

WELCOME

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

SAT. JANUARY 6/SUN. JANUARY 7, 2024



AS WE GATHER

The Twelve Days of our Christmas celebration have come to an end. But the miraculous birth of the Son of God is only the beginning of the story. For though Jesus came as the fulfillment of all the promises to God’s chosen people Israel, the promise to Abraham was clear that by his seed “all the families of the earth” would be blessed (Genesis 12:3). This is the mystery Paul speaks of how “the Gentiles are fellow heirs . . . of the promise in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 3:6). Anything hidden remains a mystery until it is revealed. No one, Jew or Gentile, can come to faith in Christ without the Gospel being revealed. Another word for “reveal” is “epiphany.” So today Matthew uses the word “behold,” showing what may seem a surprise to some. “Behold, wise men from the east” (Matthew 2:1). “Behold, the star that they had seen” (Matthew 2:9). Today we say, behold, Christmas is a much bigger thing than many have thought.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” *LSB 394*

**1. Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
Manifested by the star
To the sages from afar,**

**Branch of royal David's stem
In Thy birth at Bethlehem:
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.**

**2. Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
And at Cana wedding guest
In Thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in pow'r divine,
Changing water into wine;
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.**

**3. Manifest in making whole
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight,
Quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will,
Ever bringing good from ill;
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest**

**4. Sun and moon shall darkened be,
Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
Christ will then like lightning shine,
All will see His glorious sign;
All will then the trumpet hear,
All will see the Judge appear;
Thou by all wilt be confessed,
God in man made manifest.**

**5. Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord,
Present in Thy holy Word—
Grace to imitate Thee now
And be pure, as pure art Thou;
That we might become like Thee
At Thy great epiphany
And may praise Thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.**

Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt. Public domain
ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR 77 77 D Is. 61:1–3; 1 Peter 1:20; Matt. 11:4–5; Rev. 19:1–16

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 43:4; 124:8*

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: to God my exceeding joy.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: who made heaven and earth.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

KYRIE



☐ Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

HYMN OF PRAISE “Let All Together Praise Our God”
(LSB 389, Sts. 1 & 7)

**Let all together praise our God before His glorious throne.
Today He opens heav’n again to give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.**

**Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus we adore
And praise to God the Father yield and Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 60:1–6 (The future glory of Israel)*

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

²For 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.

³And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴Lift 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.

⁵Then 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.

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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM “O God of God, O Light of Light”

Julian/Storis

EPISTLE *Ephesians 3:1–12 (The mystery of the Gospel revealed)*

3 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴ When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the

manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

(LSB p. 205)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 2:1–12 (The visit of the Wise Men)*

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

People: **Glory be to You, O Lord.**

2 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, ² 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.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ “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.””

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ 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.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ 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.

¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to You, O Christ.

CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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 sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY “As With Gladness Men of Old”

LSB 397

**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.**

William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt. Public domain DIX 77 77 77
Matt. 2:1–11; Is. 60:19; Rev. 21:23

SERMON

Rev .Dr. Timothy Oswald

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

+SACRAMENT+

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly meet, 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 singing:

SANCTUS

(LSB, page 195)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He,
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: 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.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

(LSB, page 198)

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

+DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION+

By communing, a person says publicly that they -

- are baptized and confirmed*
- believe Christ's words*
- repent of their sins*
- fully agree with all that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod teaches.*

How to receive –

- anyone may come to the altar but keep hands folded if not receiving Communion*
- the center of the tray has a cup with just a drop of wine for those who must minimize alcohol*
- smile, exude your joy, but keep a reverent demeanor as others commune*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning”

LSB 400

**1. 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.**

**2. 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.**

**3. 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?**

**4. 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.**

**5. 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.**

Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt. Public domain
MORNING STAR 11 10 11 10 Matt. 2:1–11; Ps. 51:17

NUNC DIMITTIS

(LSB, pages 199-200)

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
According to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou has prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles
and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “What Child Is This” *LSB 370*

**1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!**

2. Why lies He in such mean estate

**Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!**

**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!**

**William C. Dix, 1837–98 Public domain GREENSLEEVES 87 87 68 67
Luke 2:1–20; Matt. 2:1–11; Phil. 2:5–8; Is. 53:3–6**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:
“Dedicated to knowing Christ and making Christ
known to others”**

**Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.
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- **Pastor: Rev. Dr. Timothy Oswald**
- **Liturgist (Sun.) Rev. Maurice Lind, Pastor Emeritus**
- **Sat. Organist: Lina Schaal**
- **Sun. Organist: George Kelm**

- **Choir Director: Gail Feick**
- **Ensemble Coordinator: Tabra Gomski**
- **A/V Team: Stan & Cheryl Grey, Josh Walton
Brian & Amanda Larie**
- **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: Scheduled services will be held in spite of inclement weather. Please use your best judgment to determine if you can safely attend.**
- **Please call (757-831-6948) or e-mail Pastor Oswald (oswald1@charter.net) with your prayer requests.**
- **The Women of Hope's next meeting will be on Saturday, January 20, at 10:30am.**

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY

Reader: Gail Feick
Communion: Paul Schneider
Acolyte: James Urban
Ushers: John & Peggy Tueting
Fellowship: Phyllis Klen

NEXT WEEK

Reader: Amanda Siemers
Communion: Paul Schneider
Acolyte: Danica Olsen
Ushers: Brian Larie & Kyle Wachholder
Fellowship: Tami Voigt

BIRTHDAYS

1/8 Terri Stade
1/13 Craig Kunz

ANNIVERSARY

1/10 John & Peggy Tueting

Opportunities to Serve the Lord This Week
1/8/24 – 1/14/24

Monday: 6:00pm Council Meeting

Wednesday: 6:00pm Bible Study “Persecution”

Saturday: 9:30am Worship Service

Sunday: 8:15am Choir Rehearsal

9:00am Worship Service

**10:20am Bible Study “Luther’s
Preface to Small Catechism”
and Sunday School**