## HOLY COMMUNION Epiphany of Our Lord

**January 5, 2025** 

8:00 am and 10:30 am

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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.

#### SILENT PRAYER

#### **PRELUDE:**

8:00 am: What Child Is This

J.N. Beck

**10:30 am:** "Marsch der heiligen drei Konige" A. Leupold (c. 2001 from Augsburg Organ Library: Epiphany ARR)

As the kings come from afar, the organ begins softly, mysteriously, with the oboe. As the kings draw closer to Bethlehem, the organ has a clearer sound and crescendos as they get there. Not finding Jesus, they leave to look for him elsewhere, as the organ now gets softer and finally fades. Finally you hear the organ sound coming softly from above the balcony as they travel out of sight.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

GATHERING (ENTRANCE RITE)

Stand

**HYMN:** As with Gladness Men of Old

Printed on the next page.

# As with Gladness Men of Old



### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ABSOLUTION)**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father, and of the **+** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Almighty God,
  to whom all hearts are open,
  all desires known,
  and from whom no secrets are hid:
  cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
  by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
  that we may perfectly love you
  and worthily magnify your holy name,
  through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.
- **P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

#### Kneel/Stand

- **P** Most merciful God,
- we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
  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.
  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.

- P In the mercy of almighty God,
  Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
  and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.
  As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
  and by his authority,
  I therefore declare to you
  the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
  in the name of the Father,
  and of the ♣ Son,
  and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

#### Stand

## **GREETING**

- 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.



# CANTICLE OF PRAISE (GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO) Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth. al-might-y God and Lord God, heav - en - ly king, Fa - ther: We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry. Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: sin of the world; have mer You take a-way the us. You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer. you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, For you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, High, God the in the glo of Fa-ther. ry men

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Lord 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.

C Amen.

Sit

### INSTALLATION OF VESTRY MEMBERS

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sit

#### FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

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.

A reading from Isaiah.

<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 on 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.

- **A** The word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

## Later service only:

**PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14** (*The congregation's verses are printed in in bold font.*)

- <sup>1</sup> Give the king your jus- | tice, O God, and your righteousness to | the king's son;
- <sup>2</sup> that he may rule your | people righteously and the | poor with justice;
- <sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people, and the little | hills bring righteousness.
- <sup>4</sup> He shall defend the needy a- | mong the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush | the oppressor.
- <sup>5</sup> He shall live as long as the sun and | moon endure, from one generation | to another.
- <sup>6</sup> He shall come down like rain upon | the mown field, like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
- <sup>7</sup> In his time shall the | righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
- <sup>10</sup> The kings of Tarshish and of the isles | shall pay tribute, and the kings of Arabia and Saba | offer gifts.
- <sup>11</sup> All kings shall bow | down before him, and all the nations | do him service.
- $^{12}$  For he shall deliver the poor who cries out  $^{\mid}$  in distress, and the oppressed who  $^{\mid}$  has no helper.
- <sup>13</sup> He shall have pity on the low- | ly and poor; he shall preserve the lives | of the needy.
- <sup>14</sup> He shall redeem their lives from oppres- | sion and violence, and dear shall their blood be | in his sight.

**SECOND READING** 

Ephesians 3:1-12

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.

# A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>1</sup> This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> 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: <sup>6</sup> that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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, <sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

- **A** The word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

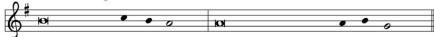
#### Stand

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The congregation sings the Acclamation.



The choir sings the Verse.



We have observed his star | at its rising, and have come to | worship him.

The congregation repeats the Acclamation.



GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

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 Matthew.

# **G** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men 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 at its rising, 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 wise men 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 at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, 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.

- **P** The gospel of the Lord.
- **C** Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON Pastor Weleck

Stand

Later service only:

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning Printed on the next page.

# Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning



#### Stand

The Nicene Creed is appropriate during Advent, Christmas, Easter, and on festival days; the Apostles' Creed during Lent and at other times.

#### NICENE CREED

- **P** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
- We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
- We pray for the church, for its pastors and other ministers, for the newly baptized, for all the faithful, for this congregation here gathered, and for our growth in grace.

