

Welcome!

to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Clay Center, KS

Thank you
for joining us for worship
on:

The Epiphany of Our Lord
(observed)

January 4 & 5, 2025

Worship Folder



St. Paul Lutheran Communion Statement:

COMMUNION WELCOME-God calls upon His people to exercise care in the use of His Supper because harm results when Communion is received without repentance or a right understanding (1 Corinthians 11:23-30) and when fellowship is practiced without agreement in God's Word (Galatians 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:15, 3:14). In Communion Jesus gives us His true Body and Blood, in with and under the bread and wine, to forgive our sins (Matthew 26:26-28 and 1 Corinthians 10:16-21). We also profess agreement in the teachings of the church at whose altar we commune. Thus, we cannot offer this Supper to those who have not received instruction per the mysteries of this meal. We do invite fellow members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to join our members as we receive the Sacrament today. Others are asked to speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. Those who desire to come forward for a blessing are invited to do so, indicating their intent to receive a blessing by crossing their arms in front.

Distribution of the bread is to the hand of the communicant. "Gluten Free" wafers are available. Please let the ushers know PRIOR to service if you are needing this substitution.

Distribution of the wine is by choice of individual cup or common chalice. If you receive with the individual cup, please keep the small cup visible to the minister with the common cup. Individual cups of unfermented grape juice will be provided at the center of each of the trays for those who prefer grape juice over wine. Both are "fruit of the vine" and in the sacrament become means by which Christ grants us his blood to assure us of forgiveness, life and salvation. The unfermented grape juice is light in color.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

AS WE GATHER

Have you ever received a surprise present, one that was out of your own price range to get? That, in a nutshell, describes Epiphany. The Wise Men came to give presents, and instead received one their wealth could not have bought. We are included in this. We are baptized for the forgiveness of sins by His blood on the cross that covers our sins, once for all. That water and blood give us the greatest—and most expensive—gift in the world. Here we see Jesus revealed, manifested, in a star, in the coming of the Magi and the gifts they bring.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Within the Father's House

LSB 410

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father,
C **who called Abram and promised him and his heirs a land flowing with milk and honey;**
- P** and of Jesus, His Son,
C **who was offered once for all as a sacrifice for our sins;**
- P** and of the Holy Spirit,
C **who calls people through Word and Sacrament to believe in Jesus and a gives them a place to live beyond all imagination. Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
C **For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him.**
- P** And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
C **And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.**
- P** For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
C **and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.**
- P** Do you recognize the truth—that you have not loved God with your whole heart nor loved your neighbor as yourself?
C **I confess that I have failed to keep the two great commandments by what I have done and what we have failed to do. Heavenly Father, I don't deserve Your forgiveness, but ask for it because of the greatest love shown at the cross.**
- P** Hear the great news: God has used two common earthly elements—water and blood—to forgive your sins and make you His very own. Through the cross of Christ and the blood of Jesus shed there, and because you have been baptized, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Thank You, Lord, for revealing Your mercy and grace to me on this great day of Epiphany.**
- P** Lord Jesus, thank You for shedding Your blood and giving us the waters of Holy Baptism,
C **by which You sacrificed Your life for ours and made us a part of Your family forever. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT

- P** I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise You forever and ever.
C **Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;**
- P** You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.
C **Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions; 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 beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

- P** I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations;
- C** **therefore nations will praise You forever and ever.**

KYRIE

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For revealing Your Son to the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For the peace of the whole world and the well-being of Your people, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For all who come here to give the sacrifice of praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** Enlighten us, encourage us, and keep us in the true faith that leads to eternal life.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

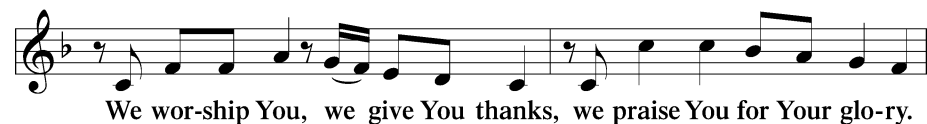
HYMN OF PRAISE

Gloria in Excelsis

- P** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



- C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a - lone are the Ho - ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
Almighty God, on this day of Epiphany, we ask that You would shine forth upon our hearts, that we may be renewed by Your grace; this we

ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit is one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 72:1–15

P Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,

C who alone does wondrous things.

