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January 4, 2026

Epiphany Sunday



† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 72 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

Greeting and prayer: (Pastor)

Opening Hymn: 396 Arise and Shine in Splendor

LSB 396

Order of Worship

Adapted from LSB Setting 4 – p. 203ff

Invocation

We invoke (“call upon”) the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

C **Amen.**

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 we stand in awe of You.**

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 and Absolution

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

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

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and gives them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Kyrie *Latin for “O Lord.” We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.*

LSB 204



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

Gloria in Excelsis *Latin for “Glory to God in the highest.”*

LSB 204



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. “A - men!” our glad re - ply.

Salutation ("Greeting") and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P We 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. We pray this in Jesus' name, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6 (EHV)

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is dawning upon you.

² Look, darkness covers the earth, and deep darkness covers the peoples,
but the Lord will dawn upon you, and his glory will be seen over you.

³ Nations [Gentiles] will walk to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Look up. Look all around and see!

All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you.

Your sons will come from far away, and people will carry your daughters on their side.

⁵ Then you will look and be radiant.

Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.

For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you.

The wealth of the nations will come to you.

⁶ Caravans of camels will cover your land,
young camels from Midian and Ephah.

All those from Sheba will come.

They will carry gold and incense,

and they will announce the good news of the praise of the Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12 (EHV)

P The Gospel reading is from Matthew 2:1-12.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ² “Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ He gathered together all the people’s chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

⁶ You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.”

⁷ Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

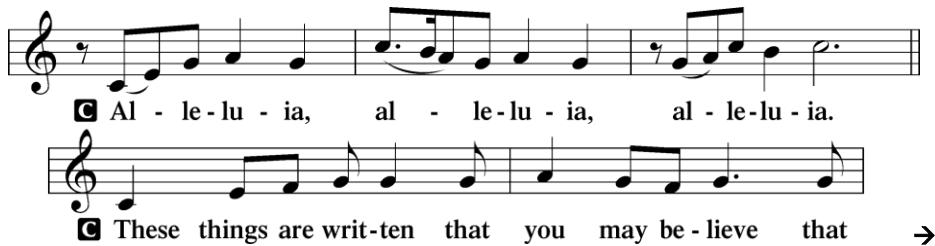
⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹ After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Alleluia and Verse

When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing “Alleluiah!”—meaning, “Praise the Lord!”



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that →

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Baptism Hymn: 593 See this Wonder in the Making

LSB 593

Baptism of Isobelle Briar Lea Naumann

Born: December 23rd, 2025
Reborn of Water and the Spirit: January 4th, 2026

Parents: Brian & Brittney Naumann
Sponsors: Grant & Shaina Naumann



Nicene Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

LSB 206

**¶ 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: "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

TLH 277

John 6: 35
Horatius Bonar, 1846

Vox dilecti
John B. Dykes, 1868



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to Me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's Light.



Lay down, thou wea - ry one, lay down, Thy head up - on My breast."
The liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, Stoop down and drink and live."
Look un - to Me; thy morn shall rise And all thy day be bright."



→

I came to Je - sus as I was, Wea - ry and worn and sad;
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank Of that life - giv - ing stream.
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found In Him my Star, my Sun;

I found in Him a rest-ing-place, And He has made me glad.
 My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, And now I live in Him.
 And in that Light of Life I'll walk Till trav - ling days are done. A-men.

Sermon Text: Ephesians 3:2-12 (EHV)

² Surely you have heard of the administration of God's grace given to me for you, ³ namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly). ⁴ When you read this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. ⁵ This mystery was not made known to people in past generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and people who also share in the promise through the gospel.

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel, in keeping with the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me—even though I am the very least of all the saints—was given this grace: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ ⁹ and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known to the

rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.¹¹ This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.¹² In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

Sermon Theme: God's "Mystery" Revealed—to YOU!

- † The word "mystery" in the Biblical sense (as Paul uses it here) means:

- † How did God reveal this "mystery" to us?

