

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Epiphany Sunday

January 7, 2024—10:15am

We celebrate the Lord's Supper today! Please prepare yourselves using these questions as a guide:

- Have I been baptized in the Name of the Triune God, Father, Son & Holy Spirit?
- Do I believe that I am a sinful being without hope for eternal life except in mercy of Jesus Christ?
- Do I believe in Jesus as My Savior?
- Do I believe that Jesus Christ is personally present in communion with His body and blood to forgive my sins, as the Bible teaches?
- Do I desire and strive by the power of the Holy Spirit to live a God-pleasing life?

As you come to the Lord's Supper you are affirming with each communicant that Jesus is your Lord and Savior, and that the Lutheran Church's confession of Jesus Christ and His Supper is your confession as well.

Prelude

AS WE GATHER

This morning we are using the readings for January 6th, which is the day of Epiphany. The season of Epiphany brings us the Biblical message that Jesus becomes known to the world. The Gospel reading for this Sunday is Matthew 2, where the magi, or commonly known as Wise men, or Kings, come and find Jesus. We begin this celebrating that Jesus has come into this world for all people to meet with us.

Welcome: Pastor Dave

Hymn: "We Three Kings"

We three kings of Orient are: Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain Following yonder star.
Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain: Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign.
Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Frankincense to offer have I: Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men rising, Worship Him, God on high.
Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gathering gloom
Sorr'wing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone cold tomb.
Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold Him arise: King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia! Earth to heav'n replies.
Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

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Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: As we start this New Year

People: **Help us to pray, for each other, and for all people.**

Pastor: We hear today how Mary, Joseph and the new born Jesus, had to flee there in order to evade the evil of Herod.

People: **We pray for peace in the world, and the well being of all people.**

Pastor: Help us to live by faith in You Lord, for You never fail. You are the Lord of Years and potentate of time.

People: **"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8)**

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: As we look to our Lord this week and at the beginning of a New year we are reminded that we do sin.

People: **If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)**

Pastor: The Lord, invites us to come to Him for life and salvation. *(Silence for Reflection)*
O Gracious Lord,

People: **We confess to You that we are sinful. We have been impatient and looked to serve ourselves. We have made things and people into idols and trusted in them. We make ourselves too busy and do not leave time for you in worship and prayer. Forgive us Lord as You have promised in Your Son Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Your sins are forgiven! Through Him, you have been forgiven and re-created to be like God in righteousness and holiness. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ you have the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Children's Song: "This Little Gospel Light of Mine"

This Little Gospel light of mine
I'm going to let it shine;
This Little Gospel light of mine,
I'm going to let it shine;
This little Gospel light of mine,
I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine all the time,
Let it shine

All around the neighborhood
I'm going to let it shine;
All around the neighborhood
I'm going to let it shine;
All around the neighborhood
I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine all the time,
Let it shine

Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm going to let it shine;
Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm going to let it shine;
Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine all the time,
Let it shine

Children's Message: Pastor Dave

The Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 60:1-6

(Praise of God comes from far away nations)

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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading – Ephesians 3:1-12 (Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles)

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.

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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Pastor: The Holy Gospel is written in the 2nd chapter of St. Matthew beginning at the 1st verse
(Jesus is found by the Wise Men)

People: **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

The Apostles Creed

All: 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 life everlasting. Amen

Hymn: “Change My Heart O God”

Chorus

Change my heart, O God,
Make it ever true,
Change my heart, O God,
May I be like You

You are the potter, I am the clay,
Mold me and make me,
This is what I pray
Chorus

Sermon – “Pastor Dave

Offerings are gathered

Prayer of the Church

The Prayers

Healing for Carol Hill, mother of Angie Rodriguez

(Please help us keep our attendance numbers accurate by filling out the attendance cards and giving to Ushers at communion.)

The Lord’s Prayer *(Please rise)*

All: 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.

The Lord’s Supper is Celebrated

Pastor: The Consecration of the Bread and Wine

Sharing the Peace – Greet One Another with the Peace of the Lord

Distribution Hymn: “I Love You Lord”

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you,
O my soul, rejoice
Take joy, my King, in what you hear:
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.
Repeat

(Distribution is continuous style. Please come to the communion rail and kneel or stand. As a place at the communion rail becomes open, please come forward and take that spot. After receiving the bread and the wine and you feel comfortable, please dismiss yourself to return to your seat; the post communion blessing will be given to all at the end.)

Welcome to the Table of the Lord

Post Communion Blessing

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

The Benediction

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

The Closing: “Seek Ye First”

Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you,
Allelu, alleluia.

Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word,
That proceeds from the mouth of God
Allelu, alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and ye shall find,
knock and the door shall be opened unto you,
Allelu, alleluia.

