

St. Johns Lutheran Church



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St. Johns Lutheran Church

3738 Morganford Rd. St. Louis, Missouri 63116

The Epiphany of Our Lord (observed)

January 4th, 2026

Divine Service Setting 2

LSB 167

AS WE GATHER

We humans aren't the only ones celebrating Epiphany! Though the whole earth shall be covered with darkness, "nations shall come to Your light" (Isaiah 60:3). Isaiah mentions the wealth of all nations, and we are reminded of the Magi bearing gifts. We have gifts, too, of a spiritual nature, connecting other people with our gracious God, "in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith" (Ephesians 3:12). "Singing camels"? Well, who really carried the gold and silver so far? The camels, Isaiah writes, "shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD" (Isaiah 60:6). If the camels are praising God, so must we. Get ready to celebrate!

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME (Bienvenido, स्वागत छ, Chào mừng, 환영, ようこ,

Bienvenue, Karibu, እንኳን ደህና መጡ, Baga nagaan dhuftu) **ALL**

We're glad you are here! If you are visiting for the first time, please make it a point to introduce yourself to the pastor. Please take time to fill out an attendance card and drop it in the basket during the offering. Please consider liking us on Facebook (St. Johns Lutheran Church – St. Louis City) and checking out our website (<https://stjohnslutheranlouis.org/>).

If you have a prayer request that you would like offered during the service, please grab one of the blue sheets of paper next to the bulletins and place it in the basket during offering.

PREPARATION

HYMN

"The People That in Darkness Sat"

LSB 412

**The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.**

**To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness,
The gath'ring nations come;
They joy as when the reapers bear
Their harvest treasures home,
Their harvest treasures home.**

**To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulder ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n,
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.**

**His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored,
The God by all adored.**

**His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.**

Stand

**Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.**

INVOCATION *(Stand as you are able)*

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Ephesians 3:12;* *Psalms 72:11*

In Christ, we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.

May all kings fall down before Him, all nations serve Him!

In repentant faith, we come before our Lord in confession.

Silence for reflection.

Almighty God, King of all,

we confess to You that we are sinful by nature. We have lived in darkness rather than light. Our selfish thoughts, harmful words, and faithless actions reveal our sinfulness. But for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, who became flesh for us, we pray, forgive us our sins. Amen.

God's grace is revealed in the birth, life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He has brought light to this world darkened by sin. In the stead and by the command of Jesus, I announce to you the full forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

INTROIT *Psalms 45:6–8a; antiphon: v. 17 (Spoken)*

I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;

you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

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.
I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

KYRIE LSB 168

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Angels We Have Heard on High” *LSB 368*

**Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song? [Refrain]**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]**

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Amen.

WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 60:1–6 (sit)*

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8 (Spoken)*

Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol Him, all peoples!

For great is His steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

bring an offering, and come into His courts!

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE *LSB 173 (Stand as you are able)*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 2:1–12*

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

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *(Sit)*

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” *LSB 395*

**O Morning Star, how fair and Bright!
You shine with God's own truth and light,
Aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's race, King David's Son,
Our Lord and master, You have won
Our hearts to serve You only!
Lowly holy! Great and glorious, All victorious,
Rich in blessing! Rule and might o'er all possessing!**

**Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,
And deep within our hearts now shine;
There light a flame undying!
In your one body let us be
As living branches of a tree,
Your life our lives supplying.
Now, through daily Earth's deep sadness May perplex us
And distress us, Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.**

**Lord, when You look on us in love,
At once there falls from God above
A ray of purest pleasure.
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food.
You are our dearest Treasure!
Let Your mercy Warm and Cheer us! O draw near us!
For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.**

**Almighty Father, in Your Son
You loved us when not yet begun
Was this old earth's foundation!
Your Son has ransomed us in love
To live in Him here and above:
This is Your great salvation.
Alleluia! Christ the living, To us giving
Life forever, Keeps us Yours and fails us never!**

**O let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gladly blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation!
Tell the Story! Great is He the King of Glory!**

**What joy to know, when life is past,
The Lord we love is first and last,
The end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place
Beyond all tears and Sinning!
Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of Gladness!
We are yearning For the day of Your returning!**

SERMON

APOSTLE'S CREED *(Stand as you are able)*

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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

OFFERING *(Sit)*



(Scan this code with your phone if you would like to give online)

OFFERTORY

LSB 176

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,

in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Stand as you are able)*

Arise, shine, for your light has come. We pray for the church here and around the world. For as the Magi saw the star, many people will see the glory of the Lord and come to faith, let us pray to the Lord.

Wonderful Counselor, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of this nation and the nations of the world, that they use their many resources for the poor, remember the disadvantaged, provide for lawful order within their borders, and seek peace with their neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.

Mighty God, hear our prayer.

Lift up your eyes all around and see. We pray for the lonely—those alone at home; those separated from loved ones, including armed forces deployed; and all those forgotten by the rest of society—that God would move caring people to surround them with His love. Let us pray to the Lord.

Everlasting Father, hear our prayer.

The Magi brought gold and frankincense. We pray for charitable organizations in our parish and community, that by the grace of God, we all may experience growth in faith as the Gospel moves from ears to heart, and from conviction to serving God and loving one another. Let us pray to the Lord.

Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.