  Lord, in your mercy,
- **e** hear our prayer.
- We pray for all nations, for all rulers, legislators, and judges, for an increase of justice in our lands, and for all who work for peace among nations and among peoples.

  Lord, in your mercy,
- **©** hear our prayer.
- We pray for all in any need, for the hungry and the homeless, for victims of war and injustice, for prisoners, for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, for the sick and infirm, for all with incurable illness, and for all who this day will die. We pray especially for those we name in the silence of our hearts... Lord, in your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- We pray for the members of our armed forces wherever they serve, and especially when they serve in harm's way, that they might speedily complete their mission and be safely reunited with their loved ones.

  Lord, in your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C Amen.

#### **PEACE**

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- **C** And also with you.

Worshippers do not greet one another. The service continues with the Offertory.

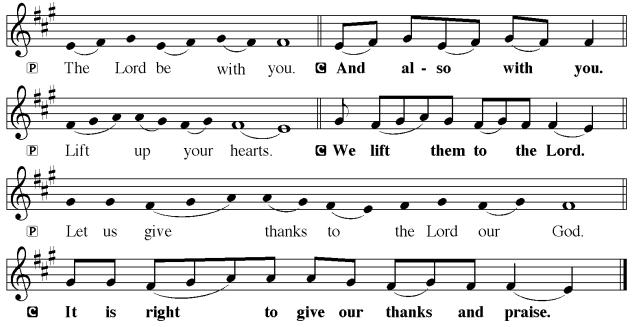
# LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

The Offering will be collected in the Narthex as you leave the church.



#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

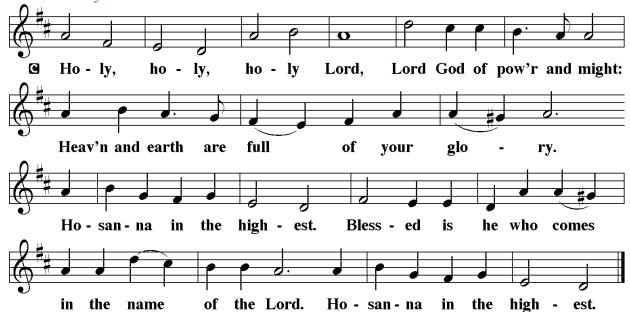
The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks:



The minister continues with the PROPER PREFACE:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The assembly continues with the SANCTUS:



The WORDS OF INSTITUTION are sung to the music Blessed Martin Luther himself composed specifically for this purpose.

**P** IN THE NIGHT IN WHICH HE WAS BETRAYED,

OUR LORD JESUS TOOK BREAD, AND GAVE THANKS; BROKE IT, AND GAVE IT TO HIS DISCIPLES, SAYING:

TAKE AND EAT; THIS IS MY + BODY, GIVEN FOR YOU.

DO THIS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

AGAIN, AFTER SUPPER, HE TOOK THE CUP, GAVE THANKS,

AND GAVE IT FOR ALL TO DRINK, SAYING:

THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY + BLOOD,

SHED FOR YOU AND FOR ALL PEOPLE FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN.

DO THIS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

- P 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.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
- Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

#### Sit

#### **COMMUNION**

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond

Amen.

We Lutherans believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are "truly and substantially" present "in, with, and under" the forms of bread and wine. We invite to the communion all who are baptized and communing in this or another Christian denomination. We welcome children and others who are not communing to come forward for a blessing.

## Music during Communion:

## LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)



## Later service only:

**ANTHEM:** As with Gladness Men of Old

setting J. Webber c. 2013 St. James Music Press

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 to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed; There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav'n and hearth adore; So may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at Thy cradle, rude and bare; So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sins alloy; All our costliest treasures bring, Christ to thee our heavenly King.

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; Rhere forever may we sing Alleluias to our king.

