light of God's Word and wisdom, and that all people may enjoy the blessings of freedom and justice. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

That Christ's light may shine through all we do, especially through our labors for our neighbors in need, the cause of the unborn, the aged, and those with special needs. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

That Christ may shine His healing light upon the sick, all who suffer, upon the grieving and those near death...that all who call upon the Lord may know the comfort of His presence and the gift of His peace. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

That we may walk worthy of Christ's light in all the words we speak and the actions we take. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O gracious Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Jesus Christ is the light of the world; the light no darkness can overcome.
Amen.**

OFFERING (9:30/10:45)

Musical Offering

"When We Behold"

Redman and Guerra

OFFERING PRAYER

Living God, in Christ your Son you have given the world eternal light that burns brightly in the midst of darkness. Like the magi, when you draw us near, we are overwhelmed with joy! Lead us by your Spirit to share your love and grace with our neighbors. Let our lives in this new year be an offering. We pray through Christ, the light of the world.

Amen.

PREFACE

LSB 160

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 Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Here us as we pray in Jesus' name the very words He teaches us to pray:

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying. "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

LSB 163

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION AT ST. JOHN'S

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood. This we eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm, and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold to a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked to first speak with the pastor or an elder. For further readings in Scripture, we suggest Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

- **Communicants will receive elements in a continuous fashion.**
- **If you would like the pastor to bring communion to you, please inform an usher anytime during the service.**
- **Children of all ages may join their parents and receive a special blessing.**
- **For those who desire it, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center ring of the tray of individual cups.**

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN “The Star Proclaims the King Is Here” LSB 399, vv. 1-2, 5

The star proclaims the King is here;
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For He who offers heav’nly birth
Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.

For this Thy glad epiphany
All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit evermore.

The eastern sages saw from far
And followed on His guiding star;
And, led by light, to light they trod
And by their gifts confessed their God.

Text: Public domain

HYMN “As with Gladness Men of Old” LSB 397, vv. 1-2, 4-5

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.

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.

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.

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.

Text: Public domain

HYMN “Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning”

LSB 400

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,
Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Text: Public domain

DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

“O Jesus, King of Glory”

LW 79, vv. 1-2, 6

O Jesus, King of Glory,
Both David’s Lord and Son!
Thy realm endures forever,
In heav’n is fixed Thy throne.
Help that in earth’s dominions,
Throughout from pole to pole,
Thy reign may spread salvation
To each benighted soul.

The eastern sages, bringing
Their tribute gifts to Thee,
Bear witness to Thy kingdom
And humbly bow the knee.
To Thee the star is pointing
And the prophetic Word;
Hence joyously we hail Thee:
Our Savior and our Lord!

And bid Thy Word within me
Shine as the fairest star;
Keep sin and all false doctrine
Forever from me far.
Help me confess Thee truly
And with Thy Christendom
Here own Thee King and Savior
And in the world to come.

Text: Public domain

SENDING

Go in peace, Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH ST. JOHN'S TODAY! If this is your first time at St. John's, we encourage you to fill out a CONNECTCard located on the Welcome Desk. We want an opportunity to get to know you.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolytes: 8:00 Nolan Buesgens/10:45 Hannah Davenport

Elders: 8:00/9:30 Pete Siedelman/10:45 Josh Peterson

Communion Assistants: 8:00 Gayle Degler, Paul DeRocher, Chris Mundahl
9:30 Tim Goltz, Dan Kloos, Bruce Wolf

10:45 Jim Hofer, Thomas Leier, Nathan Messer

Usher Team: 8:00 Jay Molnau/9:30 Mike Bennes/10:45 Dave Hagen

Welcome Team: 8:00 Leanon Family/9:30 Elizabeth Bennes

Tech Crew: 8:00 Sara Buesgens, Hunter Krueger

9:30/10:45 Bennet McGlothlin

Coffee Hour: 9:30 Hennen Family

BANNERS

Epiphany Banner: Marion Michaels

Epiphany Star: Joan Bode

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UPCOMING WEEK	
Monday, January 5	Men's Bible Study 6:30am
	Monday Night Meal 5:15pm
	AA 7:00pm
Tuesday, January 6	Trustees Meeting 6:30pm
Wednesday, January 7	Mom's in the Word 9:30am
	Confirmation (Public School) 6:00pm
	Messengers of Praise Rehearsal 7:00pm
Thursday, January 8	Women's LifeLight Bible Study 9:30am
	Ladies Aid Meeting 1:30pm
	Trail Life Troop Meeting 6:30pm
Saturday, January 10	Colson Fellows Cohort Meeting 8:30am
	Trail Life Leader's Meeting 9:00am
Sunday, January 11	Worship 8:00/9:30/10:45am
	Education Hour 9:30am
	Sugar City 4-H Club Meeting 5:45pm

Prayers for Healing and Strength

Barb Frey
Patti Oelfke
John Gates
Allan Panning

Janet Macenthun
Matthew Swanson
Jon Thom
Joel Landskroener

Sandy Sprengeler
Holly Walters
Marilyn Lenzen
Jolene Berg

Ongoing Prayers

Carol Affeldt
John Barney
Merlin Bentz
Jack Boman
Jimann Campbell
Julie Carver
Marguerite Craighead
Sunnie Deis

Anita Doss
Sid & Merna Fjelstad
Dennis Gaarder
Bernie Gnan
Ruth Harms
Eugene Henke
Carol Jones
Len Kallsen

Gretchen Laubach
Melinda Meuwissen
Gina Niesche
Steve Pond
Austin Rannow
Val Schlefsky
Cliff Waller
Ruth Ziegler

Celebrating Birthdays

1/4

Sawyer Dolan
Hannah Handberg
Alice Hargrove
Joshua Stewart
Jim Sutherland
Daniel Willmsen

1/5

Sarah Ahlbrecht
Wilson Feltmann
Kaley Hagen
Kent Kramp
Scott Wilmsen

1/6

Tom Leier

1/6

Miles Loewe
Paul McMullen
Natalie Phillips
Jeff Stillman
Janie Struble
Mary Swanson

1/7

Elliot Annett
Lacy Atkinson
Sam Chanan Khan
Nolah Charles
Arthur Gustafson
Keri Lorenz

1/7

Dan Schlueter
1/8
Jamie Fischer
Michael Meyer
1/9
Paxton Busker
Justin Hagen
Beckham Hanson
Jenna Weber
1/10
Barbara Gentz
Tracy Rehbein
Peter Vickerman
Katherine Wechter

Celebrating Anniversaries

1/4 Chris and Emma Ewing

1/5 Wally and Christina Matthis

1/8 Phillip and Nicole Stockey

1/10 Dale and Nancy Van Sloun

Expectant Moms

Brenda Simpson
Izzy King

Nicole Stockey
Kourtney Vipond

Katelyn Olson
Amy Peterson