

Today's Scripture Readings

Old Testament

Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For 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. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. ⁶A 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.

Epistle

Ephesians 3:1-12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which 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. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of 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. ⁸To 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, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now

be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "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." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"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."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And 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." ⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And 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. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®.

In Our Prayers this Week—

- *January mission of the month, Sheboygan Lutheran High School.*
- *Peace among nations.*
- *The victims and families of all violence and disaster throughout the world.*
- *Heidi Tupper, recovering from surgery.*
- *Michelle Popp and all expectant mothers.*

All who are battling cancer:

- *Jayne Cotter*
- *Ed Friede*
- *Rev. Brad Birtell, brother of Amy Assmann*
- *Jennifer Harrill, mother of Andrew Harrill*

Please also keep in prayer

—*our Seminarian, Vicar Luke Konkel;*

—*Rev. Eric Skovgaard, our district president;*

—*Rev. Eric Skovgaard, our district president;*

—*Rev. Eric Skovgaard, our district president;*

—*Matthew Harrison, synod president;*

—*the members, officers and auxiliaries of Emmanuel;*

—*our circuit congregation, St. John in Plymouth and Revs. John Schultz & Andrew Thompson;*

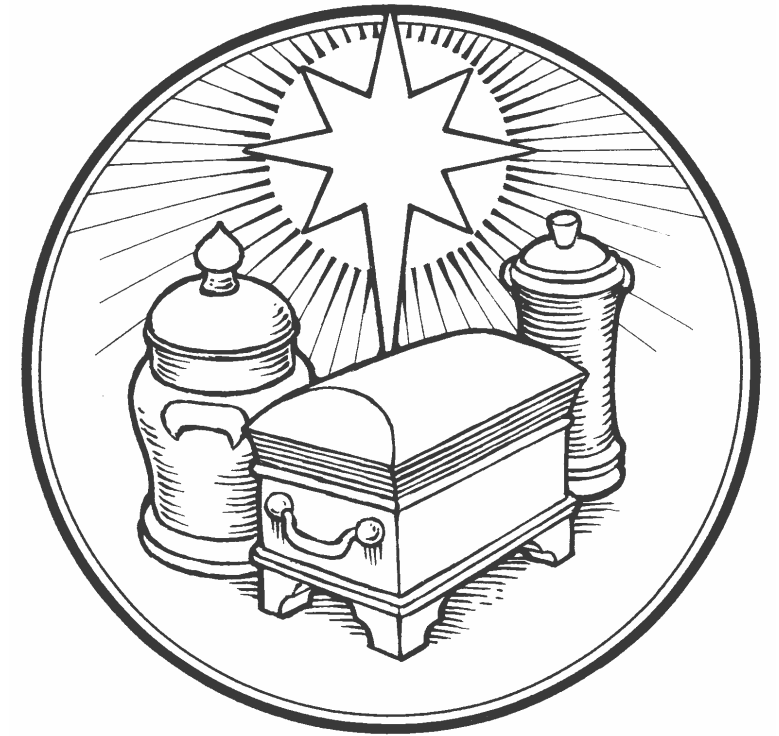
—*our Missionary Rev. James May and his family in Africa; and*

—*our Missionary Rev. Tyler McMiller and his family in Italy and Southern Europe; and*

—*our shut-in Members, Donna*

Bloedel, Bob & Alice Denhardt, Ed Friede and Virginia Dowty.

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Matthew 2:11b-12

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WE WELCOME all who gather with us around the Altar and Pulpit to hear the Word of God.

IF YOU ARE VISITING this morning, we are happy that you could join us today. *Please sign our guest book in the narthex.*

IF YOU DESIRE TO COMMUNE, please speak to the pastor before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine and are members in good standing of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

YOUNG CHILDREN are always welcome in our service. Jesus said, *“Let the little children come to me...”* Activity bags are available in the narthex.

NEED ASSISTANCE with anything? Please speak to the pastor or the usher.