#### Stand

#### **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

- P The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

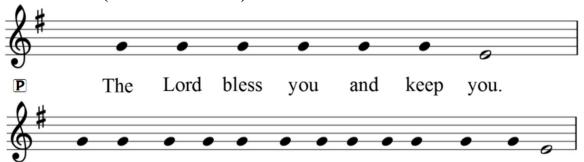
**A** Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

#### **SENDING**

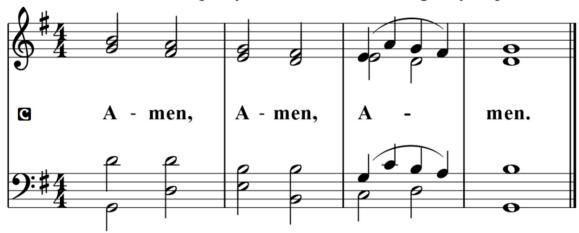
# **BLESSING (BENEDICTION)**



The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.



The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.



## **DISMISSAL**

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**HYMN:** We Three Kings

Printed on the next page.

# We Three Kings of Orient Are



#### **OFFERING**

The offering will be collected as you leave the Church.

#### **POSTLUDE:**

**8:00 am:** Joy to the World J.N. Beck

10:30 am: Morning Star

W. Wold

Arr. c.1999 Augsburg Fortress from Augsburg Organ Library: Epiphany c. 2001 ARR

+++

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SAS017622.

Unless otherwise indicated, hymns are in public domain.

+++

The Christmas Cycle celebrates the events surrounding Christ's coming — the prophecies, his birth, his manifestation (epiphany) to the Gentiles, and his baptism — through the Advent season, the Christmas season, and the Epiphany season.

**The liturgical color white,** symbolic of purity, joy, and the light of Christ, is used on the festivals of Christ.

+++

2025 Vestry		
Member	Special Area	E-mail Address
Gary Wessner	President/Property	gtwess@comcast.net
Dick Allebach	Vice President	Doot44@gmail.com
Alison Fishell	Secretary	alisonfishell@gmail.com
Jeannie Funk	General Treasurer	jeanniefunk@gmail.com
Sherry Jessee	Trust Fund Treasurer	dsajessee@hotmail.com
John Kochel	Parish Life	John.kochel@thrivent.com
Karl Stefan	Mutual Ministry	kssurf@verizon.net
Chilly Lyaro	Christian Education	chillylyaro@yahoo.com
Brian O'Hara	Outreach	Brian.ohara24@gmail.com
Shane Elison	Christian Education	Selison76@gmail.com
Jennifer Wentworth	Old Church Committee	jawentw@aol.com
Matthew Vera	Cemetery Committee	Matthew vera@verizon.net

## Worship Assistants

Ushers: Scott Halteman, Karl Stefan, Ed Funk, and Dick Allebach

The Ushers for the Lessons and Carols Service on December 29<sup>th</sup> were Dick Allebach, David Halteman, Scott Halteman, and Gary Halteman

Elevator Attendant: Mike Taylor

Lectors: Lessons: Jennifer Wentworth Prayers: Sonya Sowards

Communion Assistant: Gary Wessner

Acolyte: Colin Smith Crucifer: Gavin Strasinski

Offering Tabulation: Jennifer Wentworth, Brian O'Hara, and Chilly Lyaro

<u>The Flowers that Adorn the Altar</u> are given to the glory of God by Mr. and Mrs. John E. Schatz, Jr. and family in loving memory of sister and Aunt Linda M. Dieffenbach Killen, Brother and Uncle Paul C. "Hap" Schatz, Parents and Grandparents Warren A. and Jacqueline Dieffenback, and J. Edgar and Thelma Schatz.

<u>The Sanctuary Candle</u> is given to the glory of God by John and Charlotte Wentworth in loving memory of parents Leon and Leona Linsenbigler and John and Mary Wentworth.

<u>The Sanctuary Candle for our Lessons and Carols Service</u> on December 29<sup>th</sup> was given to the glory of God by Judy Bubeck in loving memory of parents Clyde and Anna Prettyman.

<u>The Worship Bulletins</u> are given to the glory of God by Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Redeyoff in loving memory of brother Rick Miller.

<u>The Worship Bulletins for our Lessons and Carols</u> Service on December 29<sup>th</sup> were given to the glory of God by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Stokes with prayers for Peace in the new year.

<u>The Wreaths</u> that adorn the chapel doors are given to the glory of God in memory of loved ones by Debra Augustine and Sally Sweeney.

<u>The Wreaths that adorn the outside doors</u> on our campus are given to the glory of God by the Holcombe Family.

