

**Epiphany Sunday  
January 4, 2026  
Lord of Life Lutheran Church**



**CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the dark of morning,  
**the stars still shine.**

In the depth of winter,  
**the birds still climb.**

At the start of the year,  
tender and new,  
**God is here.  
God is near.**

Do not rest in your fear.  
**God is here.**

So like the stars and the birds,  
**Let us worship our holy God.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Arise, Your Light Has Come!*

#314

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Friends, on this Epiphany Sunday we stand at the start of a new year, and there is nothing better about a new year than the chance to begin again. That is exactly what we do in the Prayer of Confession. We speak honestly with God and God surrounds us with grace. We are able to begin again. So may we start this new year, this new season, this new week with God's grace. Let us pray. Let us begin again.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Ever-loving God, we long for Christmas to usher in a season of peace and joy.  
However, we know that is not how the world works. Even just days after Christmas, we find ourselves face to face with fear once again.  
So today we pray — forgive us when we allow fear to stop us in our tracks.  
Forgive us when our own fear prevents us from following your call.  
Forgive us when fear is louder than love.  
Show us how to turn our fear into action.  
Show us how to live like the magi who searched for you in a fearful world.  
With hope we pray, amen.**

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Family of Faith,

whether you are brave and courageous or fearful and timid,

God's love for you knows no end. So join me in these words of forgiveness:

**Whether fear inspires us to action,**

**or stops us dead in our tracks,**

**God's love for us is boundless.**

**We are seen.**

**We are surrounded with grace.**

**We are sent to serve.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**God of the Stars, like the magi, we come to this place searching for you. So today, just like every day, we ask that you would remove any barricades that keep us from your Spirit. Clear out the distractions. Wipe away the doubt. Open up our hearts, and speak to us through these ancient words. And as you do, we will keep walking. As you do, we will move toward you. With hope we pray, amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 60:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

He came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
hallelujah forevermore.

## **HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12**

<sup>2</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> 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.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘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.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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.” <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped,<sup>[g]</sup> they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## **SERMON**

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

Suzanne Bowen

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

#671

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

### **OFFERTORY**

*Drawn to the Light*

#593

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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 our thanks and praise.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil;**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

## COMMUNION BLESSING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SENDING HYMN

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

#815

## THE BLESSING

**May you remember that good news is louder than fear.**

## SENDING

Go in peace, and  
**be not afraid!**

Adapted from Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

Graphic design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | Photography by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

### *He Came Down*

Text: Cameroon traditional; Music: Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

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