



WE SAW HIS STAR IN THE EAST  
AND HAVE COME TO WORSHIP HIM.

**MATTHEW 2:2**





## 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!

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January 11, 2026

First Sunday in Epiphany

### Welcome

#### *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***

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

*Refrain*

**2 Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o’er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light. *Refrain***

**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**

## **Invocation**

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

**C** Amen.

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

## **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.

**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*

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

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

Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

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

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

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign.

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).*

## **First Reading**

*Isaiah 60:1-6*

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

<sup>2</sup> See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the Lord rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.

<sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> “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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **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.

*Stand*

## **Alleluia and Verse**

*LSB 173*

**C** Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

**You have the words of eternal life. 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*

***Hail, O Source of Every Blessing***

*LSB 409*  
(tune 803)

- 1 Hail, O Source of ev'ry blessing,  
Father of our human race!  
Gentiles now, Your grace possessing,  
In Your courts obtain a place.  
Grateful now, we fall before You,  
In Your Church rejoice to live,  
See Your glory and adore You,  
Thankful for the grace You give.**
- 2 Once far off but now invited,  
We approach Your sacred throne,  
In Your covenant united,  
Reconciled, redeemed, made one.  
Now revealed to eastern sages,  
See the Star of Mercy shine,  
Myst'ry hid in former ages,  
Myst'ry great of love divine.**
- 3 Hail, O all-inviting Savior!  
Gentiles now their off'rings bring,  
In Your temples seek Your favor,  
Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.  
May we, body, soul, and spirit,  
Live devoted to Your praise,  
Glorious realms of bliss inherit,  
Grateful anthems ever raise.**

# Homily

*Stand*

## Nicene Creed

**C** 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.**

## **Prayers of the Church**

*Sit*

### **Presentation of the Offering**

*Please sign the Friendship Register located on each pew and pass it to others seated with you so that we may have a record of all those who are worshiping and receiving communion with us today.*

*Stand*

### **Preface**

*LSB 177*

**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 178*

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

### **Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 179*

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.

## Words of Our Lord

### Agnus Dei

LSB 180

**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, 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 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.*

### Bell Choir

## *The First Noel*

ELW 300

1 The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds  
In fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay tending their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

*Refrain*

2 They lookèd 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. *Refrain*

3 And by the light of that same star  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
Over Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

## *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.**

- 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.**

- 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!

## **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.

**C** Amen.

## *The Star Proclaims the King Is Here*

LSB 399  
(tune 377)

**1 The star proclaims the King is here;  
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?  
For He who offers heav'nly birth  
Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.**

**News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.**

**2 The eastern sages saw from far  
And followed on His guiding star;  
And, led by light, to light they trod  
And by their gifts confessed their God.**

**Angels and men with joy may sing,  
All for to see the newborn King.**

**3 Within the Jordan's sacred flood  
The heav'nly Lamb in meekness stood  
That He, of whom no sin was known,  
Might cleanse His people from their own.**

**When from our sins He set us free,  
All for to gain our liberty.**

**4 For this Thy glad epiphany  
All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,  
Whom with the Father we adore,  
And Holy Spirit evermore.**

**“Glory to God and peace to men  
Now and forevermore. Amen.”**

## **Announcements**

### **Sending**

**P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

# **Serving in Worship**

January 11, 2026

## **Pastor**

Jason Neel

## **Usher**

Jan Fuerst

## **Elders**

Chuck Johnson

Kevin Zimmerman

## **Reader**

Sue Anderson

## **Organist**

Karine Platt

## **Acolytes**

Lilly Kuntz & Lyla Marquardt

## **In our prayers:**

**Celebrating Birthdays:** Chris Schoenbauer 1/11, Marlys Lindeman 1/11, and Autumn Parson 1/16.

**Baptismal Birthdays:** Jacob Brynteson 1/11, Jacob Mathiason 1/11, Sara Kampf Neel 1/11, and Jeff Parson 1/16.

## **This Week at a Glance:**

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour
Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study
	10:00 a.m.	Ladies Bible study
	7:00 p.m.	Elders Meeting
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
Saturday	7:00 a.m.	Small Group Bible Study
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study

## **Notes of Information:**

**LWML** : Women of all ages are invited to join us for a WINTER RETREAT! Saturday January 31, 2026. From 10am-Noon. Sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Please be sure to sign up by January 25, 2026.

**Small Group Bible Study:** Meeting Saturday mornings 7 a.m. at Church.

**Tuesday Ladies Bible Study:** Our study in "Measured By Grace" will resume on Tuesday, January 13th. at 10:00 a.m. We will continue our discussion of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well (Chapter 6). Why did Jesus choose her? Why would people listen to her? How did she know that her neediness and Jesus' abundance were a perfect match? Come and see.

**Stewardship Messages:** *Our acts of stewardship are the proof of our faith.*

*"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works..."(Ephesians 2:10)*

**Book Club:** Spirit of Christ Book Club will meet in the fellowship hall at 7 p.m. Dates and books are:

January 26 - The Women by Kristin Hannah

February 23 - James by Percival Everett

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mager.

**Prayer Opportunity:** An Elder will be available weekly at the end of service at the Communion Rail for personal prayer support. If privacy is requested that it will be accommodated.

**NACE:** At this time NACE is taking winter clothes. Food needs are canned Fruit, Sides and Peanut Butter. For more information, reach out to Toni Peterson.

**Carl's Movie Minute:**

I Was a Stranger. Opens 1/9/26. The true story of a child in civil war-torn Syria 2014. His only wish was 'I want to be safe!' The movie is his harrowing story of escape and those unlikely souls who got him out. AMC Coon Rapids 16, Imagine White Bear various show times.

Looking forward to '26 at least 9 Christian themed movie ready for '26 release beginning in late January.

<i>Average Weekly Offering</i>	\$6,858
<i>Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan</i>	\$7,271

**Readings for next week:**

**Isaiah 49:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42**



# CHRISTIAN WORD SEARCH

Y R O L G X B H O D K K K S I  
A T I R I P S O R C Y S E C G  
S S G B S V N L E P E R A R L  
G E O Y U R S Y Y V E O G I V  
L L O T B M H S A E C I D P V  
U T D D A O U P R L A V I T B  
X S N J P D B I P P E A S U Z  
F O E W T G N R F M P S C R C  
Q P S R I N P I F E C I I E N  
R A S Y S I V T E T S S P L M  
F W D N M K T F I G A H L C I  
M E P S H E P H E R D E E A L  
J H Z P I H S W O L L E F R M  
R Q P K W I S D O M N P B I P  
N O I T C E R R U S E R X M H

## WORD LIST

APOSTLES

BAPTISM

DISCIPLE

FELLOWSHIP

GIFT

GLORY

GOODNESS

HOLY SPIRIT

KINGDOM

MIRACLE

PEACE

PRAYER

RESURRECTION

SAVIOR

SCRIPTURE

SHEEP

SHEPHERD

SPIRIT

TEMPLE

WISDOM

*Homemade*  
GIFTS MADE EASY



**SPiRiT of 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.

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Ministers:	All Members
Music Director John Peterson:	<a href="mailto:carsinger@aol.com">carsinger@aol.com</a>
Office Manager Amy Fey:	<a href="mailto:secretary@soclc.org">secretary@soclc.org</a>
Prayer Chain (Sue Hurst):	<a href="mailto:Sd_hurst@yahoo.com">Sd_hurst@yahoo.com</a>