

# **Epiphany**

## **January 5, 2025**

# Messiah Lutheran Church

**Welcome to worship!** We are delighted you are here and have chosen to worship here today. May you be strengthened through God's word and the promise in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The mission statement of Messiah Church is: *Drawing in to Christ, Building up in Christ, Sending out for Christ.*

Our aim is to love each other as Christ has first loved us all.

## **Concerning the sacrament of Holy Communion**

- "In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery."<sup>1</sup>
- "Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the church to those who are baptized."<sup>2</sup> We welcome to the Lord's table all who commune in other Christian faiths.<sup>3</sup>
- Gluten-free hosts are available for those who need them; ask the pastor as you approach.
- Those not communing, are encouraged to come forward for a blessing, for all are loved by God.
- If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know you would like to receive communion at your seat.

---

## **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.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Use of the Means of Grace (ELCA), Part III, Principal 33

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, Part III, Principal 37

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, Part III, Principal 49

# Epiphany

January 5, 10:00 am

*You are invited to participate at the places marked with **bold** type.*

Prelude: "An Epiphany Prelude for Flute and Organ" C. Callahan

## ----- Gathering -----

*Please stand as you are able.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God with us,  
**we confess that we have turned away**  
**those seeking shelter,**  
**claiming there is no room when we have plenty.**  
**We have made power and wealth our idols,**  
**while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.**  
**We have overlooked the shepherds,**  
**expecting good news in prettier packaging.**  
**Too often, we have valued violence**  
**instead of your peace.**  
**Turn us from our ways to your ways.**  
**Grant us the grace to begin again.**  
**Free us from all that keeps us bound,**  
**and forgive our sin,**  
**through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.**  
**Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice!  
You are God's chosen ones,  
holy and beloved,  
☩ forgiven in Christ,  
and freed to respond in joy.  
**Amen.**

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

**And also with you.**

Canticle of Praise: "This is the Feast"

ELW page 101

Let us pray.

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.**

*Please be seated.*

----- **Word** -----

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

<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.

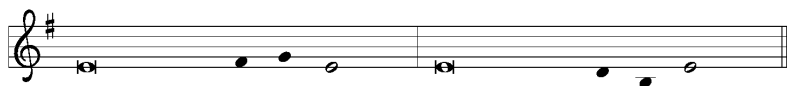
<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14



- <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 | hills, in righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.      Refrain**  
<sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,  
from one generation | to another.  
<sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,  
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**  
<sup>7</sup> In his time may the | righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon  
shall | be no more.  
<sup>10</sup> **May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.      Refrain**  
<sup>11</sup> May all kings bow | down before him,  
and all the nations | do him service.  
<sup>12</sup> **For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**  
<sup>13</sup> He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,  
and preserves the lives | of the needy.  
<sup>14</sup> **From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,  
and precious is their blood | in his sight.      Refrain**

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

<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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able*



*Choir/Cantor:* We have observed his star <sup>1</sup> at its rising,\*  
and have come to <sup>1</sup> worship him.

**All, repeat Alleluia.**

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 2nd chapter.

**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.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

Sermon

Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr.

*Silence for reflection.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

Hymn: "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

ELW 308  
St. 1-4

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed  
**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.**

*Please be seated.*

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Today, we install our council as they begin a year of service.  
The following people have been elected by you to positions of  
leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve.

Please come forward as I call your name:

Amy Hunger, Bethany Henderson, Bob Trapp, Bob Zalac,  
Chip DiFiore, Craig Jernigan, Jared Waugaman,  
Jay Machado, Kathy Hayduk, Kyle Gooderham,  
Martha Ressler, Melissa Hollander, Mike Thiel,  
Nancy Richter, Tom Ratvasky



In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these siblings in Christ will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

*The presiding minister addresses those being installed.*

*A reading from First Corinthians:* There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your siblings in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the office to which you have been elected?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you lead this congregation in stating its mission, do long-range planning, set goals and priorities, and evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service and support?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you maintain supportive relationships with the rostered minister and staff?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you be an example of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you endeavor to put aside personal desires as you seek to discern God's will in determining this congregation's future?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you commit to financially supporting this congregation so that God's mission can be fully accomplished and will you lead from a place of abundance and not scarcity?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

*The assembly stands.*

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

People of God: Will you renew your commitment to these your elected leaders who look to you for support and examples of righteous living?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you claim these gifted people as those called by God to lead this congregation in God's mission in this place and time, praying for them, encouraging them, and supporting them in their decisions?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you participate in the mission of this congregation, with your time and your prayers?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you commit to financially supporting this congregation so that God's mission can be fully accomplished and these leaders can lead from a place of abundance and not scarcity?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

*The presiding minister address those being installed.*

I now declare you installed as officers and elders of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

**Amen.**

*Affirmation may be made by applause.*

Prayers of Intercession

*Each portion of the prayers ends with:*

AM: Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude with:*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

*You may be seated.*

Offering is received

*Electronic offerings may be made via:  
text to 855-913-1744, or scan*



Choir "As the Dark Awaits the Dawn"

Carl F. Schalk

*Please stand as you are able.*

Offertory: "The First Noel"

ELW 300  
st. 4 & 5

AM: God of heaven and earth,  
from the beginning, you have called forth life,  
in which you take delight.

