

January 5, 2025

The Epiphany of Our Lord

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

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*St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church exists by the grace of God to be the body of Christ in Holbrook. Therefore, we proclaim God's word to the world, teach the faithful, administer the sacraments, and show the love of Christ in care for our community.
Welcome! Every person who comes to worship is a special gift from God. Thank you for being with us today!*

Serving in God's house

Presiding Minister: Rev. George Kirkup
Reader: Lennox Debra
Organist: Doreen Leonard

Stand

What Child Is This

LSB 370

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners herethe silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!
- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession... I 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

INTROIT

Psalm 34

I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.

**The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;
you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.**

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.



G Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

G Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

P Glory be to God on High,

G and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee.

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

Sit

A The Old Testament Reading for the Epiphany of Our Lord is from Isaiah, chapter sixty.

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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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!**
 Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
 and the hills, in righteousness!
**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
 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!
**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!**

May desert tribes bow down before him
and his enemies lick the dust!

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!**

May all kings fall down before him,
all nations serve him!

EPISTLE

Ephesians 3:1–12

A The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter three.

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA

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HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

LSB back cover

Sit

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

LSB 395:1-2

1 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!

2 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.

SERMON

“The Big Reveal”

Stand

OFFERTORY

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

LORD’S PRAYER

COLLECT TO RECEIVE THE WORD

BENEDICTION

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P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

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

C Amen, amen, amen.

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.
The Lord bless you. The Lord keep you. Alleluia. Amen.

In Holy Communion, our Lord invites us to eat and drink His true body and blood. In preparation for this sacrament, each communicant will examine himself and come to the Lord's Table seeking forgiveness of sins. As the catechism says, "a person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" Therefore, we expect all communicants to have been baptized, instructed and confirmed in the Christian faith, repent of their sins, and believe that Jesus here offers His true body and blood for their forgiveness.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And with thy spirit.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.
- C** **It is meet and right so to do.**
- P** It is truly meet right and salutary ... evermore praising God and saying:
- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;**
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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

Sit

AGNUS DEI

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DISTRIBUTION

O Christ, Our True and Only Light
The Star Proclaims the Kind Is Here

LSB 839
LSB 399

NUNC DIMITTIS

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A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

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PAULINE BENEDICTION



IN OUR PRAYERS: Joyce Barbagallo, Barbara, Terry Stapleton, Kathy Cecere, Tara Grey, Lenora Debra, Linda Konecny, Zachary Pompee, Ralph Ciniglio, David Perry, Richie LaPresti, Lydia Foley, Tom Maher

CHURCH MEMBERS: Paul Cataldo, John Wimmer, Rich & Betty Kuerner, Arlene Enz, MaryAnne Boucher

OUR SHUT-INS: Charles & Ethel Nenstiel

THOSE IN THE MILITARY: Mark Kummer (USN), Kristine Broger (USA), Michael Deck (USAF), Patrick Ullrich (USA)

OUR CHILDREN: Andrew Zeo, Liam Balroop, Thomas Cataldo, Mars Crowley

FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN'S: Nancy Cataldo, Rebecca Shannon, Erin Nicole Kuerner, Ken Skjeveland, Bonnie Krumsiek, Jacquelyn Berntsen, Frank Sandmeyer, Balmick Persaud, Beth Laine Mattarella, Bob Selkirk, Carolyn Gronlund, Shirley Koenig

Tuesday 10:00AM – Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesday 6:30PM – Confirmation Class

Saturday 10:00AM – Removal of Christmas Decorations