

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 4, 2026

WELCOME!

We love that you are here today! Our service is printed for you in this worship folder. Or you can follow the projections on the front wall.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right as you exit the worship space, as well as across the hall as you enter into the school.

Quiet room Parents may use the library in the back of this worship space which still enables you to hear/see the service.

A **Connection Card** and pen are found in the pocket of the chair in front of you. Time will be provided to fill it out during the service. You may drop it in the wicker basket along the wall after the service.

THEME: THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Today we observe “the Epiphany of Our Lord” (actual feast day is January 6). Epiphany comes from the Greek for “shine upon.” When light shines on something, you can see it clearly, it *appears* clearly, it is *revealed*. In the Epiphany season, God reveals through events, miracles and teaching, that Jesus Christ is God the Son, who has *appeared* as the Savior for all people!

Today we see how the non-Jewish Wise Men came to worship Christ in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies that all nations would be part of Christ’s kingdom. The word: *Gentile* means other nations than Old Testament Israel. Since Jesus is the Savior of all people, Jew and Gentile, you can be certain He is *your Savior*.

PLEASE RESPECT OUR PRACTICE OF “CLOSE COMMUNION”

Christ says the Sacrament is an expression of unity (1 Co 10:16-17). We WANT to be unified with you on the basis of Christ and His doctrine! Honesty compels us to ask you to WAIT before communing with us: 1) until you’ve had a chance to find out what we teach; 2) until you make your unity with us evident by membership at Peace. Regular classes are conducted for this purpose (837-5346). WELS & ELS guests please sign a Connection Card and give it to an usher before communing. Thank you.

WHY COMMUNION ON A FIRST SUNDAY?

Normally, the Lord's Supper is celebrated on all Sundays except the first Sunday of the month at Peace. However, we are celebrating the Lord's Supper today because Epiphany has long been recognized as an important day of celebration in the Christian Church, on level with Easter, Ascension and Christmas. Indeed, Epiphany was much more widely celebrated than Christmas in the earliest years of the Christian church.

These special days when we remember key events in the life of our Savior are often called "Festivals" – derived from the word *Feast*. The Lord's Supper is the Lamb's High Feast and therefore very fitting to celebrate on a High Festival like Epiphany. That Jesus is the Savior for the Gentile nations as well as for Israel of old is truly an important truth worth celebrating – and indeed 'receiving' with His true body and blood in the Lord's Supper.

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL

Those who are serving on the Church Administrative Council will be publicly installed at the end of the 8:00 and beginning of the 10:30 services. They are:

Jim Pingel –	President	Brandon VerVelde –	Early Childhood
Dan Larson –	Vice President	Matt Lemke –	Family Ministry
Jake Gosdek –	Elders	Bob Daehling –	Property
Judd Edwards –	Secretary	Brian McCrary –	Adult Discipleship
Michael Gresens–	Financial Bd	Ben Christianson –	Outreach
Tim Gustafson –	School	Kurt Hannahs –	Support Services

We are grateful to our outgoing officers: Jason Schmid and Chris Luckmann for their faithful service to Peace Lutheran Ministries.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presider	Rev. Shaun Arndt
Accompanist	Mrs. Jennifer Werre
Projection Slides	Amy Johnson

OPENING HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old | CW 372:1-3

Please stand

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.¹

Amen.

CONFESSION

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever;

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

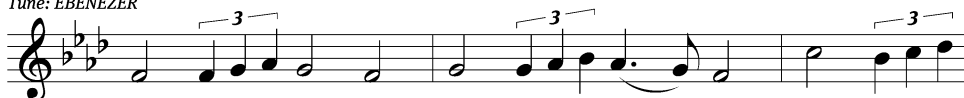
Amen.

¹ This was the Word of God used with the water in your baptism, where not a mere gesture of the cross was put upon you, but rather Jesus' death and resurrection became your own through God's gracious promise (see Romans 6).

