

# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Douglas Skalka	Organist
John Crawford	Worship Assistant
Tammy Donaldson	Lector
Nate Patsko	Acolyte

Missionaries: The Rev. Dr. Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl Naumann  
Sunday bulletins, news, puzzles, and sermons are available on our website listed above. Services are  
live-streamed on our Facebook page.

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## Epiphany Sunday

January 4, 2026

### ORDER OF SERVICE

#### PRELUDE

We Three Kings

David Lasky

#### RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

#### OPENING HYMN

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Hymnal p. 394

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,  
Manifested by the star To the sages from afar,  
Branch of royal David's stem In Thy birth at Bethlehem:  
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;

And at Cana wedding guest In Thy Godhead manifest;

Manifest in pow'r divine, Changing water into wine;

Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole Palsied limbs and fainting soul;

Manifest in valiant fight, Quelling all the devil's might;

Manifest in gracious will, Ever bringing good from ill;

Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Sun and moon shall darkened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;

Christ will then like lightning shine, All will see His glorious sign;

All will then the trumpet hear, All will see the Judge appear;

Thou by all wilt be confessed, God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Present in Thy holy Word--

Grace to imitate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;

That we might become like Thee At Thy great epiphany

And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest.

## CONGREGATION GREETINGS

### INVOCATION

*The sign of the cross (+) may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism*

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

### CONFESSION<sup>1</sup>

P: Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, You have brought us together into Your presence to offer You our prayers and praise, hear Your holy word, and partake of the blessed sacrament of Holy Communion. Prepare our hearts and minds to worship You and receive Your gifts by giving us the spirit of repentance. Help us to approach the mercy seat of Christ and sincerely confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by Your infinite goodness and mercy.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)**

*(We take a moment of silence before the Lord as we call to mind how we have not properly loved Him, ourselves, or other people.)*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

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.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.**

**C: Amen.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE**

Hymnal p. 152

### **This Is the Feast**

*Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain***

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor,  
blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain***

**Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all Creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and  
the Lamb forever. *Amen. Refrain***

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign.  
*Alleluia. Refrain***

## **COLLECT**

**P: The Lord be with you.**

**C: And also with you.**

**P: Let us pray.**

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

L: The first reading for the Epiphany Sunday is from chapter sixty of Isaiah.

*The Lord promises to visit His people as light, attracting other nations to His glory.*

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.

*Following the reading...*

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALMODY

### Psalm 72

L: Blessèd be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.

**C: Blessèd be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.**

L: Give the King Your justice, O God,  
and Your righteousness to the Royal Son!  
May He judge Your people with righteousness,  
and Your poor with justice!

**C: Blessèd be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.**

L: Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness!

May He defend the cause of the poor of the peoples, give deliverance to the  
children of the needy,

and crush the oppressor!

May they fear You while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

**C: Blessèd be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.**

L: May He be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth!

In His days may the righteous flourish,  
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

May He have dominion from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth!

**C: Blessèd be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.**

**A: 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.**

## **SECOND READING**

Ephesians 3:1-12

L: The second reading is from chapter three of Ephesians.

*Paul rejoices in his calling to preach to the Gentiles.*

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of 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.

*Following the reading...*

**L:** This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** (*please rise and sing*)

Hymnal p. 157

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 2:1-12

**P:** The Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew, chapter two.

**C:** (*sung*) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*The Magi worship Jesus.*

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.

*Following the reading...*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **THE NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**



And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Hymnal p. 395

O Morning Star, how fair and bright!  
You shine with God's own truth and light,  
Aglow with grace and mercy! Of Jacob's race, King David's son,  
Our Lord and master, you have won Our hearts to serve You only!  
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, All victorious,  
Rich in blessing! Rule and might o'er all possessing!  
Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,  
And deep within our hearts now shine;  
There light a flame undying! In Your one body let us be  
As living branches of a tree, Your life our lives supplying.  
Now, though daily Earth's deep sadness May perplex us And distress us,  
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.  
Lord, when You look on us I love, At once there falls from God above  
Array of purest pleasure. Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood  
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food. You are our dearest treasure!  
Let Your mercy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!  
For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.  
Almighty Father, in Your Son You loved us when not yet begun  
Was this old earth's foundation! Your Son has ransomed us in love  
To live in Him here and above: This is Your great salvation.  
Alleluia! Christ the living, To us giving Life forever,  
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!  
O let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned,  
Our voices gladly blending! For Christ goes with us all the way —

**Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day! His love is never ending! Sing out! Ring out!  
Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story!  
Great is He, the King of Glory!**

**What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love is first and last,  
The end and the beginning! He will one day, oh, glorious grace,  
Transport us to that happy place Beyond all tears and sinning!  
Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness!  
We are yearning For the day of Your returning!**

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## **SERMON**

## **OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS**

## **VOLUNTARY**

Offertory on "Greensleeves"

Hampson A. Sisler

## **OFFERING PRAYER** *(please rise and sing)*

**What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will take the cup of salvation  
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P:** Let us pray for ourselves, the church and the world.

*Following each petition:*

**P:** Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

## **THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

The Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) is being celebrated in today's service. In preparation for that,

please be reminded that the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper are not merely representations or symbols of Jesus' body and blood but Jesus' body and blood sacrificed on the cross are present in, with, and under the bread and wine (The Real Presence). How is this possible? This is beyond human understanding, but we remember that with God all things are possible. This truth is a divine mystery instituted by Jesus, taught by his Apostles, fervently held by the Christian church, and one in which we participate through faith. To be properly prepared to receive this sacrament, you must

- 1) Recognize that you have indeed sinned against God and other people and are accountable to God for those sins;
- 2) Be sorry (repentant) for those sins;
- 3) Believe that in this sacrament Jesus bestows forgiveness, life, and salvation; and
- 4) Sincerely desire to live a godly life from this point forward.

If you are not a member of Christ Lutheran Church, please speak with the pastor before receiving communion here for the first time. If you choose to come forward to receive a blessing rather than the Lord's Supper, indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.

## PREFACE

Hymnal p. 160

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** *(sung)* **And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** *(sung)* **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**C:** *(sung)* **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

**P:** It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

## SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r 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.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**P:** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive

the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE 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.**

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

### **PAX DOMINI**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you in all ways.

**C:** (*sung*) **Amen.**

### **AGNUS DEI**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

## **DISTRIBUTION**

*Form a line at the communion rail starting at the left side. When the line is half full, begin filling it in from the right side. When invited, approach the rail and kneel/stand. If you want to receive a gluten-free wafer at communion, let the worship assistant know as he comes by with the wafers. After communion, exit through the right doorway, place individual communion cups in the tray, and proceed down the stairs back to your seat.*

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

### **O Christ, Our True and Only Light**

Hymnal p. 839

**O Christ, our true and only Light,  
Enlighten those who sit in night;  
Let those afar now hear Your voice,  
And in Your fold with us rejoice.  
  
Fill with the radiance of Your grace  
The souls now lost in error's maze;  
Enlighten those whose inmost minds  
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.**

**O gently call those gone astray  
That they may find the saving way!  
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed  
In You find peace and heav'nly rest.  
  
Shine on the darkened and the cold;  
Recall the wand'ers to Your fold.  
Unite all those who walk apart;  
Confirm the weak and doubting heart.**

**That they with us may evermore  
Such grace with wondering thanks adore,  
And endless praise to You be given  
By all Your Church in earth and heaven.**

### **Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning**

Hymnal p. 400

**Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;**

Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.  
Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;  
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.  
Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion  
Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine,  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?  
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.  
Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

#### VOLUNTARY

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Donald Rotermund

#### POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ry-one what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

#### POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage

feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** *(sung)* **Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

**P:** Let us bless the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**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:** *(sung)* **Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

**As with Gladness Men of Old**

Hymnal p. 397

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.

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.

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.

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.

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;  
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King.

## **POSTLUDE**

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

Angela Kraft Cross

<sup>1</sup>*The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."* John 20:22-23. We take heart that the absolution proclaimed by the pastor is as from the Lord Himself.

<sup>2</sup>*It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.* Romans 10:10. Our response to the Word of God that has just been read is our confession of faith in the one, true, triune God.

<sup>3</sup>Martin Luther teaches us about hearing the Word: "Know, therefore, that you must be concerned not only about hearing, but also about learning and retaining it in memory, and do not think that it is optional with you or of no great importance, but that it is God's commandment, who will require of you how you have heard, learned, and honored His Word." (Large Catechism) *Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!* Luke 11:28

*Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.*