





## Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the "Means of Grace" — God's gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

---

January 7, 2024

Epiphany of our Lord

### Welcome

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

*LSB 397*

- 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.**

- 5 In the heav'nly country bright  
Need they no created light;  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
Thou its sun which goes not down;  
There forever may we sing  
Alleluias to our King.**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their  
Baptism.*

## **Invocation**

- P** We begin our worship in the name of the Father, of the ✠  
Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## **Opening Sentences**

- P** Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
**C** and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. (*Isaiah  
60:1*)  
**P** Nations shall come to your light,  
**C** and kings to the brightness of your rising. (*Isaiah 60:3*)  
**P** May all kings fall down before him,  
**C** all nations serve him! (*Psalms 72:11*)

## **Confession and Absolution**

- P** Compassionate Father,  
**C** as we stand in the light of your Word, we are aware of  
your holiness and see the darkness of our sinful hearts.  
We do not walk in the light as you are in the light, but  
instead seek to hide our sin from the truth of your  
righteous judgment. For the sake of Jesus, the Light of  
the World, forgive our sin. Send your Holy Spirit to  
enlighten our hearts and strengthen us to do your will.

*We take time in silence to confess our personal and communal sin before God, confident that we will receive forgiveness.*

**P** For the sake of Jesus, the light of the World, God illuminates our darkness and embraces us with mercy. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*Kyrie (Spoken)*

*LSB 152*

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** Amen.

*This is the Feast*

*LSB 155*

**C** This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** We share Christ's peace with one another.

*The people greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).*

## **Prayer of the Day**

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and

reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

**C Amen**

*Nursery care for small children is offered from this point in the service through Holy Communion. Children may meet their caregivers in the back of the sanctuary.*

*Sit*

## **First Reading**

*Matthew 1:1-6*

**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the first chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

<sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac,

Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

<sup>3</sup> Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,

Perez the father of Hezron,

Hezron the father of Ram,

<sup>4</sup> Ram the father of Amminadab,

Amminadab the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon,

<sup>5</sup> Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,

Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,

Obed the father of Jesse,

<sup>6</sup> and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife.

**L** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

***In Matthew's Gospel There are Five*** (Tune of LSB 361)

**1 In Matthew's gospel there are five  
faith-mothers called by name,  
all ancestors of Jesus Christ,**

each held in some disdain.  
Now who would think such women would  
do all that God had willed?  
How strange that they were chosen so  
God's plan might be fulfilled!

- 2 Poor Tamar, wife unwanted and  
a widow once again,  
determined she would not depend  
on whims of selfish men,  
so, wily woman that she was,  
she did more than complain,  
and, taking matters in her hands,  
soon turned her loss to gain.
- 3 Fair Rahab lived in Jericho,  
a woman of the night.  
When Joshua sent his men to spy,  
she hid them out of sight.  
She told the king that they had left  
and gone another way.  
She trusted that God's people were  
in Jericho to stay.
- 4 The widow Ruth, a Moabite,  
left her own land behind.  
She went to live in Bethlehem,  
and wed a farmer kind.  
The son she bore to Boaz caused  
Naomi's heart to sing,  
and made this foreign Moabite  
grandmother to a king.
- 5 Uriah's wife was beautiful.  
Bathsheba was her name.  
King David claimed her as his own,

and loved her, to his shame.  
To this unholy union  
then was born a little son  
who carried on the line that led  
unto the Promised One.

## Second Reading

*Ephesians 3:1-12*

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

<sup>2</sup> Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup> In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup> I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Alleluia and Verse

*LSB 156*

**C** Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 2:1-12*

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

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> 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.”

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> ““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.””

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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.”

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

**P** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## *The First Noel*

ELW 300

- 1** The first Noel the angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds  
In fields as they lay,  
In fields where they,  
Keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night  
That was so deep.  
Noel Noel Noel Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel!
- 2** They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the East beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.  
Noel Noel Noel Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel!
- 3** Then entered in those wise men three  
Full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in His presence  
Their gold, and myrrh and frankincense.  
Noel Noel Noel Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel!
- 4** Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven  
And earth of naught  
And with His blood  
Mankind hath bought.  
Noel Noel Noel Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel!

# Homily

*Stand*

## Nicene Creed

**☐** 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 catholic 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.

*Sit*

## Prayers of the Church

### Presentation of the Offering

*Stand*

#### Preface

*LSB 160*

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

#### *Sanctus*

*LSB 161*

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## The Words of Our Lord

### Lord's Prayer

## **Agnus Dei**

*LSB 163*

**C** Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Sit*

## **Distribution**

*We believe that as we partake of the bread and wine in Holy Communion, Jesus the Messiah is feeding us with his own true body and blood. In eating his body and drinking his blood we receive the promise that our sins are forgiven, and that we will therefore live eternally with God. We also believe that this eating and drinking is a confession of our faith. If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and if you share our understanding of Christ's Real Presence in this meal, you are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood for your benefit. If you do not confess the understanding of the Christian Faith as expressed by the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, you may still come to the altar to receive a blessing. Please fold your hands to indicate that you will not be receiving the sacrament.*

## ***We Three Kings***

*Bell Choir*

## ***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 here  
The 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!

