

The Festival of Epiphany



The Epiphany, often referred to as the twelfth day of Christmas or the Gentile Christmas, is a festival brimming with meaning. Many cherished Christmas traditions trace their origins to this day. The lighting of Christmas lights and the placing of stars on trees serve as reminders of the star that guided the Magi to Jesus. The tradition of exchanging gifts reflects the Magi's offering of gifts to Christ, their King, who Himself is the greatest gift of all—God the Father's gift to humanity. Epiphany is a day and season worthy of celebration, as it marks the revelation of Christ as both God and man, given for us and for all.

On January 6th, we commemorate the day when the Magi, made wise unto salvation through God's Word, encountered their righteousness in Christ. Even now, we meet Him in the Scriptures. He is Jesus, our Savior, the very purpose of the Scriptures and the fulfillment of all prophecy.

Revealed by a star—a light in the sky—Jesus is the light of the world. Through the light of God's Word, he guides us to salvation, for He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. At Epiphany, we celebrate that this Jesus is for everyone.

The Order of Service

Welcome

The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, who is the "Father of the heavenly lights," and of the Son, who is the "Light of the world," and of the Holy Spirit, who reveals that light to us through the Gospel.

C: Amen.

Call to Worship

P: Arise! Shine! Your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

C: The darkness of sin surrounds the earth. Nations upon nations are turning away from the Lord.

P: But you are honored to live in the Light of the Lord.

C: His glory and grace are shining on us.

P: The Lord is present.

C: Look! We are standing on holy ground!

P: Let us reflect the light of God's love

C: so that others may live in his light!

The Confession & Absolution of Sins

P: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

P: Having heard your confession, I share with you the blessing of God's mercy through Jesus. As his called servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Forgiven, the Lord sends you and me into the world with his Word, the Light of Truth, to be his representatives.

C: Savior, empower us; Spirit, enlighten us to represent you well!

1. Come, Let us Worship the King – Our King Comes!

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

^{2:1} After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one 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 disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked

them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ ““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.””

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Address

Matthew 2:1-12

“Do you have FOMO? The Magi did.”

Congregation Hymn

As With Gladness Men of Old
Christian Worship (2021) Hymn #372



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold,
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - at - ed light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright,
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore,
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
and, when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down.



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
There for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our King!

2. Come, Let us Worship the King – Our King Is Worthy of Honor & Praise!

Scripture Reading

Revelation 5:11-14

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!”

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!”

¹⁴ The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Congregation Hymn

Jesus, Shall Reign Where-er the Sun

Christian Worship (2021) Hymn # 380, verses 1,4-5



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring wor - ship and



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
leap, un - loosed their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - or to our King; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore till moons shall wax and wane no more.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

3. Come, Let us Worship the King – Our King Saves Us!

Scripture Reading

1 Timothy 1:15-17

¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Congregation Hymn

O God from God, O Light from Light
Christian Worship (2021) Hymn #629, verses 1 & 4



1 O God from God, O Light from Light, O Prince of
4 Then sing to Christ a might - y song; ex - tol his



Peace and King of kings, to you in heav - en's
name, his mer - cies tell! Sing, heav'n - ly hosts, your



glo - ry bright the song of praise for - ev - er rings.
praise pro - long, and all on earth, your an - them swell!



To him who sits up - on the throne, the Lamb once
All hail, O Lamb for sin - ners slain! For - ev - er



slain but raised a - gain, be all the glo - ry
let the song as - cend! To Christ the King, en -



he has won, all thanks and praise! A - men, a - men.
throned to reign, all glo - ry, pow'r! A - men, a - men.

**4. Come, Let us Worship the King –
Our King Provides and Protects!**

P: Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness.

C: **May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice.**

P: May the mountains bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness.

C: **May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; may he crush the oppressor.**

P: May he endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.

C: **May he be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth.**

P: In his days may the righteous flourish and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.

C: **May he rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.**

P: May the desert tribes bow before him and his enemies lick the dust.

C: **May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores bring tribute to him. May the kings of Sheba and Seba present him gifts.**

P: May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him.

C: **For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help.**

P: He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death.

C: **He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.**

P: Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be given him. May people ever pray for him and bless him all day long.

C: **May grain abound throughout the land; on the tops of the hills may it sway. May the crops flourish like Lebanon and thrive like the grass of the field.**

P: May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. Then all nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed. Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds.

C: **Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.**

Congregation Hymn

Arise and Shine in Splendor

Christian Worship (2021) Hymn #375, verses 3-4



3 Lift up your eyes in won - der— see, na - tions
4 Your heart will leap for glad - ness when from the

gath - er yon - der from sin to be set free.
realms of sad - ness they come from near and far.

