

# The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 4, 2026

Divine Service, Setting Four

Word of Welcome

Prelude

Hymn #394: Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Invocation

*Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Exhortation

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

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession of Sins

C: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

*A moment of silent reflection*

Absolution

*[John 20:19-23]*

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 72:1-2, 10-11; antiphon: Liturgical Text

L: Behold the Lord, the ruler, has come,

C: **and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in His hand.**

L: Give the king Your justice, O God,

C: **and Your righteousness to the royal Son!**

L: May He judge Your people with righteousness,

C: **and Your poor with justice!**

L: May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render Him tribute;

C: **may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!**

L: May all kings fall down before Him,

C: **all nations serve Him!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

L: Behold the Lord, the ruler, has come,

C: **and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in His hand.**



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## Gloria in Excelsis (sung)

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

**To God on high be glory; And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven; Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing—  
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high—**

**For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Old Testament: Isaiah 60:1-6 (ESV)

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.

L: This is the Word of the LORD.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12 (ESV)

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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)

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

C: **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.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### Apostles' Creed

### Hymn #412: The People That in Darkness Sat

### Sermon

### Offertory (sung)

*Psalm 51:10-12*

***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.***

***Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.***

***Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.***

### Offering from God's People

## Stewardship Prayer

**Heavenly Father, You have given us so many gifts of worldly goods and resources, but Your greatest gift to us is Jesus, who came to give us eternal life with You, through His life, death, resurrection, and ascension. Help us to see in Him that it is truly more blessed to give than to receive, that we may not hoard for ourselves either worldly goods or the message of the Gospel, but rather freely share them so that others too can know the blessing of Your Fatherly love. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen**

## Prayer of the Church

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

## Lord's Prayer (10:45)

(10:45) The service will conclude with the Benediction.

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(8:00) The service continues with the Service of the Sacrament.

## Preface

*2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136*

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 Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary. . .

. . . we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus (sung)

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

**Holy, holy, holy LORD God of Sabaoth adored;**

**Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.**

**Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;**

**Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

## Lord's Prayer

## The Words of Institution

## Pax Domini

*John 20:19*

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

C: **Amen.**

## Agnus Dei (sung)

*John 1:29*

1. **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

2. **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

## Distribution Hymns

1. #631: Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face
2. #374: Gentle Mary Laid Her Child
3. #385: From East to West

Nunc Dimittis (*stand to sing*)

Luke 2:29-32

O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

Dismissal & Post-Communion Prayer

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

P: Let us bless the LORD.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn #397: As with Gladness Men of Old

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*Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew D. Priem | Reader: Steve Gfeller | Musician: Teresa Henny*