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**The Gift of God**  
**The Gift of God is for All People**

Epiphany of Our Lord

January 5, 2025



Trinity Lutheran Church is a family because God welcomed us into his family. Our mission is to grow closer to God, to our brothers and sisters in Christ, and to share this sense of belonging with the surrounding community, welcoming more souls into the family of God.

## **Epiphany of Our Lord**

On Christmas Eve the angel told the shepherds, “I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people” (Luke 2:10). One wonders if those words struck those Jewish shepherds as odd. For centuries, God had given special attention to one nation—Israel. There were Jewish religious leaders who taught that only members of that special people would be saved. Not according to the Christmas angel! The birth of the Savior was good news *for all people*.

Today we celebrate the Festival of the Epiphany. Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning “reveal.” When the Savior was born, he was first revealed to Israelites: the shepherds, Simeon, Anna. But today, we see the Lord miraculously guides foreigners across countless miles so the Savior could be revealed to them as well. How did the magi respond? “They were overjoyed” (Matthew 2:10). The Festival of Epiphany is sometimes known as “The Gentiles’ Christmas.” We Gentiles (non-Jews) rejoice in the good news that this Jewish baby is not just a gift for the Jews. He is a gift for all people—the Savior of the world.

May God bless your worship.

**Serving in Worship**

**Preacher**

**Organist**

**Pastor Matthew Langbartels**

**Zach Maedke**

## Hymn

## 372, *As with Gladness Men of Old*

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

5 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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*Please stand*

The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Confession of Sins**

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**Amen.**

## **Oh, Taste and See**

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are  
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -  
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

*Please be seated*

## Children's Devotion

The children's devotion is a shortened version of the sermon intended to communicate God's truths in a simplified way. Children 12 and under are encouraged to come forward and participate in the devotion.

## First Lesson

*1 Kings 10:1-9*

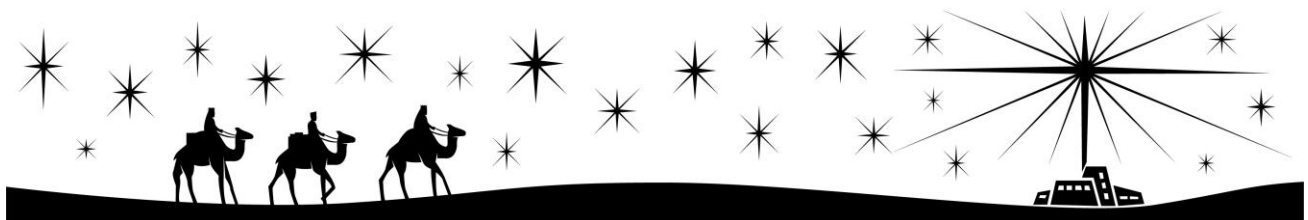
*An African queen visits Israel to test the wisdom of King Solomon. The result of her visit: she ends up praising the LORD for his love. The gift of God is for all people.*

<sup>1</sup>When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the Lord, she came to test Solomon with hard questions. <sup>2</sup>Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. <sup>3</sup>Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. <sup>4</sup>When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, <sup>5</sup>the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the Lord, she was overwhelmed.

<sup>6</sup>She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. <sup>7</sup>But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. <sup>8</sup>How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! <sup>9</sup>Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the Lord’s eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



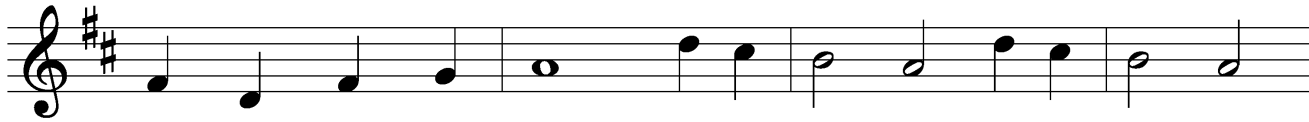
# Psalm of the Day

## 117B, From All That Dwell below the Skies

Cong sings in unison



1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let the Cre -  
2 In ev - 'ry land be - gin the song, to ev - 'ry  
3 E - ter - nal are your mer - cies, LORD; e - ter - nal



a - tor's praise a - rise. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
land the strains be - long: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
truth at - tends your Word. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Let the Re - deem - er's name be sung through ev - 'ry  
In cheer - ful sound all voic - es raise and fill the  
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall



land, by ev - 'ry tongue. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
world with joy - ful praise. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
rise and set no more. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text (sts. 1, 3): Isaac Watts; (st. 2): A Pocket Hymn Book  
Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Second Lesson

Acts 13:46–49

The focus of St. Paul's ministry would be to share the gift of eternal life with the Gentiles.

<sup>46</sup>Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. <sup>47</sup>For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

" 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

<sup>48</sup>When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

<sup>49</sup>The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## Verse of the Day

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia. 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. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



## Gospel

*Matthew 2:1–12*

*The Lord miraculously led Magi across many hundreds of miles of difficult terrain, so that they might worship the child who offered the gift of salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and 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.”

