

HOLY COMMUNION



Epiphany of Our Lord
January 4, 2009 + 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Central - in the heart of the city, welcomes all people to celebrate, discover and share the love of Christ

Christ our star shines throughout the night

Epiphany means "manifestation." On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi's adoration of the Christ child, Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God's grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Variations on "O Morning Star How Fair and Bright"

The carillon calls the assembly to worship.

The assembly stands to face the cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

(hymn) 300

"The First Noel"

*verse 1 - all; 2 - women; 3 - all in harmony; 4 - men; 5 - all;
the refrain is sung by all in harmony after each verse.*

GREETING

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!

Grace to you, and peace from God who shines among us.

All And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P ...one God, now and forever.

All Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children are invited to come forward; parents are welcome to come with their children.



*God speaks to us in
scripture reading,
preaching,
and song*

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her, because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

FIRST READING

Nations come to the light

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought 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 proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

🔊 Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

The gospel's promise for all

Ephesians 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles –
²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,
³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,
⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.
⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power.
⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,
⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;
¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.
¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,
¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord.

🔊 Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL PROCESSION

Psalm *All kings shall bow down before him.* Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

All

We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.

Choir Give the king your justice, O God,
 and your righteousness to the King's son;
 that he may rule your people righteously
 and the poor with justice.

All

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!

Choir In his time shall the righteous flourish;
 there shall be an abundance of peace
 till the moon shall be no more.
 He shall rule from sea to sea,
 and from the river to the ends of the earth.

His foes shall bow down before him,
 and his enemies lick the dust.

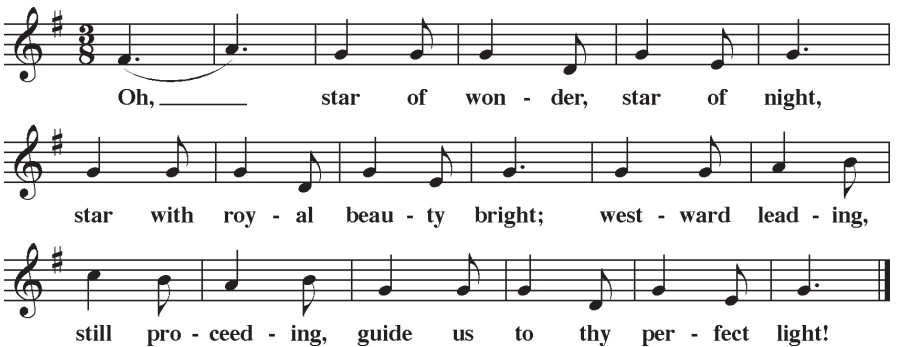
The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,
 and the rulers of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

All

Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gifts we
 bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.

Choir All kings shall bow down before him
 and all the nations do him service.

For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress,
and the oppressed who has no helper.
He shall have pity on the lowly and poor
and shall preserve the lives of the needy.

AD  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!

GOSPEL

Christ revealed to the nations

Matthew 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

AD **Glory to you, O Lord.**

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.



In the time of King Herod,
after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,
wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking,
“Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?
For we observed his star at its rising,
and have come to pay him homage.”

³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;
⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people,
he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.
⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea;
for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men
and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.
⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying,
“Go and search diligently for the child;
and when you have found him,
bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

⁹When they had heard the king, they set out;
and there, ahead of them,
went the star that they had seen at its rising,
until it stopped over the place where the child was.
¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped,
they were overwhelmed with joy.

¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother;
and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests,
they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

