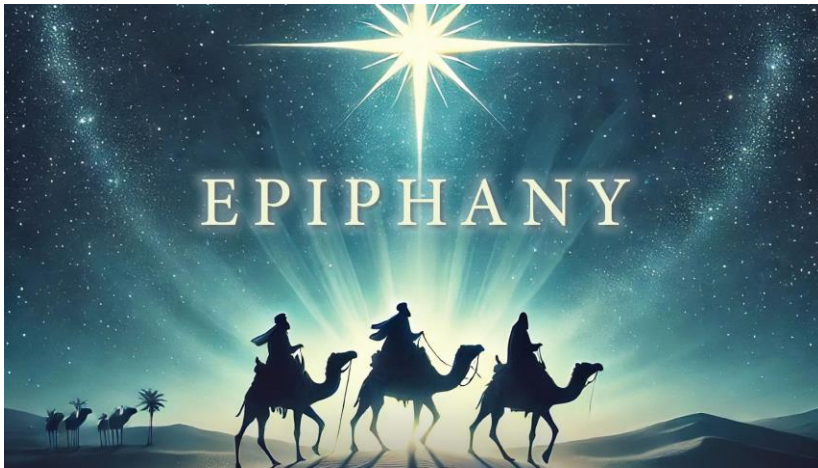


The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

An ELCA, Reconciling in Christ, Rejoicing Spirits, and handicap friendly Congregation

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Epiphany
Sunday, January 5, 2025
8:30 am

The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Ministry in Daily Life

Gathered by God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we invite and welcome all people to join us on our journey
to become more faithful ministers of Jesus Christ
in our homes, our communities, and the world.

We welcome all who worship with us today.

Visitors are invited to sign the guest register located in the lobby.

If you are interested in joining our family of faith,
please talk with one of our Pastors or call the church office.

Children are welcome and celebrated!

The “Children’s Ministry” table and basket in the lobby
contains a variety of items for children’s use during worship.
Stop by to borrow a book or pick up some coloring sheets and crayons.

Please silence all communication devices.

Our services are live streamed and recorded. In-person attendance implies consent
to be included in the live streamed and recorded worship service.

HOLY COMMUNION

All who believe in the presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to receive the Sacrament. To facilitate flow, the ushers invite people to come forward starting with the back rows and working forward. You should come forward using the center aisle to receive the elements in a continuous style from pastor and worship assistant. Afterward you may choose to kneel or stand at the altar rail for a brief moment of prayer or return to your seat up the side aisle, depositing your empty cup in the receptacle on your way. Gluten free wafers are available. Our wine is grape juice so that all may freely receive.

Children may receive the sacrament if they have completed instruction with a pastor.

Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Communion kits are available at the usher stands for those who prefer to remain in their seats, and they will be communed along with our Zoom worshippers at the beginning of distribution.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Gathering Music

Light of the World
Eric Kahler, soloist
Frank Mattes, percussion

Cash / Bergthold

Welcome and Announcements

We rise in body or spirit.

Gathering Dialog

We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Baby born in Bethlehem?'

**We will find the Babe in the laughter of children,
in the wisdom of grandparents.**

We gather asking, 'where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

**We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope,
where the oppressed are set free.**

We gather wanting to know, 'where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

**We will find our hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace,
where hatred is overwhelmed by love,
where all people are overwhelmed by joy.**



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



Refrain
Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of the sunrise and the evening star,
you have revealed to us your love in Jesus Christ:
a love so long expected, yet so surprising in its unfolding.

Gather us from near and far.

Shine through us, that all people would be drawn to your light in us;
through Jesus Christ, in whom we have access to you in boldness
and confidence through faith to pray.

Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching and song.

Reading – Isaiah 60:1-6

Translation: NIV

A reading from Isaiah.

“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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

We rise in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

The Good News from Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

Open our hearts, 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.

This is the Good News!

Thanks be to God!

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Pastor Tami Reichley

We rise in body or spirit.



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
 2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;
 3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
 4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;



“Glo - ry to the new-born king,” Je-sus, the Light of the world.
 join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.
 Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.
 Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Refrain



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Epiphany Affirmation

I believe in God, the creator of the universe, who spoke, “Let there be light!”
and there was light, setting in motion all of creation and blessing it to this day.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the light that shines in the darkness;
 the darkness cannot overcome it.

**He embodied humanity in the image of God,
 and suffered for the greater good.**

**He atoned for our sins and died on the cross for us,
 God's saving grace!**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the guiding light of God in our world.

**Through the Spirit, God conquers the darkness of human sin,
 helps people grow and become the people they are meant to be.**

I believe in the power of transformation,
here in this world and in the world to come.
Amen

Prayers of the People

Invitation to prayer:
Filled with good news of great joy,
let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

After each petition:
Gracious God, you deliver the needy when they call.
Hear our prayers for your people and your creation.

Pastor's closing prayer:
We commend these prayers to you, O God,
trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

May we share signs of peace and love to sustain us in the New Year.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace by saying,
"Peace be with you."*

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

During the Offering Song, the gifts will be brought forward. You may remain seated.
If you wish you may leave your offering in the additional offering plates located on the
tables in the back of the sanctuary as you leave.

Refrain



Born, re - born! Born, re - born! Formed, re - formed!



Souls with glad - ness now a - dorned! Born, re - born! Born, re - born!



Formed, re - formed! Praise our God for - ev - er - more!



1 Drown us. Drown us. Raise us. Raise us.
2 Name us. Name us. Heal us. Heal us.



Mark us. Mark us. Claim us! Claim us!
Wash us. Wash us. Seal us! Seal us!

Refrain

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Generous God, thank you for the gift of Jesus.

Thank you for the gifts of Christmas.

