



FAITH  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

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[www.faithlutheranlacey.org](http://www.faithlutheranlacey.org)  
[www.flschool.org](http://www.flschool.org)

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

### WORSHIP

8:15am – Traditional  
9:30am – Gather & Grow  
10:45am - Contemporary

### CONTACT

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*“Raising Up  
Families and Followers  
of Jesus Christ”*

# The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 4, 2026  
8:15 AM



## THE SINGING CAMELS OF SHEBA

### AS WE GATHER

We humans aren't the only ones celebrating Epiphany! Though the whole earth shall be covered with darkness, "nations shall come to Your light" (Isaiah 60:3). Isaiah mentions the wealth of all nations, and we are reminded of the Magi bearing gifts. We have gifts, too, of a spiritual nature, connecting other people with our gracious God, "in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith" (Ephesians 3:12). "Singing camels"? Well, who really carried the gold and silver so far? The camels, Isaiah writes, "shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord" (Isaiah 60:6). If the camels are praising God, so must we. Get ready to celebrate!

### + PREPARATION +

#### 395 O MORNING STAR, HOW FAIR AND BRIGHT



1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's  
2 Come, heav'n-ly Bride-groom, Light di-vine, And deep with - in  
3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls  
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in Your Son You loved us when



own truth and light, A - glow with grace and mer - cy!  
our hearts now shine; There light a flame un - dy - ing!  
from God a - bove A ray of pur - est plea - sure.  
not yet be - gun Was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's race, King Da-vid's son, Our Lord and mas -  
In Your one bod - y let us be As liv - ing branch -  
Your Word and Spir - it, flesh and blood Re - fresh our souls  
Your Son has ran - somed us in love To live in Him



ter, You have won  
es of a tree,  
with heav'n-ly food.  
here and a - bove:  
Our hearts to serve You on - ly!  
Your life our lives sup - ply - ing.  
You are our dear - est trea - sure!  
This is Your great sal - va - tion.



Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo-ri-ous, All vic - to - rious,  
Now, though dai - ly Earth's deep sad - ness May per - plex us  
Let Your mer - cy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, To us giv - ing



Rich in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!  
And dis - tress us, Yet with heav'n - ly joy You bless us.  
For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.  
Life for - ev - er, Keeps us Yours and fails us nev - er!

5 O let the harps break forth in sound!  
Our joy be all with music crowned,  
Our voices gladly blending!  
For Christ goes with us all the way—  
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!  
His love is never ending!  
Sing out! Ring out!  
Jubilation!  
Exultation!  
Tell the story!  
Great is He, the King of Glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,  
The Lord we love is first and last,  
The end and the beginning!  
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,  
Transport us to that happy place  
Beyond all tears and sinning!  
Amen! Amen!  
Come, Lord Jesus!  
Crown of gladness!  
We are yearning  
For the day of Your returning!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Text and tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005394 Tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION

Leader In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Congregation Amen.

## CONFESsION AND ABSOLUTION *Ephesians 3:12; Psalm 72:11*

Leader In Christ, we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.

**Congregation** **May all kings fall down before Him, all nations serve Him!**

**Leader** In repentant faith, we come before our Lord in confession.

*Silence for reflection.*

**Leader** Almighty God, King of all,

**Congregation** **we confess to You that we are sinful by nature. We have lived in darkness rather than light. Our selfish thoughts, harmful words, and faithless actions reveal our sinfulness. But for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, who became flesh for us, we pray, forgive us our sins. Amen.**

**Leader** God's grace is revealed in the birth, life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He has brought light to this world darkened by sin. In the stead and by the command of Jesus, I announce to you the full forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation** **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

**+ WORD +**

## **SALUTATION**

**Pastor** The Lord be with you.

**Congregation** **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Leader** Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles.

**Congregation** **Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence;**

**Leader** through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation** **Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING    *Isaiah 60:1–6***

**Reader** Arise, shine, for your light has come,

**Congregation** **and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.**

**Reader** For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

**Congregation** **but the LORD will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you.**

**Reader** And nations shall come to your light,

**Congregation** **and kings to the brightness of your rising.**

Reader Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you;

**Congregation** **your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.**

Reader 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.**

Reader A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come.

**Congregation** **They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.**

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation** **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM FOR EPIPHANY** *Psalm 72:1–15*

**Congregation** **Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.**

Leader Give the king Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to the royal son! May He judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice! Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness! May He defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!

**Congregation** **REFRAIN**

Leader May they fear You while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations! May He be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth! In His days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more! May He have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth! May desert tribes bow down before Him and His enemies lick the dust! May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render Him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

**Congregation** **REFRAIN**

Leader May all kings fall down before Him, all nations serve Him! For He delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and Him who has no helper. He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. From oppression and violence He redeems their life, and precious is their blood in His sight. Long may He live; may gold of Sheba be given to Him! May prayer be made for Him continually, and blessings invoked for Him all the day!