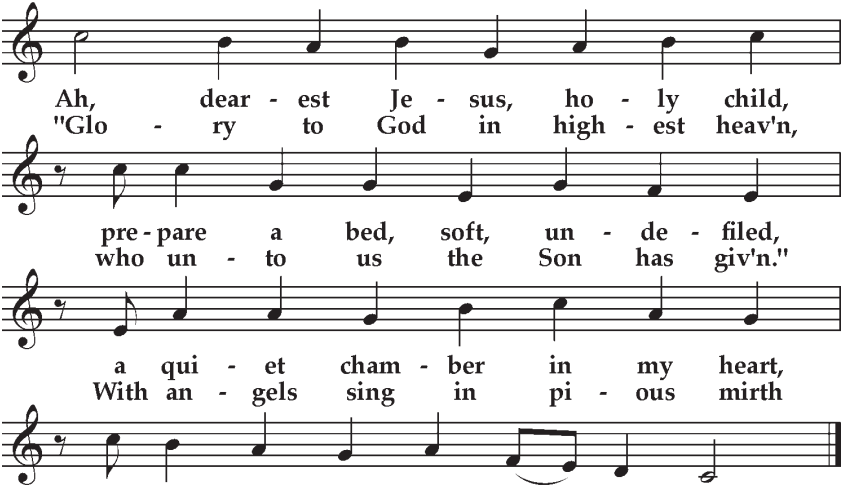
¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod,
they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.

AD **Praise to you, O Christ.**

GOSPEL PROCESSION

A



Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly child,
"Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n,
pre - pare a bed, soft, un - de - filed,
who un - to us the Son has giv'n."
a qui - et cham - ber in my heart,
With an - gels sing in pi - ous mirth
that you and I may nev - er part.
a glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: attr. Martin Luther; *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539

SERMON

Pastor Rick Nelson

"A Word to the Wise"

silence for reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY

(hymn) 301

"Bright and Glorious Is the Sky"

stanzas 1 & 2 - all; 3 - men; 4 - all; 5 - women; 6 - all

*ELW uses an updated
ecumenical form of the
Nicene Creed.*

NICENE CREED

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

A We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Rejoicing that the grace of God has been revealed in the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

after each petition:

Lord in your mercy,

Al hear our prayer.

P Trusting in your mercy, O saving God,
we commend to you all for whom we pray,
through the one born among us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Al Amen.

MEAL

GATHERING OF GIFTS

While the collection is received lay ministers prepare the table.

The assembly stands as the procession reaches the chancel.

"They Followed the Star"

Gerhard Track

*Saw you never in the twilight, when the sun had left the skies,
up in heaven the clear stars shining through the gloom, like silver eyes?
So of old the wise men watching, saw a little stranger star,
and they knew the King was given and they followed it from far.*

*Heard you never of the story how they crossed the desert wild.
Journeyed on by plain and mountain till they found the Holy Child?
How they opened all the treasure kneeling to the Infant King.
Gave the gold and fragrant incense in an offering.*

*Know ye not that lowly baby was the bright and morning star?
He who came to light the Gentiles and the darkened isles afar?
And, we too, may seek his cradle; there our hearts best treasures bring;
Love and faith and true devotion for our Savior God and King.*

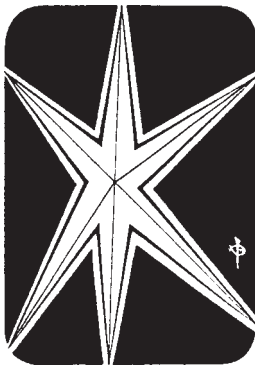
Offertory Prayer

A Together let us pray:

Al Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

**Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
our selves, our time, and our possessions.
Use us, and what we have gathered,
in feeding the world with your love,
through the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*God feeds us
with the presence
of Jesus Christ*



GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

All are invited to receive these gifts of God.

Grape juice and gluten-free bread are available upon request.

Children are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.

Communion at this service is served standing by intinction. Please follow the direction of the ushers to a communion station. Receive the bread and dip it in the chalice of wine.



Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer (1975)

A 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.

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to the Table

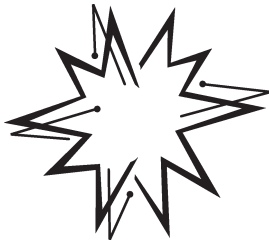
P See, hear, come and dine!
The reign of heaven has come near!

Communion

Table Blessing and Prayer after Communion

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
A Amen.

