



CHRIST+THE SAVIOR IS BORN

LOVE'S PURE LIGHT BEAMS FROM THY HOLY FACE

The Epiphany of Our Lord (observed)

January 4/5, 2026

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's *eternal love* for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing or sitting, will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

Restrooms: are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.

Nursery: We encourage families to worship together. If an adult needs to step out of the chapel briefly with a child, the nursery is provided just outside the chapel near the restrooms.

For Kids: Activity sheets for young children are available on the bulletin table. Small bags with quiet activity items hang near the table.

OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION: CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN

The loved and peaceful Christmas Song “Silent Night” paints the picture of the incarnation. The last phrase is repeated, so in the second stanza we hear it twice: “Christ the Savior is born!” Every word of that phrase is significant, and every line of the Christmas carol describes a Bible truth. We use the beloved hymn to ponder the profound message of Christmas.

“LOVE’S PURE LIGHT BEAMS FROM THY HOLY FACE”

Today, we celebrate the Festival of the Epiphany (traditionally January 6). Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning “reveal.” When the Savior was born, he was first revealed as *love’s pure light* to Israelites: Mary, Joseph, the shepherds. Today, we see the Lord miraculously guiding foreigners across countless miles so the Savior’s holy face could be revealed to them as well. The Festival of Epiphany is sometimes known as Christmas for the Gentiles. We Gentiles (non-Jews) rejoice in the good news that this Jewish baby is a gift for all people, Christ the Savior of the world.

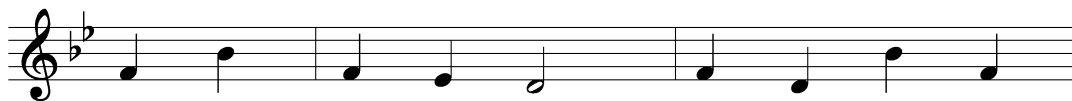
Those preparing their hearts to receive holy communion may reflect on the questions and answers found on p. 295-296 in the blue hymnal.

OPENING HYMN

347 Angels from the Realms of Glory sts. 1, Ref, 2-3, 5



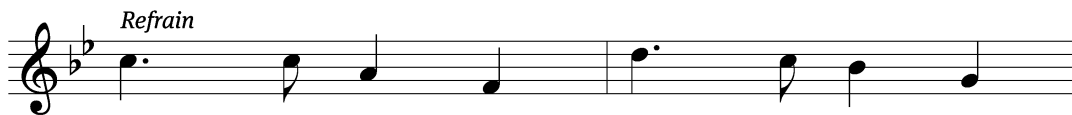
1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing
 3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er
 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the



flight o'er all the earth; once you sang cre -
 o'er your flocks by night, God with us is
 vi - sions beam a - far; seek the great de -
 Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your



a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 sire of na - tions, you have seen the Sav - ior's star.
 voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One.



Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,



wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

STAND

Come and worship Christ, the newborn King.

Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews?

In Bethlehem, in Judea, for this is what the prophet has written.

Let us worship and adore Him!

In the name of the Father

—who loved the world, and gave his only-begotten Son,

the + Son

—who has saved us from our sins,

and the Holy Spirit

—who testifies that Jesus Christ is both God and man, the Redeemer of the world,

Come and worship Christ, the newborn King!

Amen.

CONFESSION

Dear friends: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. The darkness of the world is human sin and spiritual ignorance. Into this world of spiritual darkness and ignorance we were born as sinners. Though we have been given the light of life and forgiveness through faith in Jesus, in our daily struggle against sin we have slipped into the deeds of darkness. Let us confess this to the Lord and be forgiven through his grace.

Lord of Light and Love: We confess our sins to you this day. You know the dark thoughts that we have had. You have heard the shameful words we have spoken. You have seen the hurtful things we have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive our sins and renew us in the Light of hope and forgiveness.