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Our Vision:

All: Through Word and Sacrament ministry, we share the love, joy and peace of Jesus Christ among ourselves and with those around us.

Pastor: Our worship has ended, our service now begins. Let us go in peace.

All: And serve the Lord

Altar flowers are placed to the glory of God.

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.” 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Our sincere thanks and appreciation for all the ways you remembered us during Christmas. We received many beautiful greetings, hugs, and gifts and then on Christmas Eve the congregation gift was presented.

We are truly grateful for all of you and thank you so much for all your love and support, all to the glory of God.

In Christ, Pastor Miguel and Katherine

We want to extend our love and appreciation in thanks for all the gifts and greetings and Pastor’s Purse. We are grateful for all of you and wish you all many blessings in the coming year.

In Christ, Pastor Dave & Karen Haara

Services will be live-streamed and a recording of service will be posted by the end of the day. You may watch these on Facebook, YouTube or go to website under Worship or scroll down on home page and find the latest services.

Please keep the church office updated on prayers that have been asked to be kept on indefinitely, military and ones for continued healing or cancer treatments.

Continued Prayers

Praise and thanks that God led Pastor Phil to accept our call as Sr. Pastor, and that He has provided him & family with the home they need! Bless them with good health over the holidays.

We pray to God our Lord for Pastor Miguel and our Hispanic Ministry in Immanuel

Healing or Good Test Results

Grandmother of the Cripple family, friends of Bryan Becknel
Fred Weimer, friend of Larry Habeck
Don Swisher, friend of Larry Habeck
Pam Murphy
Adam, nephew of the Kelp's

Battling with Cancer or Serious Illness

Alan Conidin, friend of Cindy Szczesny
Andrew Hynick, father of Aaron Hynick
Gloria McNail, aunt of Susan Tumlin
Heather Boatwright, friend of Cindy Szczesny
Tammy Granger, friend of Danielle Farnsworth
David, son-in-law of Nancy Christianson
Cassandra, niece of Pat Cook
Walt Nea
DeeAnn Cook, sister-in-law of Steve & Pat Cook
Christine Van Etten
Barbara LaVere
Cathy Nichols with terminal cancer, mother of Cathy Wilson
Tom Meyferth

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Safety for... and strength for families:

Kincaide Green, stationed at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho
Robert Lowry
Joshua Littrel, stationed at Ft. Campbell, KY with the 101st Airborne/Air Assault Division, 3rd Brigade "Rakkasans"
Luke Buchholz, Navy, grandson of Ann Donahue, stationed at Norfolk, VA
Matthew Reikowski as he is deployed on the Carl S. Vinson
Logan Crouse, US Army, great-nephew of Joan Crouse, stationed at Ft. Campbell in NC
Samuel Drake, Captain stationed at Holloman AFB in Alamogordo, NM, son of Kerry Drake
Cpl. Xander Ritter, USMC, stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA
Gavin Mattson, para-rescue man, stationed in the Panhandle of FL, grandson of Edith Mattson

ALSO, FOR ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILIES

Sunday: Richard & Judy Steinbrueck
Monday: Kurtis Stevens
Tuesday: Bill & Kim Stromberg
Wed: Bob & Cindy Szczesny, Corrine
Thurs: Nancy Thorne
Friday: Clyde & Nancy Trathowen
Saturday: Brian & Christal Trlak, Jessica

PRAYERS FOR OUR SCHOOL STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Sunday Cullen Powell
Monday: NyJah Powell
Tuesday: Mason Queen
Wed: Chloe Quintana
Thurs: Sami Rahman
Friday: Nyelly Ramos-Fontanez
Saturday: Alice Reid

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

Lord God, Heavenly Father, Your promises are sure. We waited for Your perfect timing, although discouraged and impatient at times. Yet You blessed us in guiding Pastor Phil to accept the call as our Senior Pastor. Our strength is being renewed, our energy restored as we now run and move forward with joy and excitement in planning for his Installation and the reception to celebrate Your goodness and mercy. We pray for Pastor Phil and Christine as they make the necessary preparations to move to Florida. We lift Thomas and Jacob as they will step into a new school and make new friends. Help us to be aware of all of the needs of the family, and to welcome them with love. Grant them a smooth transition.

It is in the strong and precious name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

PRAYER FOR EPIPHANY

*○ God, by a star you led the Wise Men of old to
worship the Christ child.*

*So lead us that we too may worship Him in all our
lives. Holy Spirit within us, guide our works and
shape our deeds and actions into fit expressions of
worship, praise and love.*

*This we ask in the name of Jesus,
the Light of the world.*

Amen.