P Give the king Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to the royal son!

C May He judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice!

P Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!

C May He defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!

P May they fear You while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

C May He be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!

P In His days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

C May He have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!

P May desert tribes bow down before Him and His enemies lick the dust!

C May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render Him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! May all kings fall down before Him, all nations serve Him!

P For He delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper.

C He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

P From oppression and violence He redeems their life, and precious is their blood in His sight.

C 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!

P Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,

C who alone does wondrous things.

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

P Alleluia. Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?

C **For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.**
Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1–12

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

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

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:

⁶“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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

The People That in Darkness Sat

LSB 412

SERMON

NICENE CREED

C **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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, You revealed Your Son to Gentiles on the day of Epiphany.

C **Use us, we pray, to bring light and peace where there is none right now.**

P Lord Jesus, You were willing to shed Your blood on the cross for our forgiveness and have given us the hope of salvation.

C **Thank You for shedding Your blood and giving us the waters of Holy Baptism to make us Your own sons and daughters through faith in You.**

P As You cared for the sick and still do, we remember before Your throne those among us who are sick and in need of Your care, especially Stan, Larry, Mary Ann, Kayla, Dottie, Gary, Sharon, Mary, Dena, Kinsey, Loyde, Mark, Janet, Larry, Jill, Keith, Gary, Greg, Jackie, Arnold, Hank, Sandy, Taylor, Arnie, William, Steve, Mike, Sandy, Irene, John, Greg, Melissa, Benjamin, Brian, Jennifer, Gail, Sharon, Lois, Lee, Melissa, Darlene, Darla, Rachelle, Joe, Taylor, Sheila, Donald, Sandy, Grant, Grace, Connie, Kerri, Ethan, Luke, and Ella; the shut-in: Bonnie, Irma, Georgie, Betty, Julie, Cedric, Bob, Lola, Pauline, and Larry.

C **As You did in Your earthly ministry, continue to love, care, touch, and heal them according to Your will.**

P For Your kingdom, invisible to human eyes yet so very real, we lift up our voices in prayer.

C **We pray that You would use us by the working of Your Holy Spirit to open hearts and eyes to Your love and see Your kingdom.**

P Merciful Father in heaven, You hold all authority and power in Your hands. Use those whom You have installed as rulers over us for our good and not our harm.

C **Use them to bring about blessing to those who are bringing justice and peace to our lands and to stop evildoers in their tracks.**

P We also remember those who are persecuted for Your name.
C **For those who have to endure torture and persecution, give them the hope of their eternal reward.**

P Almighty God, You are the fountain of all wisdom. You know what we need before we ever ask, even when we do not know what to ask or even how to ask.

C **We are but mortal men and women, but You are immortal, invisible, and wise. Look upon us with compassion, care for us, and meet our needs.**

P These things we ask, almighty God, in Your name, trusting that in Your mercy and according to Your will, You will not only hear our prayers but answer them.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING

Genesis 4:4 "Abel brought the best, the choicest parts of the "firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering."

OFFERTORY

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my

vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. He is the long-awaited prophet and Savior, the Holy One who has destroyed the power of the devil and gives forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation by His sacrifice on the cross. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P 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

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

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P 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

C **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

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

AGNUS DEI



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

LSB 394

As with Gladness Men of Old

LSB 397

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways


LSB 707

All My Heart Again Rejoices


LSB 360

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Nunc Dimittis



C Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -
veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.
Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P** Let us pray.
Lord Jesus, we give You thanks for this Meal of Your all-availing sacrifice of Your true body and blood on the cross. Continue to reveal Yourself to us through Your Word and Spirit until that great day comes when we join You at the marriage feast of the Lamb in Your kingdom, which will have no end. This we ask in Your name, who with the Father and Holy Spirit is one God, yesterday, today, and forever.
- C** Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P 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.

C Amen.

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

LSB 386

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1.
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