

Epiphany Sunday

January 5, 2025

Liturgy: TLH p. 5



ONCE far off,
but now
INVITED



ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Church & School

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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #127

"As With Gladness Men of Old"

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

C ♪ **Amen.**

P Pastor

Confession of Our Sins

C **Congregation**

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

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 Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P Almighty God our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution from Our God

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord unto us all.

C ♪ **Amen.**

The Introit

Ps. 72:1-2, 10-11; Liturgical Text

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- P** Behold the Lord, the ruler, has come, and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in his hand.
- C** **Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!**
- P** May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!
- C** **May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!**
- P** May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!
- C** **Behold the Lord, the ruler, has come, and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in his hand.**

The Gloria Patri

TLH 131:5

Latin for "Glory be to the Father."

- C** ♪ **All glory, Jesus, be to Thee
For this Thy glad epiphany;
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Ghost forevermore.**

The Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** ♪ **And with thy spirit.**

The Collect Prayer of the Day

- P** O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** ♪ **Amen.**



Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² 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. ³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.



Ephesians 3:1-12

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles-- ² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴ When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

I BELIEVE...

in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

✠ Installation of Newly Elected Church Officers ✠

Hymn: TLH #129

"Hail, Thou Source of Every Blessing"



Matthew 2:1-12

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, ² 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." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶ "'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.'" ⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

“The Days of Herod the King” Bring Only Darkness

“The Days of Jesus the King” Bring Light to Those in Darkness

The Offertory

C *♩ Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me Cast me not away from Thy presence; And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with thy free spirit. Amen.*

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Choir

“One Small Child”

Hymn: WS #718

“O Jesus, King of Glory”

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer ✠

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

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 His peace.

C *♩ Amen, amen, a – men.*

Hymn: WS #717

“Bright and Glorious is the Sky”

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Annual Meeting – The voting members of St. John's are invited and encouraged to attend the Annual Voters' Meeting on Sunday, January 19, after the noon potluck meal. Besides regular Board reports, Agenda items will include: CBP estimate, worship schedule for Lent/Easter, April Quarterly Meeting date. Please give any other Agenda items to Chairman Phil Strike as soon as possible.

Congratulations to Henry and Stephanie Lau (nee Kazemba) on their marriage! Their wedding ceremony took place here at St. John's yesterday, conducted by Pastor Emeritus Albrecht and Pastor Emeritus Sandeen. Please join with me in praying for Henry and Stephanie, that the Lord would bless them richly in their marriage!

Thank you! From Lana, Ruth, and Pastor—thank you for your generous gifts to us this Christmas season. The gifts of money and of various foods have all been greatly appreciated. Thank you also for your continual prayers and support. We all consider it a wonderful blessing to serve this congregation.

St. John's Lutheran School starts back up tomorrow, the children returning to school after their Christmas break. Please keep the students and faculty in your prayers. Ask that the Lord would bless the teachers and students, that He would give them patience and endurance and keep them all healthy and safe in the new year.

2025 CLC Mission Helper Trip - The application deadline for the 2025 Mission Helper Trip to Nepal is quickly approaching. Applications need to be submitted by January 13th, 2025. Space is limited for this trip, so please apply soon. Find more information at: <https://mht.lutheranmissions.org/>

CLC Call News – Pastor Del Maas of Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN **has returned** the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA. <> Pastor George Dumann of Salem Lutheran Church, Eagle Lake, MN **has returned** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

January 6th – 11th, 2025

Mon Matthew 3:13-17 The Spirit of God and the voice of the Father reveal that this is the beloved Son, who came to take our place as a human being and to fulfill all righteousness (v15).

Tues Romans 3:23-31 Through trusting the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (v24), we are declared righteous before God even though we have not kept the law (v28), because He kept it in our place.

Wed Genesis 12:1-4 The Lord makes precious promises to Abram, including that in him all families of the earth will be blessed (v3). Abram believes and follows the Lord's word toward a new land and future.

Thurs Isaiah 2:1-5 Isaiah looks forward to the glory of the mountain of the Lord's house, which will benefit all nations and many peoples. He looks forward to peace on earth, good will toward mankind.

Fri Matthew 16:1-12 The Pharisees and Sadducees would brush aside all the prophecies fulfilled by Jesus, and demand another sign. To them only the sign of Jonah, who came back from a watery grave, will be given.

Sat Romans 7:7-25 Because of inborn sin, even hearing God's Law becomes an occasion for sinful rebellion, but there is One to rescue us from this sin living in us: Jesus Christ our Lord (v25)!

Ushers	1/5	Kendall B, Larry B.
	1/12	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
	1/19	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
Cleaning		This Week – Kazemba, Thaemlitz (Wk. 4)
		Up Next – Dronen, Aden, Ferguson, Baumann