

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

January 4, 2026

10:00 a.m.

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

You are invited to light a candle in prayer on the Tree of Life during the service.

The candle-lighter is hanging on the wall; you may need to take a candle out to light it.

Please pass the Friendship Notebook along your row and greet those around you that you may not know.

We welcome children in worship. There is a family room across from the right front sanctuary doors and a few steps to the left a staffed nursery for any who wish to use them.

Hearing assist receivers are available at the ushers’ station.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

The assembly stands.

CALL TO WORSHIP

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

God of the Stars,

like the magi,

we come to this place searching for you.

Remove any barricades that keep us from your Spirit.

Clear out distractions.

Wipe away doubt.

Open up our hearts

and speak to us through these ancient words.

And as you do,

we will keep walking like the magi.

We will keep moving toward you.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *We Three Kings*



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
 owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



Refrain
 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!

APOSTOLIC 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1-6

Nations come to the light

Word of God.

Word of Life.

SECOND READING Ephesians 3:1-12

The gospel's promise for all

Word of God.

Word of Life.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Christ revealed to the nations

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Andrea Bonneville

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY *We've Seen God's Face*

tune: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Like the ma - gi from the east we tra - vel in - to the un - known
If we find our path has led us to King Her - od's den of fear
We will trust that star to guide us to the place where we were called
When new threats de - rail our jour - ney from the path we planned to take

5
Step by step - we make the jour - ney, called - by God - to seek the - throne
Still we'll keep our fo - cus fixed on chas - ing down - that star so clear
Find - ing God em - bod - ied in the humb - lest dwell - ing place of all
We won't let fear - par - a - lyze - us, no we won't stay locked in place

10
O - ver moun - tains, through the des - erts Seek - ing Christ we fol - low e - ver
Though the ty - rants rage and threat - en Noth - ing weak - ens our pro - fess - ion
As King Her - od sends his sol - diers Time stands still while we be - hold him
Stay - ing nim - ble, we'll move for - ward Keep - ing safe by cross - ing bor - ders

PRAYERS FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS

led by cantor

*You are invited to light a votive candle and place it on a country you wish to pray for:
Maps are found on tables around the sanctuary.*

You are invited to take a star word from the baskets on the tables; let these words be invitations and challenges for the year ahead; let them be like the star of the magi helping to guide us continually back to Christ.

The leader names those for whom prayers are made. The assembly responds: Peace be yours.

After each verse:



For the heal-ing of the na-tions, we pray to you, O God.



For the heal-ing of the na-tions, we pray to you, O God.

Final verse:

For the nations of the world and for all their peoples, for each tribe and family, and for all creation.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. All are then seated for the offering.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Text "[flcduluth](#)" to 73256. You'll be sent a text with a link to give. Click on the link and enter your giving information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Walk in the Light*

arr. Andre Thomas; Soli Deo Gloria Choir

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**God of heaven and earth,
from the beginning, you have called forth life,
in which you take delight.**

**The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

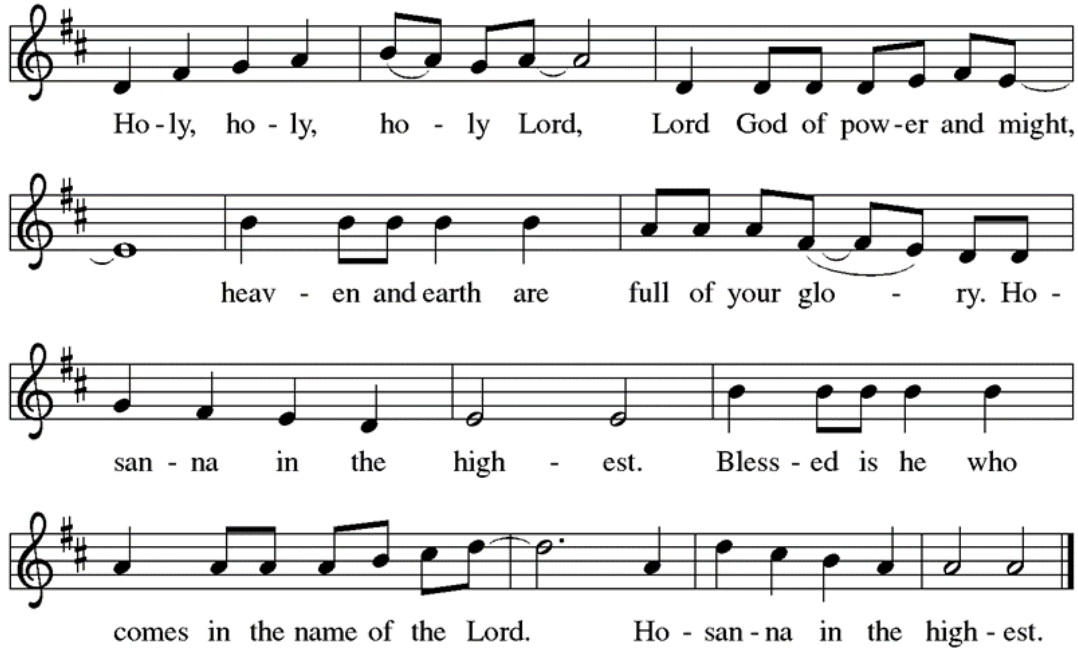
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with all creation, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en 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.

We pray together the prayer Jesus taught to help illumine our path:

**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 assembly is seated.

We practice Eucharistic hospitality; all are welcome. Receive the bread and dip it into the wine (red) or grape juice (white). Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

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; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS ELW #300 *The First Noel*



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .

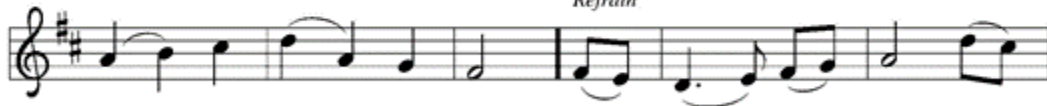


cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.

Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace,
 comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF OUR SANCTUARY

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing. Amen.

SENDING HYMN ACS #915 *When a Star Is Shining*



1 When a star is shin-ing o - ver east - ern hills,
2 Where the world is wait-ing for an un - known day,
3 Lead us on, O Day - star, in the qui - et night;



when the air is si - lent, and the clam - or stills,
where a voice for - got - ten cries, "Pre - pare the way!"
guide us through the shad - ow with your gen - tle light;



when the night is wait-ing, and the old hopes rise,
Where an earth - ly pow - er makes the heart turn cold,
show us in a man - ger our re - demp - tion's sign;



then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise.
there the gifts are of - fered— in - cense, myrrh, and gold.
bring us to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.



Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn - ing where the



prom - ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,



to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

14th c. German carol, arr. Paul Manz

Ministers All People of First Lutheran Church
Pastor The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman
Associate Pastor The Rev. Andrea Bonneville DeNaples
Program Staff Karen Sande, Director of Music
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship
Assisting Minister Teresa Zupancich
Reader Greg Climis
Musicians Soli Deo Gloria Choir
Audio/Video Team Eric Gatten, Shania Krause, Sam Weston

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First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes you into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender identity, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities, or where they might be on their faith journey. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land. We are committed to the work of racial justice. We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

faithlovecommunity
First Lutheran Church

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