



*Loved by God,
Sent to Serve.*

**Epiphany of our Lord
January 7, 2024**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude: *Let All Things Now Living*

Arr. Cindy Berry

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. **Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

God of life,

you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ☩ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

ELW 275

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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.

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. ⁶A 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. We have observed his star at its rising, and have come to worship him.
Alleluia. (Matt. 2:2)

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.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "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." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'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.’ ”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.” ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And 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.

Children’s Time

Sermon

The Rev. Karla Wildberger

Hymn of the Day: *Bright and Glorious Is the Sky* vs. 1,3,5,6 ELW 301

Affirmation of Faith

Let us profess our faith together:

God of revelation and epiphany, through the words of the prophets you have shown us the world of your dreaming and longing: a world built on justice, overflowing with plenty, and crowned with joy. And through the coming of Emmanuel - his living and loving, his words and actions—you have shown us how such a world might be fashioned.

Help us to take, hold and grow into these understandings; and, like Jesus, may we always be ready to live generously, love expansively, speak boldly and act courageously, that the Kingdom of your dreaming, with its justice, abundance and joy, may become the present reality of all the peoples of this world. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
...according to your abundant grace. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offertory: *Gentle Prelude*

Bob Burroughs

Offering Prayer

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

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

Communion Hymn: *What Feast of Love*

ELW 487

(Please refer to hymnal)

Post-Communion Prayer

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

Benediction

God bless you and keep you, ✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song: *Arise, Your Light Has Come*

ELW 314

Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *This Is My Father's World*

Arr. Cindy Berry

Announcements

Annual Meeting Information

January 21 – meeting between services to review the proposed budget, including discussion and questions/input.

January 28 – Annual meeting to adopt budget, vote on constitution/bylaw changes, elect council members.

Please join us for these important meetings.

ELCA World Hunger Month

January marks the 1st quarter collections for World Hunger. If you wish to support this cause, it can be added to your regular envelope and marked 'Hunger'. Thank you!

This Week at Lord of Life

Sunday, January 7	8:00 AM	Worship in-person
	9:15 AM	Intergenerational Faith Formation
	10:30 AM	Worship in-person or online
Tuesday, January 9	1:00 PM	Take Down Christmas Decorations
	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 10	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday, January 13	8:30 AM	Men's Breakfast

Get to Know Your Church Neighbor

You will notice a form in the bulletin. If you will be unable to stay for the Intergenerational time, please have your picture taken and complete all information for the family. This will be used to compile a self-made church directory for the congregation and will be especially important for the new pastor.

Take Down Christmas Decorations

If you have some time to spare, your help would be greatly appreciated on Tuesday at 1:00 pm for removing decorations and packing them away until next season. Thank you!

2024 Altar Flower Calendar

Some of you have already noticed that the flower calendar is posted in the narthex. The cost of flowers from our florist is \$16 and is due on or before your requested Sunday. If you'd like to provide your own flowers, please note that on the sign-up sheet so that the order can be cancelled ahead of time. The flowers should be at the church prior to the 8:00 service on Sunday (or for Summer services, before the 4:00 Saturday service).

Prayer List

Jim & Bernita Gilbertson

Jessie & Amanda Gillen and family

Tara & Kevin Grace

Phil & Peggy Granovsky

Grayden Grimm

Rose Guler-Ludowitz

Jim & Molly Hall and family

Acknowledgments

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