<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When 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. <sup>5</sup>“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup>“ ‘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.’”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He 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.”

<sup>9</sup>After 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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On 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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Gospel of the Lord.



*Please be seated*

## Hymn of the Day

370, *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star*

1 How lovely shines the Morning Star!

The nations see and hail afar  
the light in Judah shining.

O David's son of Jacob's race,  
my Bridegroom and my King of grace,  
for you my heart is pining.

Lowly, holy,  
great and glorious,

O victorious

Prince of graces,  
filling all the heav'nly places.

2 O highest joy by mortals won,  
true Son of God and Mary's son,  
the highborn King of ages!

In your blest body let me be,  
e'en as the branch is in the tree,  
your life my life supplying.

Sighing, crying

for the savor

of your favor,

resting never

till I rest in you forever.

3 O mighty Father, in your Son  
you loved me ere you had begun  
this ancient world's foundation.

Your Son has made a friend of me,  
and when in spirit him I see,

I joy in tribulation.

What bliss is this!

He is living,

to me giving

life forever;  
nothing me from him can sever.

4 Oh, joy to know that you, my friend,  
are Lord, beginning without end,  
the first and last, eternal!  
And you at length—O glorious grace—  
will take me to that holy place,  
the home of joys supernal.

Amen, amen!  
Come and meet me,  
quickly greet me!  
With deep yearning,  
Lord, I look for your returning

5 Lift up the voice and strike the string,  
let all glad sounds of music ring  
in God's high praises blended.  
Christ will be with me all the way,  
today, tomorrow, ev'ry day  
till trav'ling days are ended.

Sing out, ring out  
triumph glorious,  
O victorious  
chosen nation;  
praise the God of your salvation.

Text: Public domain

## **Sermon**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

### **Revealed and Concealed**

*Please stand*

## **Apostle's Creed**

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there 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.**

*Please be seated*

## **Friendship Registers Offering**

*If you would like to give electronically, please visit [www.trinitycoleman.org](http://www.trinitycoleman.org) and click "Giving" or scan the QR code.*



*Please stand*

## **Prayer of the Church**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.

*Please be seated*

**Hymn**                      *351, He Whose Praise the Shepherds Sounded*

1 He whose praise the shepherds sounded—  
told, by angel hosts surrounded,  
that their fears were all unfounded—  
now is born our glorious King!

2 Wise men—precious gifts preparing,  
myrrh and gold and incense bearing,  
in true faith, their love declaring—  
to the conqu'ring Lion cling.

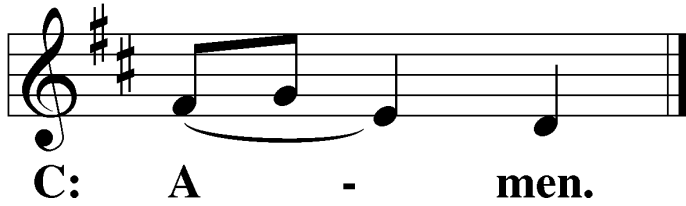
3 Join in Mary's jubilation!  
Angels, in their heav'nly station,  
hail the birth that brings salvation.  
Oh, how sweet their holy song!

4 Sing throughout the sanctuary:  
Christ the King is born of Mary,  
God and man, our sins to carry.  
Thanks and praise to him belong!

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*Please stand*

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



*Please be seated*

## Hymn

## 380, Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2 To him shall endless prayer be made  
and endless praises crown his head;  
his name like sweet perfume shall rise  
with ev'ry morning sacrifice.

3 People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
Dwell on his love with sweetest song,  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.

4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
the pris'ners leap, unloosed their chains,  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.

5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring  
worship and honor to our King;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen.

Text: Public domain

## **Announcements**

**January Newsletter & Forward in Christ Magazine** are in the back of the church.

**When Christ Walked Among Us** Bible class (10-week course beginning Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 6 pm). Cost is \$10 for the book. Please sign up in the church office or with Rick Kerr.

**New BIC (Bible Information Classes) 1 & 2** are starting in January. BIC 2 will be Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm for 10 weeks. BIC 1 will start Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm for 11 weeks.

### **Upcoming Meetings...**

Ministry Update Jan 12<sup>th</sup> after church.

- Annual Report
- Large Projects Fund
- New secretary/Volunteer Coordinator
- Survey
- Entryway addition?

**Women's Faith & Fellowship** will meet Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm. (not January 14<sup>th</sup> as it reads in the newsletter.) We will finish our study of the book of Ruth.

**Voter's Meeting** Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> after church.

**Poinsettias** may be taken home today after this service. After today's service they will be discarded.

Attendance 12/29:	81
Offering total as of 12/29:	\$ 2,936.27
General Fund 12/29:	\$69,379.47

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