- † What does He want us to do with this revealed "mystery?" **(v. 10-11)**

Offertory

LSB 956



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Sermon Hymn: 409 *Hail, O Source of Every Blessing*

LSB 409

Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

Prayer of the Church *We bring our prayers to God.*

Service of the Sacrament

*Now we approach the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in which Jesus comes to bless us with His very body and blood.
We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration.*

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up 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 fitting, right, and spiritually beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lived among us as a human being and revealed His glory as Your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus *Latin: "Holy."*

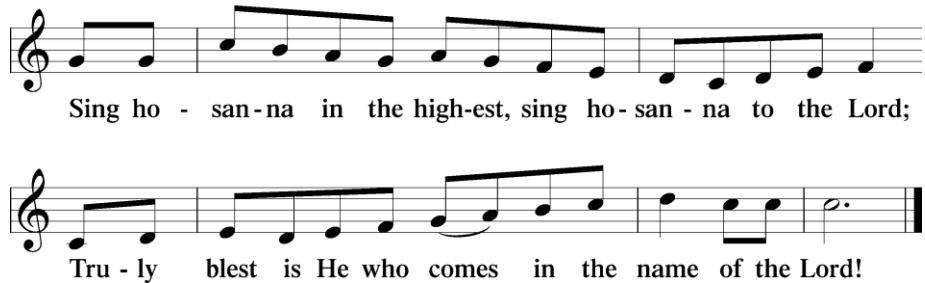
LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P We give You thanks, O Lord our God, for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ and His cross. Give us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. In His name we pray, as we now join in the prayer that He taught us:

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper, by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His body and blood in the Sacrament.

Pax Domini ("The Peace of the Lord")

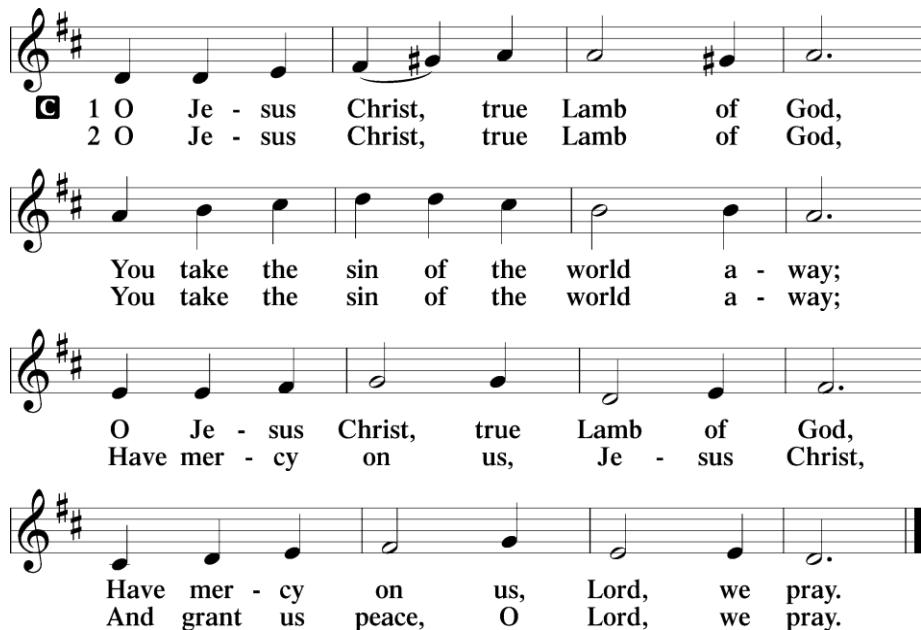
LSB 209

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

Latin: "Lamb of God." Jesus is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)



C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God, of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God, of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God, of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

The Distribution

- † For the distribution we will start with those who would like to partake of the Lord's Supper from the pew. After that, those who would like to come up to the altar steps will partake as directed by our ushers.