**Congregation** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## REFRAIN

Text: ESV® Text: © 2001 Crossway Bibles. Used by permission: Creative Worship License no. 110005394

### EPISTLE      *Ephesians 3:1–12*

<sup>1</sup>For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Reader      This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation**    **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**      *Matthew 2:2b*

Leader      Alleluia.

**Congregation**    **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.**

Leader      Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL**    *Matthew 2:1–12*

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

**Congregation**    **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>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, <sup>2</sup>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.” <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>“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.”

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

Leader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Marie Koehler

### 400 BRIGHTEST AND BEST OF THE STARS OF THE MORNING



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
2 Cold on His cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;  
3 Shall we not yield Him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,  
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,  
5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;  
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;  
Fra - grance of E - dom and of - f'rings di - vine,  
Vain - ly with gifts would His fa - vor se - cure.  
Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;



Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorm - ing,  
An - gels a - dore Him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;  
Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorm - ing,



Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.  
Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.  
Myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?  
Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt. Tune: James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON

### NICENE CREED

**Congregation** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

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or text to give, 360-732-8020.

### OFFERING PRAYER

**Leader** Let us pray.  
We give thanks, Lord our God, that You have given us great physical gifts, amazing abilities, and one another to use to Your glory. Accept them all, as You received the gifts of the Magi, for we offer ourselves and our talents to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Congregation** Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader Arise, shine, for your light has come. We pray for the church here and around the world. For as the Magi saw the star, many people will see the glory of the Lord and come to faith, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Wonderful Counselor, hear our prayer.**

Leader For the leaders of this nation and the nations of the world, that they use their many resources for the poor, remember the disadvantaged, provide for lawful order within their borders, and seek peace with their neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Mighty God, hear our prayer.**

Leader Lift up your eyes all around and see. We pray for the lonely—those alone at home; those separated from loved ones, including armed forces deployed; and all those forgotten by the rest of society—that God would move caring people to surround them with His love. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Everlasting Father, hear our prayer.**

Leader The Magi brought gold and frankincense. We pray for charitable organizations in our parish and community, that by the grace of God, we all may experience growth in faith as the Gospel moves from ears to heart, and from conviction to serving God and loving one another. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.**

Leader Into Your hands, gracious God, who sent Your Son to be light in this dark world, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

**Congregation Amen.**

## + SACRAMENT +

## PREFACE

Leader The Lord be with you.

**Congregation And also with you.**

Leader Lift up your hearts.

**Congregation We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Congregation It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You sent Your only-begotten Son to take our place on the cross and be our Savior. We receive the salvation He accomplished for us by that sacrifice. Gather us together from near and far to the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which

has no end. To You alone, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, be all glory, honor, and worship, now and forever.

**Congregation Amen.**

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

Leader Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

Leader As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**Congregation Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Congregation 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**

Leader The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Congregation Amen.**

+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

**628 YOUR TABLE I APPROACH**



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.  
 2 Lord, I con-fess my sins And mourn their wretch-ed bands;  
 3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,  
 4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen-tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.  
 A con-trite heart is sure to find For - give-ness at Your hands.  
 Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.  
 God can ac - com-plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,  
 That earth and hell combined  
 May not about this sacrament  
 Raise doubt within my mind.

6 Oh, may I never fail  
 To thank You day and night  
 For Your true body and true blood,  
 O God, my peace and light.

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt. Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois Text and tune: Public domain

**397 AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD**



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be - hold;  
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to Thy low - ly bed,  
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At Thy cra - dle, rude and bare,  
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the nar - row way;  
 5 In the heav'n-ly coun - try bright Need they no cre - at - ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;  
 There to bend the knee be - fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;  
 So may we with ho - ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
 And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last  
 Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev - er - more be led by Thee.  
So may we with will - ing feet Ev - er seek Thy mer - cy seat.  
All our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.  
There for - ev - er may we sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt. Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872 Text and tune: Public domain

### 394 SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,  
2 Man - i - fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph - et, Priest, and King su-preme;  
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;  
4 Sun and moon shall dark-en ed be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;  
5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest - ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,  
And at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God-head man - i - fest;  
Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell - ing all the dev - il's might;  
Christ will then like light - ning shine, All will see His glo - rious sign;  
Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring - ing good from ill;  
All will then the trum - pet hear, All will see the Judge ap - pear;  
That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - them s be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
An - them s be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
An - them s be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
Thou by all wilt be con-fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-85, alt. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93 Text and tune: Public domain

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Leader Let us pray.  
Thanks be to You, heavenly Father, for refreshing our minds, bodies, and spirits with this Sacrament.

**Congregation Rule us always by Your Holy Spirit that we may serve You constantly;**

Leader through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

Leader The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

**Congregation Amen.**

## 412 THE PEOPLE THAT IN DARKNESS SAT



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious  
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring  
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a  
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In  
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their  
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All  
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.  
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.  
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.  
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

5 His righteous government and pow'r  
Shall over all extend;  
On judgment and on justice based,  
His reign shall have no end,  
His reign shall have no end.

D 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
And make us Thine alone,  
Who with the Father ever art  
And Holy Spirit, one,  
And Holy Spirit, one.

Text: John Morison, 1749–98, alt. Tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561 Text and tune: Public domain

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