

# CHRIST

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### *The Divine Service*

The Feast of the Epiphany

✠ January 6, 2026 ✠

### “They Saw the Child”

*“Through the myrrh, then, the mystery of the Cross is once again associated with Jesus’ kingship and mysteriously proclaimed in the worship offered by the wise men. Anointing is an attempt to resist death, which only becomes definitive with decomposition. By the time the women came to the tomb to anoint the body on Easter morning—a task that could not be carried out on the evening of the crucifixion because of the approaching feast-day—Jesus had already risen. He no longer needed myrrh as a protection against death, because God’s life itself had overcome death.”*

—Joseph Ratzinger,  
*Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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# THE LORD'S SUPPER

In preparation for reception of the Lord's Supper (*Holy Communion*), it is important that we review and understand what the Bible teaches regarding this sacrament:

The Bible teaches that Jesus gives us His very body and blood along with bread and wine in Holy Communion<sup>1</sup>, and that these are means by which He forgives our sins<sup>2</sup>, and strengthens us for daily living, and draws us into closer fellowship with Him and other believers. The Bible also teaches us to examine ourselves prior to receiving the meal<sup>3</sup>. For those receiving Holy Communion, examine yourself with these questions:

**Do I believe that I am a sinner and I am sorry for my sins?**

**Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior?**

**Do I believe that Christ's true body and blood are present in this holy meal for my forgiveness?**

**Do I truly intend with the help of God to correct my sinful life?**

According to Christ's Word in the Holy Scriptures, and in confession with the true Christian faith, at Christ Lutheran we observe the practice of closed communion. We believe that all who commune must confess the same holy faith, as Holy Scripture teaches. Since one's church affiliation indicates an individual's confession of faith, we ask that only those who have been instructed in the above teaching **and** are confirmed members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod commune. If you have not been instructed in this teaching on Holy Communion, are in doubt, or hold a different confession of faith<sup>4</sup>, you are still welcome to come forward and cross your arms to indicate that you would like a blessing.

We welcome our members and guests to Christ Lutheran today,  
and pray God's richest blessings upon you during this time of worship!

*All members and our guests are asked to complete the worship attendance pads which can be found on each pew. Guests are also asked to sign the guest register found in the Narthex.*

*We are so glad to have you worshiping with us today!*

*LARGE PRINT worship folders are available at the usher stand at the back of the nave.*

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<sup>1</sup>Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23

<sup>2</sup>Matthew 26:28; 1 John 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19

<sup>3</sup>1 Corinthians 11:28-32

<sup>4</sup>1 Corinthians 10:17; 1 Corinthians 11:26



**Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a  
scepter of up- | rightness;\***  
**you have loved righteousness and hated | wickedness.**  
**Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your  
com- | panions;\***  
**your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and | cassia.**  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

I will cause your name to be remembered in all gener- | ations;\*  
therefore nations will praise you forever and | ever.  
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of | grace and truth.

<b>Kyrie</b>	p. 152
<b>Gloria in Excelsis</b>	p. 154
<b>Salutation &amp; Collect</b>	p. 156
<b>Old Testament Reading</b>	Isaiah 60:1-6
<b>Gradual</b>	<i>Psalm 117; 96:8</i>



**Praise the LORD, all | nations!\***  
**Extol him, all | peoples!**

**For great is his steadfast | love toward us,\***  
**and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.**  
**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;\***  
**bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!**

<b>Epistle</b>	Ephesians 3:1-12
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# Alleluia

p. 156



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor:

Matthew 2:2b

*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.*



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

# Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

## Office Hymn

Behold the Flow'r of David Shine

Tune #351

1 Behold the Flow'r of David shine,  
Of Jesse's root the Branch benign:  
The sceptre spread with blossoms rare  
Wields o'er the world its lordship fair.

3 Yea thou didst on thy bosom bear  
Th'All-loving Father's only heir:  
Man of the Thund'rer's Spirit made  
And God in human flesh arrayed.

2 O Bethlehem! no longer thou  
The least of cities: all shall vow  
That thou art greatest on the earth:  
For thou man's King didst bring to birth.