Note to our Guests: We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning. The Word of God treats the Lord's Supper with great care. The Word of God considers the Lord's Supper to be a wonderful Means of Grace – a way in which Christ forgives and blesses. It is also considered an opportunity for congregations to express unity and oneness (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) – that is, to say to the world "This is what we believe!" But God's Word also warns against taking the Sacrament to our judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). For these reasons our congregation asks that you fully understand our teachings before partaking. We respectfully ask that those who have joined this congregation through public confession of faith, or who are members of another congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) approach the altar at the usher's direction. By following this practice we do not make any judgment on your faith. Rather we do this out of love for you, as a public confession of our unity, and out of obedience to and love for God's Word. Speak to our pastor anytime and he will be glad to provide the information you would need – and want. We look forward to communing together, Lord willing, in the future.

Communion Hymns: 629 LSB; 399 LSB; 643 LSB

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

Latin: "Now Dismiss." Simeon's words after seeing the Christ Child. (Luke 2:29-32)

1 O Lord, now let Your servant go.
2 All glory to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the be - gin - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing, Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

A-men, a-men, a - men.



Announcements

Welcome! We welcome all our visitors this morning.
Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again soon.

Today: ***Epiphany Sunday***
1/4/26 **Choir Practice – 8am**
 Worship w/Communion and Baptism (Isobelle Naumann) – 9am
 Sunday School & Bible Class – 10:15am

This week: **Monday – Messiah Lutheran School Resumes**
 Tuesday – Technology Committee Meeting - 5:30pm
 Board of Education Meeting – 6pm
 Wednesday – Wednesday Bible Class – 6:30pm (Zoom & In-Person)
 Thursday – Board of Property Meeting – 5:30pm
 Elders Meeting – 6pm

Church Cleaning: Team #1 (1/3-1/9); Team #2 (1/10-1/16)

Next Sunday: **Choir – 8am**
1/11/26 **Worship – 9am**
 Sunday School & Bible Class – 10:15am

In Your Mailbox – Messiah Church Calendar - *January*

CLC News – Mr. Peter Reim has **received** the vacancy call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, has **received** the part-time call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Cory Drehle of Berea Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD, has **returned** the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has **returned** the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Joe Naumann of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, has **received** the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ.

2026 CLC Mission Helper Trip – There are plenty of spots still available!

The CLC Mission Helper Program is making preparations for another Mission Trip to Africa for the summer of 2026. The main focus of this trip will be presenting the Gospel, through a series of child evangelism lessons, to member and non-member children in village congregations. Possible areas of evangelism include the CLC–Tanzania, CLC–Kenya, CLC–Zambia, and CLC–Uganda. CLC members are welcome and encouraged to apply. For more information and to apply, visit www.mht.lutheranmissions.org.

Bible Readings:

1/4	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72 Matt. 2:1-12 Eph. 3:1-12
1/5	Judges 14 Psalm 6 Acts 17:10-21
1/6	Judges 15 Psalm 7 Acts 17:22-34
1/7	Judges 16:1-14 Psalm 8 Acts 18:1-17
1/8	Judges 16:15-31 Psalm 9 Acts 18:18-28
1/9	Judges 17 Psalm 10 Acts 19:1-10
1/10	Judges 18:1-17 Psalm 11 Accts 19:11-20

January Ushers

Cleaning Team 1/10-1/16

Ted Quade
Mike Cutler
Levi Schaller

Team 2
D/K Mueller
BJ Nelson
K. Nelson
J/B Mueller
D. Griffen
J. Schaser

January Slideshow

Sam Lisak

Fruits of Faith

Last Week:

To Date:

Budgetary Offerings:	\$2,578.21	\$198,247.13
Budgetary Needs:	\$8,642.65	\$224,708.90
Over (Under) Budget:	(\$6,064.44)	(\$26,461.77)
ILCSAF:	\$100.00	\$700.00

Attendance Last Week (12/28): 68



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