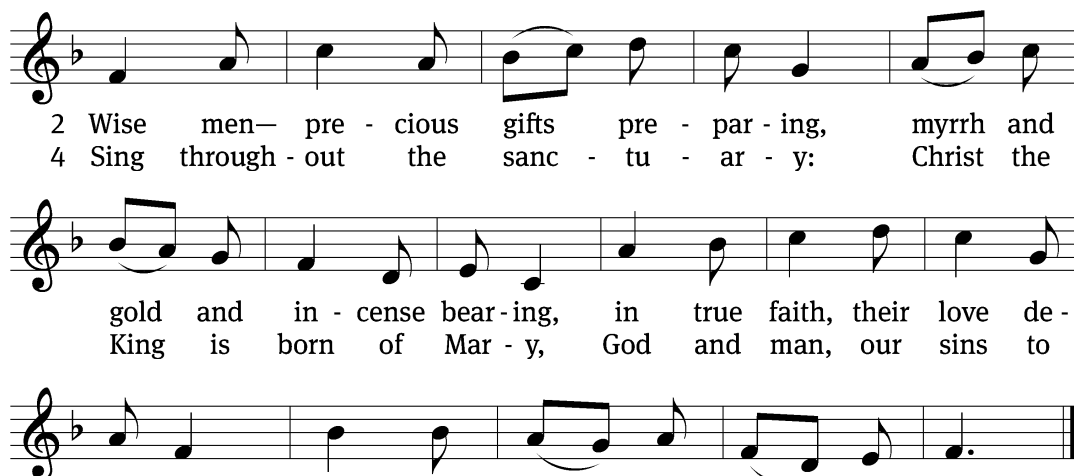
ABSOLUTION

The Lord is merciful and full of compassion. In his mercy, he has given us the light and joy of forgiveness. Because of Jesus' suffering on the cross for us, because of his perfect life in our place, and demonstrated by his resurrection from death on Easter morning, God has declared us forgiven. So rejoice and sing, for joy as you receive the Lord's own promise: Whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved. I forgive you in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN RESPONSE

351 He Whose Praise the Shepherds Sounded sts. 2, 4



2 Wise men— pre - cious gifts pre - par - ing, myrrh and
4 Sing through - out the sanc - tu - ar - y: Christ the
gold and in - cense bear - ing, in true faith, their love de -
King is born of Mar - y, God and man, our sins to
clar - ing— to the con - qu'ring Li - on cling.
car - ry. Thanks and praise to him be - long!

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BE SEATED

A prophecy stating that kings and nations shall be drawn to the Light of salvation.

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.

²Look, darkness covers the earth,
and deep darkness covers the peoples,
but the LORD will dawn upon you,
and his glory will be seen over you.

³Nations will walk to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Look up. Look all around and see!
All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you.
Your sons will come from far away,
and people will carry your daughters on their side.

⁵Then you will look and be radiant.
Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.
For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you.
The wealth of the nations will come to you.

⁶Caravans of camels will cover your land,
young camels from Midian and Ephah.
All those from Sheba will come.
They will carry gold and incense,
and they will announce the good news of the praise of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 72E Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 He comes with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 Kings shall bow down be - fore him and gold and in - cense bring;
 4 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y and bid the weak be strong,
 all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing.
 from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light
 To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend,
 The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;



to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are pre - cious in his sight.
 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.
 his name shall stand for - ev - er—that name to us is Love.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:2–12

People from all nations are united as equals in the Savior's kingdom of grace.

²Surely you have heard of the administration of God's grace given to me for you,
³namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly). ⁴When you read this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. ⁵This mystery was not made known to people in past generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that in Christ

Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and people who also share in the promise through the gospel.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel, in keeping with the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸To me—even though I am the very least of all the saints—was given this grace: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ ⁹and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 2:2

The congregation sings the refrains. The minister sings the verse.



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

Refrain

Magi from the east were the first in a long line of Gentiles who would join Israel in worshiping Jesus as King.

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ²“Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴He gathered together all the people's chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

⁶You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.”

⁷Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Young children may come forward for a brief devotion.



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see
 2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won, true Son of God
 3 O might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved me ere



and hail a - far the light in Ju - dah shin - ing.
 and Mar - y's son, the high - born King of a - ges!
 you had be - gun this an - cient world's foun - da - tion.



O Da - vid's son of Ja - cob's race, my Bride-groom and
 In your blest bod - y let me be, e'en as the branch
 Your Son has made a friend of me, and when in spir -



my King of grace, for you my heart is pin - ing.
 is in the tree, your life my life sup - ply - ing.
 it him I see, I joy in trib - u - la - tion.



Low - ly, ho - ly, great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
 Sigh - ing, cry - ing for the sa - vor of your fa - vor,
 What bliss is this! He is liv - ing, to me giv - ing



Prince of grac - es, fill - ing all the heav'n - ly plac - es.
 rest - ing nev - er till I rest in you for - ev - er.
 life for - ev - er; noth - ing me from him can sev - er.

STAND

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

BE SEATED

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Gracious Father, in Christ Jesus and through faith in him, we approach you with freedom and confidence.

Mercifully hear our prayer.

As you caused your light to shine that first Epiphany, shine in the darkness of our hearts. Drive far from us all our fears and all our doubts.

Give us a new confidence each day to live as children of the light.

Bless the work of your church here and throughout the world. By your Holy Spirit, make known far and wide the mystery of Christ Jesus. Give strength to all workers in your gospel ministry, and bless the Word they proclaim.

Bring those living in darkness into the light of life.

Give guidance and wisdom and strength and health to our government officials. Direct their rule for our good as it is pleasing to you.

Give us hearts and lips that honor and respect those you have placed in authority over us.