RESTROOMS are available in the back of the church or in the education wing.

We pray that you feel welcome in our congregation, that you are blessed by the service, and that you will come again.

THE LORD GOD IS MANIFESTED IN THE INCARNATE SON

The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi from the East. In that respect, it is a “Thirteenth Day” of Christmas; yet, it also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season. While Christmas has focused on the incarnation of our Lord — that is, on God becoming flesh — the season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. The Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true light (Is. 60:1–2). He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel, which He causes to be preached within His Church on earth — not only to the Jews but also to Gentiles (Eph. 3:8–10). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ Child with His mother in the house (Matt. 2:5–11), so does He call disciples from all nations by the preaching of His Word to find and worship Him within His Church (Is. 60:3–6). With gold, they confess His royalty; with incense, His deity; and with myrrh, His priestly sacrifice (Matt. 2:11).

THE FAMILY ALTAR

❶ **Verse of the Week** — **Luke 3:22** *“and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.’”*

❷ **Hymn of the Week** — LSB #406 — *“To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord”*

❸ **Collect of the Week** — *Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

❹ **Daily Bible Readings** — **M:** Is. 66:1-20; Luke 3:21-38 **T:** Ezek. 1:1-14, 22-28; Rom. 1:1-17 **W:** Ezek. 2:1—3:11; Rom. 1:18-32 **Th:** Ezek. 3:12-27; Rom. 2:1-16 **F:** Ezek. 18:1-4, 19-32; Rom. 2:17-29 **Sat:** Ezek. 33:1-20; Rom. 3:1-18 **Sun:** Ezek. 34:1-24; Rom. 3:19-31

❺ **Preparing for Next Sunday** — *Lessons for The Baptism of Our Lord (January 12, 2025):* Isaiah 43:1-7; Romans 6:1-11; Luke 3:15-22; Psalm 29

❻ **The Whole Story for the Whole Family** — *Week 46*

Day 1 — *All the Nations*

Day 3 — *A New Community*

Day 2 — *Power from Heaven*

Day 4 — *No Other Name*

The Epiphany of Our Lord

JANUARY 5, 2025

Greeters — *Jim & Sara Knepprath*

Elder — *Todd Graf*; Usher — *Michael Schommer*

Altar Guild — *Mandy Neumann*; Jr. Altar Guild — *Jordyn Schultz*

Cantor — *Jeff Ourada*; Acolyte — *Levi Schommer*

Organist — *Mrs. Terry Ourada*

Pastor — *Rev. Paul W. Marks*

Introit (*sung responsively after confession & absolution*) Psalm 45:6-8a; antiphon: v. 17



I will cause your name to be remembered in all gener- | ations;*
therefore nations will praise you forever and | ever.

**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.

Collect (*spoken by pastor*)

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.

Gradual (*sung responsively*) Psalm 117:1-2a, 96:8

Praise the Lord, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

**For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.**

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

ORDER OF SERVICE

Lutheran Service Book

Divine Service — Setting One

Page 151 and following

Hymn of Invocation..... #397

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Confession and Absolution.....p. 151

SERVICE OF THE WORD

◀ Introit..... *see left*

Kyrie.....p. 152

Gloria in Excelsis.....p. 154

Salutation & Collect.....p. 156

Isaiah 60:1-6

The Future Glory of Israel

◀ Gradual..... *see left*

Ephesians 3:1-12

The Mystery of the Gospel Revealed

Alleluia.....p. 156

Matthew 2:1-12

The Visit of the Wise Men

Nicene Creed.....p. 158

Hymn of the Day..... #395

Sermon — “God Warned of This”

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Offertory.....p. 159

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Communion Liturgy..... p. 160-163

Distribution.....p. 164

Please see communion statement.

Distribution Hymns..... #629

..... #400

Thank the Lord.....p. 164

Collect & Benediction.....p. 166

Hymn to Depart..... #370