The world has heard your sto - ry; her sons come to your
Your eyes will wake from slum - ber as peo - ple with - out

glo - ry, her daugh - ters haste your light to see.
num - ber re - joice to see the Morn - ing Star.

5. Come, Let us Worship the King – Our King Gives Comfort and Encouragement!

Responsive Scripture Reading

Psalm 34:15-20

P: The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry;

C: **but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to blot out their name from the earth.**

P: The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.

C: **The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.**

P: The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all;

C: **he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.**

Congregation Hymn

The People Who in Darkness Walked Christian Worship (2021) Hymn #381, vs. 1-2, 5



1 The peo - ple who in dark - ness walked have seen a glo - rious
2 To us a child of hope is born, to us a son is
5 Lord Je - sus, reign in us, we pray, and make us yours a -



light; the heav'n - ly dawn broke forth on those who
giv'n, and on his shoul - ders ev - er rests all
lone, for you are with the Fa - ther and the



dwelt in death and night, who dwelt in death and night.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, all pow'r in earth and heav'n.
Spir - it ev - er one, the Spir - it ev - er one.

6. Come, Let us Worship the King – Our King Reveals Himself as the Light of the World!

Responsive Scripture Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

- P:** “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
C: **See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.**
- P:** Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
C: **“Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip.**
- P:** Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come.

C: Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

Congregation Hymn

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

Christian Worship (2021) Hymn #370, vs. 1 & 5



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see
5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, let all glad sounds



and hail a - far the light in Ju - dah shin - ing.
of mu - sic ring in God's high prais - es blend - ed.



O Da - vid's son of Ja - cob's race, my Bride - groom and
Christ will be with me all the way, to - day, to - mor -



my King of grace, for you my heart is pin - ing.
row, ev - 'ry day till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.



Low - ly, ho - ly, great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
Sing out, ring out tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious



Prince of grac - es, fill - ing all the heav'n - ly plac - es.
cho - sen na - tion; praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

The Offering & Offering Prayer

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

Closing Prayer

P: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

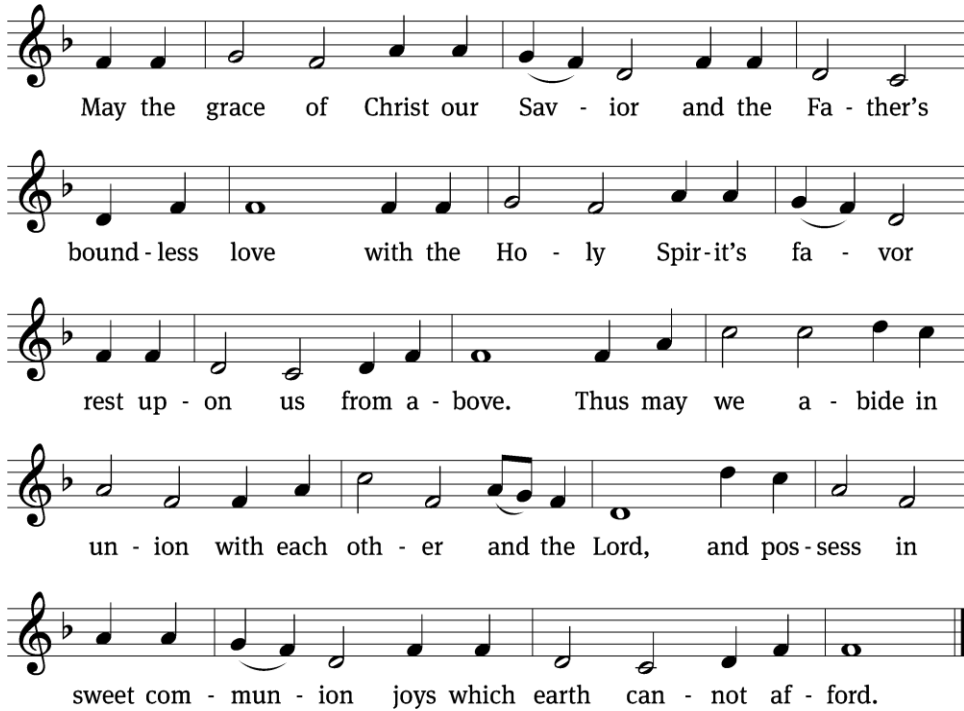
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn

May the Grace of Christ Our Savior Christian Worship (2021) Hymn #928



May the grace of Christ our Sav - ior and the Fa - ther's
bound - less love with the Ho - ly Spir - it's fa - vor
rest up - on us from a - bove. Thus may we a - bide in
un - ion with each oth - er and the Lord, and pos - sess in
sweet com - mun - ion joys which earth can - not af - ford.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU: Thank you to Miss Lauren Roedel for playing piano for this weekend's services. Lauren is a former St. Paul's graduate now in her senior year at Wisconsin Lutheran High School.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES: Both the adult and children's 2025 offering envelopes are available for pick up on the tables in the west hallway of church. If you do not see a set with your name on it, please contact the office.