Remember those who are ailing in body or mind. *[Especially we pray for...]* These and all our needs are known to you, gracious Father. Guide us by the light of your Word until that day comes when you bring us home to yourself to join your people from every nation, tribe, people, and language, redeemed by the blood of Jesus.

In his holy name we pray. Amen.

OFFERING

The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. If being here today was a blessing to you and you would like to support our ministry, you can scan here and enter your phone number or email address to donate. (Members, please use a phone number or email address that is currently on file with the church).



During this time, we ask that everyone take part in completing the worship register. Please fill in the requested information and pass the booklet to the end of the row. Thank you!

OFFERING SONG

Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)

*Light of the world, treasure of Heaven
Brilliant like the stars, in the wintry sky
Joy of the Father, reach through the darkness
Shine across the earth, send the shadows to flight
Light of the world, from the beginning
The tragedies of time, were no match for Your love
From great heights of glory, You saw my story
God, You entered in, and became one of us*

*Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him
Sing hallelujah to the light of the world*

*Light of the world, crown in a manger
Born for the Cross, to suffer, to save
High King of Heaven, death is the poorer
We are the richer, by the price that He paid, ohh*

*Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him
Sing hallelujah to the light of the world
You're the light of the world
Light up the dark*

*Light of the world, soon will be coming
With fire in His eyes, He will ransom His own
Through clouds He will lead us, straight into glory
And there He shall reign, forevermore
Oh, forevermore*

*Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him
Sing hallelujah to the light of the world
The light of the world*

THE SACRAMENT

STAND

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, *who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth.* Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

sung by the minister

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might.

Heaven 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, hosanna in the highest!

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

Amen.

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

For our guests: Eternal Love Lutheran Church practices close communion. We welcome congregational members and those in fellowship with our national church body to receive the sacrament with us today. If you are interested in learning more about what we believe or about holy communion, please speak with our pastor.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

668 Jesus Comes Today with Healing sts. 1-3, 5-6



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, knock - ing at my
 2 Christ him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, yet in bread and
 3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
 5 Let me praise God's bound - less fa - vor, whose own feast of
 6 Now have I found con - so - la - tion, com - fort in my



door, ap - peal - ing, of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
 wine a - bid - ing in this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
 Sav - ior ho - ly, blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
 love I sa - vor, bid - den by his gra - cious call.
 trib - u - la - tion, balm to heal the trou - bled soul.



He him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, and I hear his
 gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, and the cup, the
 ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, who to bit - ter
 Wed - ding gar - ments he pro - vides me, with a robe of
 God, my shield from ev - 'ry ter - ror, cleans - es me from



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."
 pre - cious to - ken of his sa - cred cov - e - nant.
 death was giv - en, hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
 white he hides me, fits me for the roy - al hall.
 sin and er - ror, makes my wound - ed spir - it whole.

STAND

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

386 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise sts. 1, 5



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to
5 Grant us grace to see you, Lord, mir - rored in your



you we raise, man - i - fest - ed by the star
ho - ly Word. May our lives and all we do



to the Ma - gi from a - far, branch of roy - al
im - i - tate and hon - or you that we all like



Da - vid's stem, in your birth at Beth - le - hem.
you may be at your great e - piph - a - ny



An-thems be to you ad-dressed, God in man made man-i - fest.
and may praise you, ev - er blest, God in man made man-i - fest.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister: Pastor Dave Backus

Usher: Mark Welch (8:00), Bruce Heckmann (10:45)

Lector: Pete Neuberger (8:00), Bruce Heckmann (10:45)

Accompanist: Lisa Neuberger

347 Angels from the Realms of Glory sts. 1, Ref, 2–3, 5

Text (sts. 1–3): James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt. Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879. Text and tune: Public domain

351 He Whose Praise the Shepherds Sounded sts. 2, 4

Text: Latin, 15th cent.; tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963. Tune: German, 14th cent. Text: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840. Tune: Public domain

Psalm 72E Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Text: James Montgomery. Tune: Leonhart Schröter. Text and tune: Public domain

Gospel Acclamation- Matthew 2:2

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370 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star sts. 1–3

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, abr., adapt; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608. Text and tune: Public domain

Jesus, Lamb of God

Tune: Marty Haugen. Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840

668 Jesus Comes Today with Healing sts. 1–3, 5–6

Text: Heinrich Puchta, 1808–1858; tr. David W. Rogner, b. 1960. Tune: Johann Löhner, 1645–1705; adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758. Text: © 2003 David W. Rogner. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840. Tune: Public domain

386 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise sts. 1, 5

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt. Tune: Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702. Text and tune: Public domain

Light of the World

Songwriters: Andrew Bergthold / Edmond Martin Cash / Franni Cash / Martin Cash / Scott McTyeire Cash

Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah) lyrics © Capitol CMG Publishing

Holy Bible

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Based on Setting Two from Christian Worship.

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