Special Petitions.... Let us pray to the Lord.

hear our prayer.

Into Your hands, gracious God, who sent Your Son to be light in this dark world, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26* LSB 183

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.

Amen.

HYMN “As with Gladness Men of Old” LSB 397

**As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.**

**Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.**

**In the heav'nly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.**

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|--------------------|---------------------|
| Preacher | Pastor Ben Wescoatt |
| Liturgist | Pastor Ben Wescoatt |
| Lector | Ray Gluesenkamp |
| Elder | Earl Welch |
| Organist | Suzanne Manelli |
| Children's Message | Pastor Ben Wescoatt |
| Bible Class | Pastor Ben Wescoatt |

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Announcements

Saved to Share Called to Care

Our Response to God's Love last Week:

10:00 Attendance/Communion: 63/48

Offering: \$1,792.00

2025 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS & 2026 CALENDARS are available for pickup in the Narthex.

ORGAN FUND REQUEST

Our Organ Fund is in need of a boost. This fund is used to repair the organ and for yearly tunings. We have more repair work that needs to be done. Please consider giving a donation to this fund so that we can continue to keep our organ in its best condition. Thank you for your help.

SUBSTITUTE GROUP MENTOR POSITION

Compass is looking to hire a part time substitute group mentor. The substitute would fill in for a mentor if he/she is absent. Whenever possible, advance notice will be given when services are needed. Requirements for this position include creating a safe space for children, and implementing the lesson plans that the mentor has created. If you are interested, please email your resume to Jaylynn Mennel atcestjcompass.afterschool@gmail.com For more information, contact Compass Director Jaylynn Mennel at (314)-791-5820.

WOL POSITION AVAILABLE FOR 2026-2027

WOL is pleased to announce the launch of a new Summer Camp program within our school ministry. Our goal is to offer a Christ-centered, nurturing day camp experience for both our students and families in the surrounding community.

To support this initiative, WOL is adding a full-time, 12-month Assistant Principal position. This individual will provide leadership for the Summer Camp program and oversee our Early Childhood classrooms.

For a full job description, additional information, or to apply, please contact Principal Melissa Bergholt at 314-832-1244 ext. 111

or mbergholt@wordoflifeschool.net.

SOMETHING NEW FOR THE NEW YEAR? Are you a Special Education Teacher looking for a new calling and challenge? Are you a retired Special Education Teacher seeking to use your gifts and experience in a ministry setting? Consider working for LASE Specialized Education. LASE (Lutheran Association for Special Education) has part-time and full-time Educational Specialist positions available working in our Lutheran Schools to share Jesus' love and provide excellent services to children with unique learning needs. Contact Rev. John Jameson (LASE Executive Director) at 636-515-0501 (text/call) or Dr. BJ Wiemer (Program Administrator) at 314-952-4251 (text/call) for more information.

Prayers

Prayers for Health –for President R. Lee Hagan, Richard, Bob, Jessica, Kate, Mary, and Cat; **Sandy Key** who has cancer; **Greg** for successful surgery; **Phuong Do** for healing from a car accident

Area Ministry – Lutheran Development Group

Shut Ins – Bobbie Kepford (Arbor Hills), Debra Frerichs, Carolyn Dickhoener, and Ruth Trauth (Sherbrooke)

Special Prayer Petitions –**For** those displaced from home and church;

Melba that her walking ability may improve so that she can return to church; **Evangelist** Idonis King; **Compass Director** Jaylynn Mennel;

Our Associate Pastors Nabin & Ratna; **Momentum Academy and All**

Schools; The Food Pantry and those who receive food: Compass;

Our Field-Workers Michael and John; **For** those traveling;

Missionaries Zach Barz (for life & ministry) and Erin Mackenzie;

South City Circuit Prayers Art Eichorn, Tim Staffeld, Matt Miller, Miguel Torneire, Bruce Cameron, Ratna Mangar, President Harrison and all Synod officers and staff, Jonathan Kerr, Ben Wescoatt, & LCMS partner churches around the world and their presidents/bishops

Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week January 4 – January 11

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|-------------|--|
| Sunday | <u>9:00am</u> Worship / <u>10am</u> Fellowship <u>10:30am</u> Bible Study / <u>10:30am</u> Nepali Worship <u>NO</u> Sunday School 12:30pm Abundant Grace Chapel Worship <u>1pm-4pm</u> Tower Grove Soccer Club / <u>6pm-8pm</u> Nepalese Volleyball |
| Monday | 8am-12pm Office Open / <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass <u>NO</u> Ladies Exercise |
| Tuesday | <u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass |
| Wednesday | <u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass |
| Thursday | <u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass <u>3:25pm</u> Compass Chapel |
| Friday | 8am-12pm Office Open / <u>2pm-6pm</u> Compass |
| Saturday | <u>8:30am</u> Food Pantry 6pm-8pm Abundant Grace Choir Practice 6pm-8pm Nepalese Volleyball |
| Next Sunday | <u>9:00am</u> Worship w/ Communion / <u>10am</u> Fellowship <u>10:30am</u> Bible Study / <u>10:30am</u> Nepali Worship <u>NO</u> Sunday School 12:30pm Abundant Grace Chapel Worship <u>1pm-4pm</u> Tower Grove Soccer Club / <u>6pm-8pm</u> Nepalese Volleyball |