

Epiphany

January 4, 2026

10am worship

Facebook live

Epiphany
follow the light

Welcome to worship at **tierrasantalutheranchurch**

We're excited that you have chosen to worship with us. We encourage you to fill out the green visitor sheet located in the pew pocket and place it in the offering basket. Children's bulletins are available from an usher. A Nursery for children 3 and under is at the west end of the hallway.

The feast of Epiphany ("manifestation") concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP BY PASTOR BOHDAN VADIS

GATHERING SONG "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (stz. 1, 2, 6, 8)

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

GATHERING PRAYER

SONG "It came Upon a Midnight Clear" (*stz. 1, 2, 3*)

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.
3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!

SONG "What Child Is This"

- 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!

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

All Christians are invited by our Lord to receive His Body and Blood in the Eucharist. Children who have not yet received First Communion instructions are invited to come forward to receive a blessing, but are requested to wait with Communing until they have been properly instructed. If you would like to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest. Wine is in the gold chalice and grape juice is in the pottery chalice.

SONG "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

- 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!

2 Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again;
king forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. *Refrain*

3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worshiping God Most High. *Refrain*

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*

5 Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heav'n sings alleluia:
alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: 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.

C: Amen.

CHILDREN'S OFFERING - God's Global Barnyard *We can donate money through the ELCA to purchase farm animals and related resources (like tools, seeds, training) to help hungry families globally achieve long-term food security and self-sufficiency, turning gifts into food, income, and fertilizer.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO GODLY PLAY

FIRST READING *Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 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. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 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 on their nurses' arms. 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. 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.

SECOND READING *What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 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: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 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. 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, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 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. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our

Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

GOSPEL *God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: '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.' " Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

MESSAGE BY PASTOR BOHDAN VADIS

SONG "The First Noel"

Verse 1

The first Noel
The angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
In fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

Chorus

Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

Verse 2

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night

(Repeat Chorus)

(Repeat Chorus)

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

This week, please keep in your prayers: *Reid Bixler, Barbara Berg, Brandi Vadis, James Vadis, Marianne d'Arnaud, Ellen Mize, Frank Fogg, Suzanne Till, Mike George, Diane Raines, Barbara Vann, Anastasia Balmaceda, Ray Gerding, and Cathie and Ray Gerding at the death of Cathie's sister. Lord, please guide and protect our military personnel serving in harm's way.*

COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

SONG "O Holy Night"

Verse 1

O holy night the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

Chorus 1

Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
O night divine, O night
O night divine

Verse 2

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here came the wise men from Orient land
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our Friend

Chorus 1

Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
O night divine, O night
O night divine

(Repeat Chorus 1)

OFFERING PRAYER

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,
✙ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C: Amen.

SONG “Go Tell It On The Mountain”

Chorus

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

Verse 1

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens

There shone a holy light

(Repeat Chorus)

Verse 3

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

(Repeat Chorus)

Tag

That Jesus Christ is born (x2)

THE DISMISSAL

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: And peace to God's people on earth!

P: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

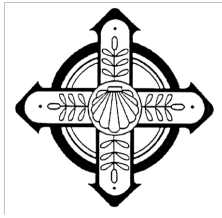
C: Thanks be to God.

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Reader: Kathy Stewart
Comm: Chris Herich
Usher: Chris Herich, Joni Incrocci
Acolyte: Luca Silvestro
Godly Play: Donna Parham, Ann McCann
Nursery: Zach Sparks, Iris Villa
Altar: Sharon Duke

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