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## ❖ EPIPHANY SUNDAY ❖

ORDER OF WORSHIP • JANUARY 4, 2026 • 9:00 AM

† *Indicates the congregation should stand as able.*

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

#### † OPENING HYMN

O MORNING STAR, HOW FAIR  
AND BRIGHT!  
LBW #76, stanzas 1, 2, 3

#### † INVOCATION & VERSES

WL: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

WL: Arise, shine; for your light has come.

All: **The glory of the Lord rises upon you.**

WL: Come, worship the Lord of glory.

All: **Proclaim God's praise among the nations.**

#### † CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

WL: Let us confess our sins to God. We come in boldness and confidence, not according to our merit, but according to God's grace towards us in Jesus Christ.

All: **God of justice, we confess that our actions are evil whenever we have remained passive while others are oppressed; whenever we have guarded our own prosperity at the expense of those who are poor; or when we have ignored the cries of those in need of help. Forgive us, we pray, for hiding in the darkness of this world more than living in the light of righteousness made known to us in Jesus Christ. Judge us with mercy, we pray, and extend your grace to us. Strengthen our faithfulness to you and to all who are precious in your sight. We pray in the name of Christ, our Light. Amen.**

WL: Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason God sent Jesus into the world—not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. Together, let us declare the good news of the Gospel:

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to live a new life in Him. Thanks be to God!**

## † HYMN OF PRAISE

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

LBW #534, STANZA 3

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
The Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

## † PRAYER OF THE DAY

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WL: Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 60:1-6

R: The First lesson for this Epiphany Sunday is from the prophet Isaiah, the sixtieth chapter.

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

“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. 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. 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.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE LESSON

EPHESIANS 3:1-12

R: The Epistle is from Paul's letter to the Ephesians, the third chapter.

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 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. 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.

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. 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, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. 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, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

† ALLELUIA VERSE

O MORNING STAR!

LBW #76, stanza 4

**Almighty Father, in your Son you love us when not yet begun  
was this old earth's foundation!**

**Your Son has ransomed us in love to live in him here and above  
This is your great salvation.**

**Alleluia! Christ the living, to us giving life forever  
Keeps us yours and fails us never!**

## † HOLY GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 2:1-12

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

All: **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 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.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 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. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ‘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.’”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 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.”

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. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

## TODAY’S MESSAGE

## † MESSAGE HYMN

RISE, SHINE, YOU PEOPLE!

LBW #393

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

## GATHERING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

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### PARISH CHOIR

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM  
ARR. DAN FORREST  
VANESSA VACHÉ, CLARINET

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### † PREFACE

WL: The Lord be with you.  
All: **And also with you.**  
WL: Lift up your hearts.  
All: **We lift them to the Lord.**  
WL: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
All: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### † THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### † THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: As Jesus taught His disciples to pray, so we pray today:  
All: **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.**

### † PAX DOMINI

WL: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
All: **Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### COMMUNION HYMN

THE FIRST NOEL  
LBW #56

## ☩ THE DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

All: **Amen.**

## ☩ CLOSING PRAYER

WL: God of blazing light, through the power of the cross you shattered our darkness, scattering the fears that bind us and setting us free to live as your children. Give us courage and conviction, that we may joyfully turn and follow you into new adventures of faithful service, led by the light that shines through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All: **Amen.**

## ☩ BLESSING

WL: May the love of God uphold you; the light of ☩ Christ guide you; and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit fill you with joy, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

## ☩ SENDING HYMN

O MORNING STAR, HOW FAIR  
AND BRIGHT!

LBW #76, stanzas 5 & 6

## ☩ SENDING

WL: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**SOLI DEO GLORIA**

**TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY**

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# PRINCE *of* PEACE

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