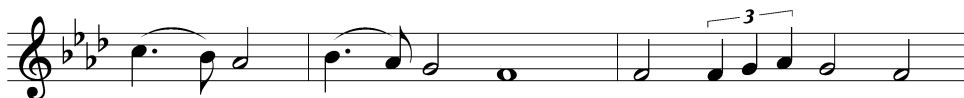
GLORIA²

CW 1021

Tune: EBENEZER



1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en, peace to
2 On - ly Son of God the Fa - ther, Lamb who



those he loves so well. On the earth let
takes our sin a - way, now with him in



all his peo - ple speak his grace, his won - ders tell:
tri - umph seat - ed— for your mer - cy, Lord, we pray:



Lord, we praise you for your glo - ry, might - y
Je - sus Christ, most high and ho - ly, Sav - ior,



Fa - ther, heav - en's King; hear our joy - ful
you are God a - lone in the glo - ry



ad - o - ra - tion and ac - cept the thanks we bring.
of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

Text: Michael A. Perry

Tune: Thomas J. Williams

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Tune: Public domain

² The *Gloria in Exelsis* (meaning: Glory in the Highest) combines the song of the Angels at Jesus' birth (Luke 2:14) with the words of John the Baptizer identifying Jesus as the Lamb of God (John 1:29). We praise God for His mercy and declare that Jesus Christ, true God in our human flesh is the Savior who has delivered us from our sins and set us at peace with God!

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1–6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.

²Look, darkness covers the earth,
and deep darkness covers the peoples,
but the LORD will dawn upon you,
and his glory will be seen over you.

³Nations will walk to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Look up. Look all around and see!
All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you.
Your sons will come from far away,
and people will carry your daughters on their side.

⁵Then you will look and be radiant.
Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.
For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you.
The wealth of the nations will come to you.

⁶Caravans of camels will cover your land,
 young camels from Midian and Ephah.
 All those from Sheba will come.
 They will carry gold and incense,
 and they will announce the good news of the praise of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 72E



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 He comes with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 Kings shall bow down be - fore him and gold and in - cense bring;
 4 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y and bid the weak be strong,
 all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing.
 from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark-ness turn to light
 To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend,
 The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;



to take a - way trans-gres-sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 whose souls, con-demned and dy - ing, are pre-cious in his sight.
 his king-dom still in-creas-ing, a king-dom with - out end.
 his name shall stand for - ev - er—that name to us is Love.

Text: James Montgomery
 Tune: Leonhart Schröter
 Text and tune: Public domain

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 3:2-12

²Surely you have heard of the administration of God's grace given to me for you, ³namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly). ⁴When you read this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. ⁵This mystery was not made known to people in past generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and people who also share in the promise through the gospel.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel, in keeping with the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸To me—even though I am the very least of all the saints—was given this grace: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ ⁹and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia! "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews?

We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ²"Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴He gathered together all the people's chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

⁶You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Three Kings³

**1 We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.**

Refrain

**O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

**2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.**

Refrain

**3 Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising,
voices raising,
Worshipping God on high.**

Refrain

**4 Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life
of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing,
bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**

Refrain

³ The Bible does not tell us the number of the Wise Men, only that there were three gifts. While we do not know if they were kings, that title has often been given since passages like Psalm 72 speak of kings coming to worship the Savior. However, as believers in the Savior, we can say the Wise Men are part of God's Royal Priesthood of believers (cf. 1 Peter 1:9).

**5 Glorious now behold Him arise;
King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Sounds through the earth and skies.
*Refrain***

SERMON

Matthew 2:1-12

God Makes Wise Men

Please stand

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Wise Men, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn.

Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Intercessions

Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING

A musical offering follows—for meditating on the sermon and signing Connection Cards.

Offering plates are found by the doors of the worship space.

A special offering can be made by using this QR code.

"Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. (2Co 9:13)"



Please stand

The Sacrament

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

SANCTUS

CW 1011

Tune: WEBB



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er-last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro-claim.

Text: Michael D. Schultz Tune: George J. Webb Text: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 710622 Tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

AGNUS

CW 1059

Tune: PUER NOBIS



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can - celled
cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will
took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

Text: Michael D. Schultz Tune: Latin, 15th cent.

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Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

Please respect our practice of “Close Communion,” meaning we commune members of Peace and churches affiliated with Peace. For further explanation, please see the front inside cover of this worship folder. Thank you.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Angels from the Realms of Glory | CW 347

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star | CW 370

Please stand

COMMUNION DISMISSAL

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go ☩ in peace.

Amen.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

PRAYER⁴

Dear God, lead us with the Wise Men
by the star of your holy Word
to your Son, Christ Jesus,
and always protect us from every attack.
Then we will return
to our heavenly home country
by another route.
God help us,
through Christ, our King and Priest,
forever and ever.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old | CW 372:4,5

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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⁴ An Epiphany prayer by Martin Luther.