CHRISTIAN FUNERAL: The Lord called Mrs. Suzanne Herriges to her heavenly home on Thursday, December 26th. A Christian funeral service will be held here at St. Paul's on Thursday, January 9th. Visitation will begin at 12:30 PM and the service will begin at 1:30 PM. "Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them." (*Revelation 14:13*)

HEATHER SCHMIDT UPDATE: Heather Schmidt's breast cancer surgery on December 23rd went as planned, and she is recuperating at her parents' house, getting stronger every day! Thank you for your prayers and well wishes!

ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON FOR PASTOR ADAMS: We will be celebrating Pastor Adams' 30th anniversary at St. Paul's with a luncheon following the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, January 19th. If you'd like to attend, please sign up on the sheet on the narthex counter or online [here](#). To help with planning, please sign up by January 6th (this weekend!). We will gather in the gym at 11:45 AM and the celebration will begin with a short program followed by a buffet lunch. We are also asking everyone attending the meal to bring a non-perishable food item that will be used to help re-stock the St. Peter's Food Pantry for the winter months.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION TAKE DOWN: We are looking for some help taking the Christmas decorations down in church next Sunday, January 12th after the 10:30 AM service. Taking everything down goes pretty quickly and more volunteers will make it go even faster!

ADULT BIBLE CLASS: Retired Pastor Andy Backus is leading our Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. The Bible is full of different people that are part of God's plan of salvation. These people are filled with stories. Some of the people in the Bible are well-known; some are not. In our study we will look at some of these people and the stories that they tell. We may even find that some of these stories could be found in your life today! **We will start class back up today, Sunday, January 5th by taking a look at Jesus' siblings. We invite everyone to start the New Year by diving deeper into God's Word with us!**

ST. PAUL'S GUEST SPEAKER: Join us on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 6:30 PM for a presentation by Rev. Edward Frey from Institutional Ministries focusing on PTSD and dealing with trauma.

WLC DISCOVERY DAY: High School and Homeschooled students and parents are invited to attend Discovery Day at Wisconsin Lutheran College on Monday, January 20. By attending our special visit event, you'll have a great opportunity to tour campus and talk with professors, current students, coaches, your admissions counselor, and have lunch on us. Reserve your place today! Register today: <https://wlc.news/discovery-day>, call (414) 443-8811, or email admissions@wlc.edu.

USHERS FOR JANUARY*

Note new Team Numbers/Members

8:00 AM – TEAM #1 – Gary Boldt, Bob Hille, Brandon Wirtz, Larry Stujenske, Craig Gebert, Pete Kosovich

10:30 AM – TEAM #4 – Mark Klein, Gordy Lesser, Jace Bolda, Dan Mertz

6:30 PM – TEAM #7 – Terry Plant, John Kiesow

ALTAR GUILD

January 1-7 – TEAM #2 – Jane Koplein, Joan Shevey, Rebecca Kragh

January 8-14 – TEAM #3 – Jane Koplein, Carol Willms, Connie Myer

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

January 5: Set-up – Don & Marge Gebert, Clean-up – Kevin & Debbie Swanson

January 12: Set-up – Don Druml & Connie Myer, Clean-up – Carl & Carolyn Streeter

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 5

Worship Service with Communion.....8:00 AM
Adult Bible Class9:15 AM
Worship Service with Communion.....10:30 AM

Monday, January 6

School Resumes

Lutheran Girl Pioneers..... 6:00 PM

Worship Service with Communion..... 6:30 PM

Tuesday, January 7

Women’s Bible Study 9:00 AM

Thursday, January 9

Suzanne Herriges Visitation..... 12:30 PM

Suzanne Herriges Funeral Service 1:30 PM

Sunday, January 12

Worship Service..... 8:00 AM

Adult Bible Class 9:15 AM

Worship Service..... 10:30 AM

Christmas Decoration Take-Down..... 11:30 AM

Statistics – Last Week

Attendance:

9:00 AM – 88