Thank you for inviting us to bring gifts to your world.

Bless the gifts we bring, that they become vessels
of Christ's light and love in all the world.

Amen

We rise in body or spirit.

Great Thanksgiving

People of Advent: the Lord be with you!

And also with you!

People of Christmas: lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts to the One who was born for us.

People of the star: offer your songs of joy and thanksgiving to God.

We will sing our praises to the One

who has revealed glory and hope in the Babe of Bethlehem.

Words of Institution

Word in Meal

As we remember Jesus' birth, as we prepare to journey with him this year,
we speak of that mystery called faith, which is revealed to us through Christ:

Christ came, the morning star of love;

Christ died, the night star of salvation;

Christ arose, the radiant star of resurrection;

Christ will come again, the constellation of hope.

Holy One of stars and sinners, send down your Spirit of hope

upon those gathered around this table,

and on the gifts of the bread and the cup,

that they might make us your faithful and loving children.

Feed us with the bread of hope, so when we leave, we will travel another road,
to defend the weak, to speak for the voiceless, to assist those cast aside.

Refresh us, so we, overwhelmed with joy,

would go forth to enter the houses of the strangers in our midst;

to enter the despair of the lonely and forgotten;

to enter the hearts of everyone we meet.

And when eternity's time begins and we are gathered around your table with friends and family we loved, with those we ignored and mistreated, with all our siblings of grace, we will lift our songs of glad joy to you.

Amen

Lord's Prayer

God in Community, Holy in One, we will proclaim your glory to all, even as we pray, saying,

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

Invitation to the table

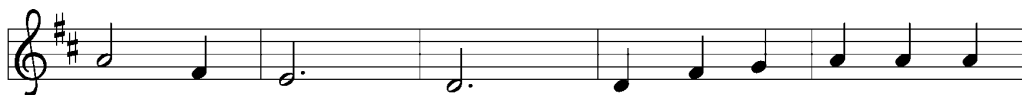
Arise; shine, for the light of Christ is shining upon and within us.
Arise; receive, for the grace of Christ is flowing in and through these gifts.
Gather around. These gifts are for all to share.

The assembly is seated.

Distribution of communion



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Lu - miè - re de Dieu, in - on - de la ter - re, vi - Come light, light of God, give light to cre - a - tion, en - si - te nos coeurs, et de - meure a - vec nous. light - en our hearts, and re - main with your world." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

We rise in body or spirit.

Prayer after communion

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus,
 who is our heavenly food.
 Strengthened by this goodness,
 send us forth to announce your peace,
 comfort the afflicted,
 and share the good news of great joy.
Amen

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Litany of Welcome

Leader: A church family is constantly changing. Loved ones come to the end of their lives. Individuals come and go in our church life. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of welcome with Deacon Reylene Starego, whose time as our Director of Music begins now. Deacon Reylene, in the presence of this congregation, will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, and promise to discharge your duties in harmony with the constitutions of the church?

Deacon: I will and I ask God to help me.

Leader: Will you love, serve, and pray for these people of God, nourishing them in Word and Service, and lead them forward during this important time of change?

Deacon: I will and I ask God to help me.

Leader: Will you lead these people of God in giving faithful witness to the Word of God and in making known the love of God through loving service among them and in this community?

Deacon: I will and I ask God to help me.

Leader: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the power of his Spirit so that you may perform them with strength and compassion.

All: **Amen**

Leader: I ask all of you, now, people of this congregation, will you receive this messenger of Christ, Deacon Reylene Starego, who continues the work of bringing the Gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard her as a fellow servant of Christ and work with her in the ministry of this congregation?

All: **We will.**

Leader: Will you pray for her and honor her for her work's sake and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

All: **We will.**

Leader: By your statements of commitment and the affirmation of this congregation, we welcome you as the Director of Music of this congregation in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Blessing

The God of love, Father, \dagger Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace, illumine your path,
and increase your joy, today and always.
Amen

Sending Song *Please see next page.*

Dismissal

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you.
Thanks be to God.



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. *Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',*
 light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...
 We are praying ...
 We are singing ...

Please join in supporting our church's ministries using your preferred method of giving:



venmo

- Enroll in our on-line giving program, Simply Giving (recommended);
- Mail your offering check to the church;
- Text your offering to 610-981-1312;
- Download our mobile app for recurring or one-time gifts;
- Establish automatic contributions to the church using your bank's bill pay service.

Additional information is located in the Stewardship section of the church's website at: lchsemmaus.org.

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Shari Duminy, Senior Pastor
Pastor Tami K. Reichley, Associate Pastor
Pastor Cindy Camp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Melanie Werley, Director of Liturgy
Deacon Reylene Starego, Director of Music
Karin Kahler, Director, Faith Formation for Children

WORSHIP HELPERS

Assisting Minister

Lindsey K.

Reader

Mark Wimmer

Song Leader

Eric Kahler

Communion Assistants

Linda Devine, Angie Niland

Greeter

Becky Keane

Usher

Lorie Stout Sherman

Production/Technology Team

Al Bauernschmidt, Chuck Coe, Glenn Hinderliter, Jeff Gross, Eric Kahler,
Craig Kauffman, Bill Keane, Paige Mathieu, Tom Moessner, Bob Neitz, Bill Newill,
Kristen Newill, Carol Osenbach, John Osenbach, Chris Pirrotta, Ev Reggie,
Diana Sorrentino, Bob Stevens, and Jimmy Lee Werley

Altar Care

Kitti Berkheimer, Brenda Brookover, Marian Harrison, Terri Hinderliter,
Linda Letts, Carole Osenbach, Nancy Pfeffer, Barb Roba, Deb Stevens,
Julie Timmcke, and Jennifer Wetzel