God blesses and sends us
in mission to the world



- A** God of abundance,
you have fed us with the presence of Christ.
Use us as beacons of light and bearers of Christ's love
for the sake of the whole world.
In Jesus' name we pray.
- All** Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

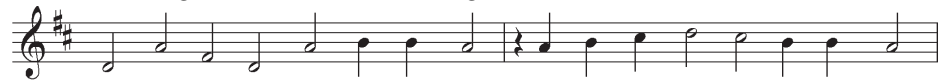
- P** May the love of Jesus Christ,
the light of the world,
fill your hearts and illumine your path.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

- All** Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"



O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's own truth and light,
Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us, when not yet be - gun
Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there falls from God a - bove
Oh, let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with mus - ic crowned,



a - glow with grace and mer - cy! Of Ja - cob's race, King Da - vid's Son,
was this old earth's foun - da - tion! Your Son has ran - somed us in love
a ray of pur - est plea - sure. Your Word and Spir - it, flesh and blood
our voic - es gai - ly blend - ing! For Christ goes with us all the way;



Our Lord and mas - ter, you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly!
to live in him here and a - bove; this is your great sal - va - tion.
re - fresh our souls with heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure!
to - day, to - mor - row, ev - 'ry day! His love is nev - er end - ing!



Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious,
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing
Let your mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us!
Sing out! Ring out! Ju - bi - la - tion! Ex - ul - ta - tion!



rich in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
life for - ev - er, keeps us yours and failes us nev - er!
For you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
Tell the sto - ry! Great is he, the King of glo - ry!

Words: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. hymnal version, 1978
Used by permission

Music: *Wie schon leuchtet*, Philipp Nicolai

DISMISSAL

Please face the entrance for the dismissal.

- A** Go in peace. Your light has come.
All **Thanks be to God.**

The carillon sends the assembly into mission.

POSTLUDE

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

Jan Bender

*Portions of the liturgy are from Sundays and Seasons.com © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.
All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress liturgies license #26515.*



SERVING TODAY

Pastor Rick Nelson	<i>presiding</i>
Sonja Pederson	<i>assisting minister</i>
Mark Sedio	<i>director of music/organist</i>
Jane Lien	<i>associate musician</i>
Thomas Dreeze, Roy Heilman, Dave Nelson	<i>trio</i>
David Molvik, Mark Brodin Bob Boldt	<i>sound operators cover design</i>
Diane Nimmer	<i>reader, 8:30</i>
Lois Wolff	<i>reader, 11:00</i>
Dave Dahl	<i>radio announcer</i>
Barb Hoernemann, Allison Winblad, Kathy Fiscus	<i>communion ministers</i>
Chuck & Joyce Anderson, Jerry & Rebecca Sundquist	<i>hosts and greeters</i>

WELCOME!

YOU HAVE APPEARED, O CHRIST, THE
LIGHT OF LIGHT! TO YOU THE MAGI
BRING GIFTS! ALLELUJA · ALLELUJA!



Everyone is welcome. As a community of the people of God, the members of Central Lutheran Church are called to welcome all people regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male or female” (Galatians 3:28). Christ has made us one.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. We invite guests to complete the “Welcome to Central” card found in the pew racks and leave it with an usher or place it in the offering plate. If you would like more information about Central, please speak to a staff member or call the church at 612-870-4416.

Children are welcome at all services. Worship bulletins for children and activity bags are available at Sanctuary entrances. If you would prefer to use Central’s nursery (available for children ages four and younger), you will find it on the second floor of the Education Building. An usher will be glad to assist you.

Welcome to the Lord’s Table. All are welcome at the Lord’s Table. Please follow the guidance of the ushers and instructions in the order of service. During communion, ministers will bring bread and wine to persons in designated access seating areas. If you are not in a designated access seating area and desire to commune where you are seated, please notify an usher who will direct communion ministers to come and serve you. Communion may be received in one kind (only bread or only wine) from any station if wheat bread or alcohol presents a health concern. Gluten-free breads and alcohol-free wine are available by request at most liturgies from most communion stations.

We envision becoming a thriving, vibrant model of urban Lutheran ministry for the 21st century. This lofty vision requires us to ask each day if our goals for worship, learning, and service are clearly reaching a diverse neighborhood and city in language and action that reflect the world as well as our heritage.



Large print service folders,
assisted listening devices, and access seating
are available to aid your participation in worship.
Please inquire with an usher.



CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
*in the heart of the city, welcomes all people
to celebrate, discover and share the love of Christ*
333 South Twelfth Street • Minneapolis, MN 55404
Office – 612.870-4416 • Infoline – 612.767-9101 • www.centralmpls.org