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

LSB 374

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
There he lay, the Undefined,  
To the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place,  
Can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race  
Who have found his favor.
- 2 Angels sang about his birth,  
Wise Men sought and found him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth  
Glory all around him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,  
Heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night,  
All the hills were ringing.

**3 Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the undefiled  
But no more a stranger.  
Son of God of humble birth,  
Beautiful the story;  
Praise his name in all the earth;  
Hail the King of glory!**

***Angels from the Realms of Glory***

*LSB 367*

**1 Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. *Refrain***

***ref Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.***

**3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen His natal star. *Refrain***

**4 Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear. *Refrain***

**5 All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the\_ eternal Three in One. *Refrain***

*Stand*

## **Benediction**

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- G** Amen.

## *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

*LSB 394*

- 1** Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,  
Manifested by the star  
To the sages from afar,  
Branch of royal David's stem  
In Thy birth at Bethlehem:  
Anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.
  
- 2** Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
And at Cana wedding guest  
In thy Godhead manifest;  
Manifest in pow'r divine,  
Changing water into wine;  
Anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.
  
- 3** Manifest in making whole  
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
Manifest in valiant fight,  
Quelling all the devil's might;  
Manifest in gracious will,  
Ever bringing good from ill;  
Anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.
  
- 4** Sun and moon shall darkened be,  
Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;  
Christ will then like lightning shine,

**All will see his glorious sign;  
All will then the trumpet hear,  
All will see the Judge appear;  
Thou by all wilt be confessed,  
God in man made manifest.**

- 5 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,  
Present in thy holy Word—  
Grace to imitate thee now  
And be pure, as pure art thou;  
That we might become like thee  
At thy great epiphany  
And may praise thee, ever blest,  
God in man made manifest.**

## **Announcements**

## **Sending**

# Serving in worship today

January 7, 2024

## **Pastor**

Jason Neel

## **Elders**

Carl Schwanbeck

Phil Marquardt

## **Reader**

Gretchen Lynn

## **Acolyte**

Eli Neel

## **Usher**

Sandy Elhardt

## **Organist**

Karine Platt

## **In our prayers**

**Celebrating Birthdays:** Anna Brynteson 1/7, Oliver Welle 1/7, Chris Schoenbauer 1/11, and Marlys Lindeman 1/11.

**Celebrating Baptismal Birthdays:** Barb Bassing 1/7, Jacob Brynteson 1/11, Jacob Mathiason 1/11, and Sara Neel 1/11.

## **This Week at a Glance**

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Elder Meeting
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation
	7:15 p.m.	Youth Board Meeting
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study

	7:00 p.m.	Choir
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study

### **Notes of Information:**

**Women's Wednesday Morning Coffee Group:** Please join us January 17<sup>th</sup>. All ladies are welcome to join us for treats, coffee, conversation, lots of conversation. This month I will be giving some tips on "improving your balance". I promise I will not make you do anything silly, just watch me try to balance. Any questions contact Beth Gerard 763-228-2077

**Puzzle Exchange:** We are looking at having a jigsaw puzzle exchange in January! Gather any puzzles you would like to exchange and bring them to church on January 14<sup>th</sup> ! If you have any questions, please contact Angie Hagel.

**Everyone His Witness:** The Everyone His Witness class will begin on January 21<sup>st</sup> with a two-week session on witnessing to the "Nones". Each session will begin at 5:30 p.m.

**NACE:** North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf needs new socks in all sizes. You can leave nonperishable food and other donations in the box in the Narthex. Thank you for your donations. For more information reach out to Toni Peterson at 763-434-5665

**Prayer Cards/Prayer Box-** Please find in the narthex blue prayer request cards, and a small slotted black box for your requests. A need for continuing prayers for healing of body, mind, and spirit, was identified at our recent Women's Wellness Day. A Prayer Partner will privately and confidentially pray for you, and those in your life in need of healing. Names are optional. You may write on the back of the card if needed. Jesus promises that those who ask will receive, those who seek will find, and to those who knock, the door will be opened. Come with confidence to the prayer box.

**Sermons and bulletins posted online:** Audio and video recordings of worship sermons and digital bulletins are posted weekly. Bulletins and past sermons can be found at **[www.spiritofchristhamlake.org](http://www.spiritofchristhamlake.org)**.

**Offerings via Give+:** Online giving is easy to do, one-time gifts and recurring donations are accepted. Visit the link at [soclc.org](http://soclc.org) to sign up or learn more.

Average Weekly Offering	\$5985
<i>Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan</i>	\$6662

**Readings for next week:**

Genesis 1:1-5, Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11



**SPiRiT<sup>of</sup>CHRIST**  
Lutheran Church

2749 NE Bunker Lake Blvd  
Ham Lake, MN 55304  
[www.Spiritofchristhamlake.org](http://www.Spiritofchristhamlake.org)

Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another reaching out to all people, proclaiming and sharing the love of Christ.

Church Office: 763-755-7234  
Pastor Jason Neel: [soclcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:soclcpastor@gmail.com)  
Ministers: All Members  
Music Director  
John Peterson: [carsinger@aol.com](mailto:carsinger@aol.com)  
Office e-mail: [secretary@soclc.org](mailto:secretary@soclc.org)  
Prayer Chain (Sue Hurst): [Sd\\_hurst@yahoo.com](mailto:Sd_hurst@yahoo.com)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SpiritofChristLutheran.LCMS>