

Epiphany

January 4, 2026, 8:30am

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.

Take-Home Busy Bags for kids and 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.

PRELUDE "As With Gladness"- Burkhardt (Organ)

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP BY PASTOR BOHDAN VADIS

THE BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.
(a moment of silence for self-examination)

P: Reconciling God,

C: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair.

We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace.

We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear.

We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

P: God's grace upon grace flows over you. ☩ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 302 “**As with Gladness Men of Old**” (*Stz., 1, 2, 3, 4*)

- 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.

APOSTOLIC GREETING AND HYMN OF PRAISE

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

C: And also with you!

HYMN OF PRAISE ELW 300 “**The First Noel**” (*Stz. 1, 4, 5*)

- 1 The first Noel the angel 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.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

4 This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

C: O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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 ACCLAMATION

ELW 289 (*Refrain only from “**Angels We Have Heard on High**”*)

Gloria! In Excelsis Deo!

Gloria! In Excelsis Deo!

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.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 2nd chapter, beginning with the 1st verse:

C: (Sung) Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

P: Here ends the Reading of the Gospel.

C: *(Sung)* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Saw You Never in the Twilight" - Scott *(Sung by the TLC Choral Group)*

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MESSAGE BY PASTOR BOHDAN VADIS

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 303 **"Brightest and Best of the Stars"** (Stz., 1, 3, 4)

- 1 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
 dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
 Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
 guide where our infant redeemer is laid.
- 3 What shall we give him, in costly devotion?
 Shall we bring incense and off'rings divine,
 gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
 myrrh from the forest or 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.

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

P: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P: Repairer of the breach, you separate us from our sin and unite us with one another. Heal the animosity in our hearts, and bind us together in love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Author of life, you sent your spirit over the waters, your breath into your children, and guiding stars across the sky. Awaken us to the plight of the planet and send us to care for your creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Light that leads the way, you make yourself known to the nations. Illuminate just paths and guide leaders in the church and the world in your holy will. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Proclaimer of promises, you raise up prophets and messengers in the places we least expect. Equip us to listen well to those who bring both good news and painful truths. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Voice of the silenced, you cast the mighty from their thrones and fill the hungry with good things. Grant those in need the courage to demand equality and those with abundance the wisdom to share. Respond to any who call out in

need this day , especially *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. Hear us, O God.*

C: Your mercy is great.

P: For what else do the people pray? Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Redeemer of the saints, you gift us with many people throughout our lives who point the way to you. We give you thanks for the recently departed and all who have loved us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

OFFERTORY HYMN ELW 301 "Bright and Glorious Is the Sky" (Stz. 3, 5)

3 Sages from the East afar,
when they saw this wondrous star,
went to find the king of nations
and to offer their oblations
to the child, the newborn king,
to the child, the newborn king.

5 Guided by the star, they found
him whose praise the ages sound.
We too have a star to guide us,
which forever will provide us
with the light to find our Lord,
with the light to find our Lord.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877-1970, alt.

Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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.*

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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

(ELW page 152, sung)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

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.

COMMUNION MUSIC ELW 838 “Beautiful Savior”

- 1 Beautiful Savior,
 King of creation,
 Son of God and Son of Man!
 Truly I'd love thee,
 truly I'd serve thee,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

- 2 Fair are the meadows,
fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine,
fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

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.

SENDING HYMN ELW 677 “This Little Light of Mine”

- 1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

- 3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

THE BENEDICTION

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

C: Amen.

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.

POSTLUDE "We Three Kings"- (*Piano*)

Assisting Minister & Reader: Carol Bruns

Ushers: Sharon and Wayne Duke

Communion: Ian Brown

Altar: Sharon Duke

Coffee: Bart & Shari Lyon

Nursery: Zach Sparks, Iris Villa

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TLC STAFF

Senior Pastor: Bohdan Vadis; **Administrative Assistant:** Elizabeth Duffield;
Bookkeeper: Sandy Robinson; **Director of Music:** Betsy Frater; **Worship**
Projection Technician: Amy Hall; **Sextons:** Sam Irons, Aaron Russell; **TLC**
Pre School Director: Melissa Vargas.

Tierrasanta Lutheran Church

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