



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are brothers and sisters in Christ who are about **“Proclaiming God’s grace through faith and love.”**

If you are a visitor, please make yourself at home and don’t hesitate to ask a question. There will be the celebration of Holy Communion in the **8:00a.m. service** today. If you are not a member of Grace and desire to commune, please speak with the pastor **before the service**. If you are physically unable to commune at the altar, the pastor would be happy to serve you in your pew. Please, notify an usher before the service begins.

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 5, 2025

Today in Worship

- 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.
- The back of the bulletin throughout 2025 is going to contain info on the Formula of Concord reading plan. We wish to see everyone stay active in reading this year whether you choose to read daily in the Bible or you choose to also join in reading through the Lutheran Confessions.



Ringling of the Bells

Announcements (10:30am Service)

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #400

“Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning”

Invocation & Sentences

Psalm 40:1-3

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

C Amen.

P Arise, shine, for your light has come!

C **Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.**

P All the nations shall come to the light of Christ.

C **Kings shall bring Him gifts.**

P For Christ reveals the mystery hidden through the ages,

C **that all nations are partakers of the promise in Jesus Christ.**

Confession & Absolution

P Through the Gospel, all people are fellow heirs of salvation and members of the same Body. Yet there have been times when we have failed to live in unity, when we have failed to treat our brothers and sisters in Christ with respect and honor. Our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

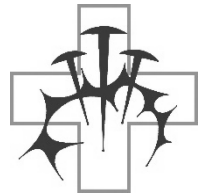
Silence for reflection

P Heavenly Father,

C **we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have created division and discord. We have hidden the light of Christ from others. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us with the light of Christ, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy sent His Son, Jesus, into our world to shine as a light for all people, including You. Jesus has died for your sins and is risen for your righteousness. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.



Psalm 72:1-11



- P** Give the king your justice, | O God, *
- C** and your righteousness to the | royal son!
- P** May he judge your people with | righteousness, *
- C** and your poor with | justice!
- P** Let the mountains bear prosperity for the | people, *
- C** and the hills, in | righteousness!
- P** May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give
deliverance to the children of the | needy, *
- C** and crush the op- | pressor!
- P** May they fear you while the | sun endures, *
- C** and as long as the moon, throughout all gener- | ations!
- P** May he be like rain that falls on the | mown grass, *
- C** like showers that wa- | ter the earth!
- P** In his days may the righteous | flourish, *
- C** and peace abound, till the moon | be no more!
- P** May he have dominion from | sea to sea, *
- C** and from the River to the ends | of the earth!
- P** May desert tribes bow down be- | fore him, *
- C** and his enemies | lick the dust!
- P** May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render
him | tribute; *
- C** may the kings of Sheba and Seba | bring gifts!
- P** May all kings fall down be- | fore him, *
- C** all nations | serve him!
- C** Glory be to the Father and | to the Son *
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | -ginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Lutheran Service Book #397
"As With Gladness Men of Old"

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

"Isaiah boldly predicts that nations from everywhere would come to the light of the Messiah, which they have and still are doing."

L The Old Testament Reading for the Epiphany of our Lord is from Isaiah, chapter 60.

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

² For 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.

³ And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴ Lift 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ A 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

“He was revealed to and for the Gentiles as well as the Jews.”

L The Epistle Reading is from Ephesians, chapter three.

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

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

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse

Matthew 2:2b

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

“The visit of the Wise Men”

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

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

¹ 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, ² 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.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They 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.’”

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And 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 Nicene Creed *8:00am service*

The Apostles Creed *10:30am service*

Message for Children from God's Word

Hymn of the Day

*Lutheran Service Book #394
"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"*

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Light of the world,

C dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

Responses after each petition:

P ...let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

The prayers conclude:

P May Your light shine on us and bring forth the fruits of repentance in our daily lives. Give us confidence in Your Word, that we would embrace Your holy will without fear. Hear and answer us, we pray, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Offering

"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, frankincense and myrrh."

– Matthew 2:11



We encourage you to place your offering in the dropbox in the narthex before service. As the usher brings the offering forward at this time you may also hold it up and place it in the plate as the usher walks by. Please also use this time for prayer and reflection upon what we have heard from the Lord's Word this morning.

Offertory "What Shall I Render" / Psalm 116 LSB p. 159-160

(10:30 a.m. Services continue page 11 of the Worship Folder.)

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8:00 a.m. Service

Service of the Sacrament

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

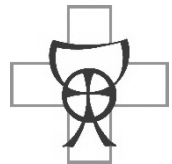
Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor.

Preface Sung LSB p. 161

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should...

... evermore praising You and saying:



Sanctus "Holy, Holy, Holy" LSB p. 161

Lord's Prayer Spoken LSB p. 162

The Words of our Lord <i>Spoken</i>	LSB p. 162
Pax Domini <i>“The Peace of Our Lord”</i>	LSB p. 163
Agnus Dei <i>“Lamb of God”</i>	LSB p. 163

Distribution Hymns

“The First Noel”	STTL # 178
“We Three Kings”	STTL # 191
“God Loves Me Dearly”	STTL # 172

Thank the Lord	LSB p. 164
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Thanksgiving

P For the joy of creation and the beauty that points us to You as the Creator of all,

C we thank You, Lord.

P For the joy of Your promise to Adam and Eve to send a Savior,

C we thank You, Lord.

P For the joy of Your sending prophets to people who had again rebelled against You,

C we thank You, Lord.

P For the joy of the wise men who, having followed the star, found their Savior bringing Him gifts of worship,

C we thank You, Lord.

P For the joy of Jesus who proclaimed and demonstrated the coming Kingdom, and who suffered, died, rose, and ascended,

C we thank You. We praise You. We adore You, Lord. Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Greeting of Peace & Announcements

Closing Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #399

“The Star Proclaims the King is Here”

This concludes the 8:00 a.m. Service

XX

10:30 a.m. Service

The Lord’s Prayer

Thanksgiving

P For the joy of creation and the beauty that points us to You as the Creator of all,

C we thank You, Lord.

P For the joy of Your promise to Adam and Eve to send a Savior,

C we thank You, Lord.

P For the joy of Your sending prophets to people who had again rebelled against You,

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C Amen.

Greeting of Peace

Closing Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #399
"The Star Proclaims the King is Here"

Formula of Concord Reading Plan

January – Week 1 – The Week of January 5

The Topic this Month: Original Sin

Read:

- Epitome "Summary" 1-8 (p. 473-474)
- Epitome Article I, paragraph 1 (p. 474)
- Augsburg Confession Article II (p. 31-32)



Grace
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