The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.

Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,  
that we may join the chorus of creation  
to tell of your salvation from day to day.

**Amen.**

----- Holy Communion -----

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed...Do this for the  
remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

*Please be seated.*

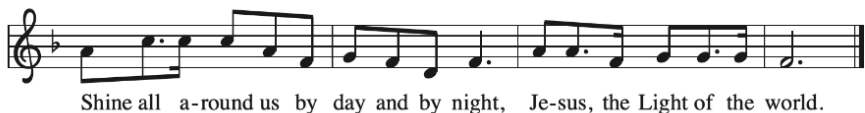
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution Hymns: Jesus, the Light of the World

ACS 914

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je - sus, the Light of the world;  
2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je - sus, the Light of the world;  
3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je - sus, the Light of the world;  
4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je - sus, the Light of the world;  
"Glo - ry to the new-born king," Je - sus, the Light of the world.  
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je - sus, the Light of the world.  
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je - sus, the Light of the world.  
Hail the Sun of right - teous - ness! Je - sus, the Light of the world.

*Continued on next page*



"Here Is Bread"

ELW 483

*Please stand as you are able.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

AM: Merciful God,  
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.  
Strengthened by this goodness,  
send us forth to announce your peace,  
comfort the afflicted,  
and share the good news of great joy.

**Amen.**

-----**Sending**-----

The God of love,  
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
lavish you with grace,  
illumine your path,  
and increase your joy,  
today and always.

**Amen.**

Sending Hymn "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" ELW 308  
st. 5, 6

AM: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "Suite No. 11 in A Minor"

Georg Böhm

## Prayers of the Congregation for this Week – 1/05/25

- For people the world over who are living in the midst of war and its tumult: Ukraine, Russia, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Israel.
- For those lifted up by worshippers last week at all of our on-line and in-person services: Nancy, Walker boys, Sandy, Fran, Victor, Mike, Sherri, Jan, Beverly, Rita, Sherry, Sandi, Don, Karen, Gary, Chuck, Jane, Jim, Heather, Alex, Julia, Brody, Kate, Mason, Evelyn, Billy, Dory family, Eckert family, Orzech family, Joyce, Jill, Richard, bob and Delores, Mike and Marilyn, Myra, Chris, Brian, Jim, Paul and Jill, Lisa, Dayle, David, Monica, Eddie, Hannah's husband, Maddy and Eddy, and Lillian
- For peace and joy to permeate our being and our lives as we celebrate God's love come to us in Jesus. For understanding and compassion toward those who suffer loss, loneliness and despair this holiday season.
- For a new year that presents us with opportunity to engage deeper with God, one another, and our life as Christians who are called to foster God's kingdom come.
- Those for whom we quietly pray; those who struggle emotionally and financially, those with family discord, those whose jobs are at risk or unfulfilling, those who are afraid, worried, or anxious, those with health concerns, and those we have not yet reached with the love of Christ.

---

## This Week's Commemorations

*Jan 5*—KAJ MUNK, d. 1944, a Danish pastor and playwright whose sermons and other writings encouraged Christians to act on their faith and strengthened Danish resistance to the Nazi occupation. Arrested on Jan. 4, 1944, he was found dead in a ditch the next day.

## **God's Word for Next Week First Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29

Acts 8: 14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

*We encourage you to read the lessons as part of your preparation  
for worship next week.*

---

### **Serving Today**

Preaching Minister – Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr.

Presiding Minister – Rev. Seth C. Bridger

Assisting Minister – Linda Herhuth

Communion Assistant – Carl Herhuth

Deacons – Terrence Bonness

Acolyte – Needed

Flautist – Bethany Henderson

Choir Director & Coordinator of Music Ministry – Deborah Zudell-Dickey

Principal Organist – Michael Cherup

Altar Guild – Marilyn Edwards, Elenor Davis

---

Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License SB131019.

Permission to stream/print the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE.NET, License #A-702571.  
reserved.

An Epiphany Prelude for Flute and Organ, Charles Callahan, copyright © 1992 Morning Star Music Publishers

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright, Text copyright © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

As the Dark Awaits the Dawn, Text copyright © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Arr. copyright  
© 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Here is Bread, Text and music copyright © 1991 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere  
(ASCAP). All rights reserved.

Psalm from *Psalter for Worship, Year C*, Evangelical Lutheran Worship Edition, copyright © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.