



Epiphany

Eucharist

Sunday, January 4, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Exploring the promise of God for all

You are welcome. No exceptions.

Central Lutheran Church experiences God's expansive love and strives to share it abundantly. We affirm all people without regard to age, race, biological sex, housing status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, immigration, refugee or migration status, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, and physical or mental health or ability. All are a part of God's family, created in God's image.

We strive to practice radical hospitality with all people and work toward racial equity. Everyone is invited to immerse themselves in the life of this community of faith as we explore the promise of God for all.

Worship



Bold print indicates responses spoken by all.



Congregational hymns are found printed in this bulletin or in the red hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW).



You are encouraged to listen to your body and stand or remain seated at any point in the service.



Masks are welcome, but not required.



Children are welcome and celebrated in worship. Each Sunday there are Children's Bags at each of the ushers' tables at the entrances to the sanctuary. Inside each bag is a worship activity and snack. Many families sit near the children's tables next to the baptismal font, but you are welcome to sit anywhere in the sanctuary that is comfortable to you.



All are welcome to receive communion at Central. At the ushers' invitation, you will proceed toward the altar where there are regular and gluten-free wafers served with wine or grape juice. Your server will offer bread and wine for all, including children. If you prefer to receive a blessing rather than communion, please let your server know.



Offering can be made online using the QR code in the bulletin or left in the offering plates just outside the sanctuary doors.

MEMBERS OF:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | www.elca.org

Align Minneapolis | www.alignmpls.org

ReconcilingWorks | www.reconcilingworks.org



PRELUDE

“Das Alte Jahr Vergangen Ist,” BWV 614

Johann Sebastian Bach

(At the sound of the bell, please stand)



The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on this first day of the week.

Gathering

OPENING SENTENCES

Long ago, Christians began celebrating the magi arriving in Bethlehem. Watching the sky and following stars set their minds on heavenly things.

**The light held power that changed their course,
and opened their dreams
to more beauty and justice
than the earth had ever known.**

We wish to begin this year by celebrating the possibilities beyond our own earthly will, to watch the sky and follow the stars so that we remember that we are all made of heaven's own dreams.

**The flames are dancing and warm
in this long winter season,
a sign of what could be the way,
and guide toward purpose and love
that threaten this world's callous comfort.**

We mark the thresholds of home with chalk like stardust to remind us where to look and how to travel with wonder.

GATHERING HYMN

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!”

Hymn 308

Stanzas 1, 2, 4, and 5

GREETING

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

1st time: leader
2nd time: All

(Organ)

Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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.

1st time: leader
2nd time: All

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 -

1st time: leader
2nd time: all

ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the

Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
 you alone are the Most High,
 Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father.
 Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your 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)



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

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

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

² For darkness shall cover the earth
 and thick darkness the peoples,
 but the Lord will arise upon you,
 and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light
 and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

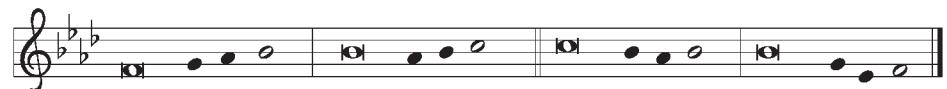
⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;

Word

they all gather together; they come to you;
 your sons shall come from far away,
 and your daughters shall be carried in 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.

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14



Choir: ¹*Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,*
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
²*that he may rule your | people righteously*
and the | poor with justice;
³*that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,*
and the | hills, in righteousness.

All: ⁴**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,**
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.
⁵**May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,**
from one generation | to another.

Choir: ⁶*Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,*
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
⁷*In his time may the | righteous flourish;*
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon
shall | be no more.

All: ¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,**
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.
¹¹**May all kings bow | down before him,**
and all the nations | do him service.

Choir: ¹²*For the king deliv- | ers the poor*
who cry out | in distress;
[he delivers] | the oppressed,
and those who | have no helper.

All: ¹³**He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,**
and preserves the lives | of the needy.
¹⁴**From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,**
and precious is their blood | in his sight.

(Please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e-ter-nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

“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.””

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then 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.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On 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. ¹² And 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.
Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Bright and Glorious Is the Sky”

Hymn 301

Stanza 1: unison,

*stanza 2: high voices, stanza 3: low voices,
stanzas 4-5: harmony, stanza 6: unison*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Empowered by the news of Christ’s birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

Each petition concludes:

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ’s birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please be seated)

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Beautiful Savior”

Arr. F. Melius Christiansen

*Fair are the meadows,
Fairer the woodlands,
Robed in flow’rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.*

*Beautiful Savior! Lord of the Nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forever more be thine!*



*Scan to make a
financial offering.*



God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Meal

(Please stand)

PRESENTATION HYMN “What Child Is This”

Hymn 296
Stanza 3

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also 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.

It is indeed right...and join in their unending hymn:

(Organ)

Ho - ly, ho - ly,

ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er 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.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God...
...For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
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.

(Please be seated)

All are invited to receive these gifts of God.

Children are welcome to come forward and receive communion or a blessing.

COMMUNION

“Lamb of God”



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

“The First Noel”

Hymn 300



God blesses us and sends us for shared mission in our shared world.

(Please stand)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sending

BENEDICTION

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope [†] by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Brightest and Best of the Stars”

Hymn 303

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

Setting, Johann Pachelbel

Serving Today

Pastor Melissa Pohlman	<i>preacher</i>
Pastor Stephanie Friesen	<i>presider</i>
Ron Fiscus	<i>assisting</i>
Betty Ann Bergland	<i>reading</i>
Sara Gunsch	<i>crucifer</i>
Central Choir	<i>ensemble</i>
Joe Osowski	<i>choir director</i>
Isaac Drewes	<i>organist</i>
Henry Rye	<i>organ scholar</i>
Mark Kieffer	<i>video/sound</i>
Karen Snyder	<i>host</i>

Thanks to:

Sacristans, Usher, Hospitality Ministry, and Décor Teams.

Chancel flowers this week are given by Central Lutheran Church.

If you wish to donate flowers, please contact Judy Korogi at 612-788-1288.

Portions of the liturgy are from SundaysandSeasons.com

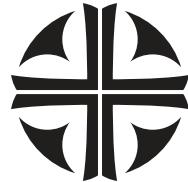
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An Everyday Church for Everyone

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