4 The prophets witnessed to the bond  
Which sealed to Him the realm profound:  
The Father's Kingdom He received  
And the vast legacy perceived.

5 All things are His in sea and sky,  
In hell beneath, in heav'n on high:  
From East to setting sun, in fee  
He holds the earth's immensity.

# Sermon

## Nicene Creed

p. 158

**Prayer of the Church**

p. 159

**Offering**

**Offertory**

p. 159

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

**Preface**

p. 160

**Sanctus**

p. 161

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

p. 161

**Lord's Prayer**

#957



Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal-low - ed be Thy name,



Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as



it is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly



bread; and for-give us our tres-pass - es as we for-give



those who tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in -



to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.



For Thine is the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo -



ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

**The Words of Our Lord** p. 162

**Pax Domini** p. 163

**Agnus Dei** p. 163

**Distribution Hymns**

As with Gladness Men of Old #397

O Savior of Our Fallen Race #403

**Nunc Dimittis** p. 165

**Post-Communion Collect** p. 166

**Benediction** p. 166

**Closing Hymn** Rightly the Wise Men Said Tune #357

1 Rightly the Wise Men said, I ween,  
That they Judaea's King had seen,  
Since noble deeds of other days  
Prophetic chant the Saviour's praise.  
Rejoice, rejoice, ye lands forlorn!  
Rejoice: the world's great King is born!

2 Of those old rulers He is King  
Who did to Jacob judgment bring,  
King of the Mother Church divine,  
God's ancient and God's present Shrine.  
Rejoice, rejoice, ye lands forlorn!  
Rejoice: the world's great King is born!

3 Of Ephraim's sons He is adored:  
Manasseh's sacred house as Lord  
Reveres Him: to His might the seed  
Of brethren twelve their fealty plead.  
Rejoice, rejoice, ye lands forlorn!  
Rejoice: the world's great King is born!

5 Idols smoke-blackened, wooden-hewn,  
Of brass and stone, in dust are strewn:  
The chiselled deities downtrod:  
For all confess in Christ their God.  
Rejoice, rejoice, ye lands forlorn!  
Rejoice: the world's great King is born!

4 Nay, each degenerate race hath fled  
Its shameful rites and orgies dread:  
Grim Baal in glowing furnace cast  
Sinks to the earth, forsook at last.  
Rejoice, rejoice, ye lands forlorn!  
Rejoice: the world's great King is born!

6 Behold your Chief! His praise forth tell:  
Ye sick, ye hale, all heaven and hell:  
Ay, you whose vital spark hath sped:  
For lo! in Him e'en Death is dead.  
Rejoice, rejoice, ye lands forlorn!  
Rejoice: the world's great King is born!

### **Serving Today:**

**Pastor:** Rev. George Fields

**Acolyte:** Nathan Hansford, William Hansford

**Interpreter:** Charlie Warren

**Altar Guild:** Sabrina Goodlett

**Elder:** Keith Martin

**Organist:** Sr. Sara Fields

**Cantor:** Keith Martin

**Trumpet:** Rev. Christopher Clark

**Fun Facts about Tonight's Epiphany Hymns:** This evening we sang three 'new' hymns that are curiously absent from our hymnal... or are they? Prudentius, the author of these hymns, is probably best known among us for writing "Of the Father's Love Begotten"; little known is that he also wrote an Epiphany poem (over 50 stanzas long!) from which we get the hymn "Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band" (LSB 969). The three new hymns we sang tonight are made up of stanzas from his Epiphany poem that were too numerous to include in the LSB. So much theological goodness, and so little time...

**De-Decoration Day Tomorrow:** Join us tomorrow morning at 8:00 for de-decorating the church as we enter this Epiphany season!

**Installation of Rev. Christopher Clark:** Rev. Clark has accepted the call to serve as associate pastor at our daughter congregation, Good Shepherd Lutheran in Brandon! Good Shepherd has invited us to his installation **this Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m.**, along with a potluck to follow. Let us join them in celebrating the arrival of this shepherd, and let us pray the Lord's blessings upon him as he tends this flock.

**Readings for this Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord:** Introit Ps. 2:7-12; Psalm 29; Isaiah 42:1-9; Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 3:13-17.