

Epiphany

January 5, 2025

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Maria Snodgrass, piano – “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear,”
arr. Chris Rice

GATHERING

**Call to Worship and Confession*

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

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for confession

P: Have mercy, O God,

C: against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.

P: As tender as parent to child, so deep is God’s compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God’s love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through † Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

C: Blessed be God forever.

**Gathering Song – “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” ELW 288 (organ)*

- 1 **Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**
- 2 **Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**
- 3 **Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

**Greeting and Prayer of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray ... God of all learning,

C: When the boy, Jesus, stayed in the temple to learn from the elders, it was the elders who in turn learned from him. Teach us, Lord, as you have taught others, and grant us wisdom and willingness to learn. Amen.

**Sharing Christ's Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children's Sermon

WORD

**Gospel Reading:* Luke 2:41-52 Reader: Carol Kilver

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him, they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' ⁴⁹He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn of Praise – "Jesus, What a Wonderful Child" ELW 297 (*piano*)

**Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;
new life, new hope the child will bring.
Listen to the angels sing:
"Glory, glory, glory," let the heavens ring!**

Sermon: "Boy at the Temple"

- 1 **Our Father, by whose name all parenthood is known,
in love divine you claim each fam'ly as your own.
Bless mothers, fathers, guarding well, with constant love as sentinel,
the homes in which your people dwell.**
- 2 **O Christ, yourself a child within an earthly home,
with heart still undefiled to full adulthood come:
our children bless in ev'ry place that they may all behold your face
and, knowing you, may grow in grace.**
- 3 **O Holy Spirit, bind our hearts in unity
and teach us how to find the love from self set free;
in all our hearts such love increase that ev'ry home, by this release,
may be the dwelling place of peace.**

**The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers*

Stewardship Time

“Like a Rose in Winter,” by Handt Hanson and Paul Murakami

Sung by Lily Snodgrass

Guitarist: Drew Snodgrass

–Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew–

**Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution*

**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.



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 Songs

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" ELW 815 (piano)

- I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.**

*Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

- 2 **I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain***
- 3 **I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain***

“What Child is This?” ELW 296 *(organ)*

- 1 **What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**
- 2 **Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!**
- 3 **So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds
in † Christ Jesus.
C: **Amen.**

*Sending Song – “Shine, Jesus, Shine”

(piano)

**1. Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

*Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.*

*Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!*

**2. Lord, I come to Your awesome presence, From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness;
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness;
Shine on me, shine on me. Refrain**

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Song Credits

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“Shine, Jesus, Shine,” from Songs for Praise & Worship, Word Music, © 1992. CCLI#973583

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Kay Schnitker

Greeter: Lynette Hamilton

Reader: Carol Kilver

Usher: Judy Dillard

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Pianist: Jean Welch

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Kelly Hartz & Patty Nelson

Chancel Committee: Martha Krohe

Coffee Hosts: Judy Dillard & Vicki Robson



Singers:

Benen Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Kris Roth	Melissa Street
Kelly Hartz	Adam Krohe	Cole Street	Carol VanderKloot

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Marilyn Dichsen	Greg Kimler	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Kelly Hartz	Patty Nelson	Kelly Street

The altar plants are given today by Larry & Laura Sweatman in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary on January 3

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, January 5, 9:30am: Worship

11:00am: Bible Study

Monday, January 6, 5:00pm: Epiphany Soup Supper Challenge – Global Hunger Appeal

Wednesday, January 8, 7:00am: Men's Prayer Group

6:00pm: Women of Faith at Mulligan's

Sunday, January 12, 9:30am: Worship + Baptism: Kyla Forbes

11:00am: Bible Study

January 13-17: Doorbell Dinner Delivery

Wednesday, January 15, 7:00am: Men's Prayer Group

10:00am: Discipleship Group in the Library

Thursday, January 16, 5:45pm: Church Council Meeting

News Updates

Epiphany Soup Supper Challenge: Global Hunger Appeal

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger, our Central/Southern IL Synod staff have challenged congregations to raise a total of \$10,000. We've accepted the challenge! We will host our own soup supper at **5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 6** (the date of Epiphany) and have an Epiphany sing along with favorites and requests. A free-will donation will be collected towards the synod's goal. If you would like to bring a soup to share or have an Epiphany song request, please sign up and add it to the list.

Women of Faith

All Women of Faith are invited to gather for dinner together at Mulligan's on **Wednesday, January 8th at 6:00pm**. Please RSVP to Monica Proefrock (217-737-0475) by **Sunday, the 5th**. Feel free to invite a friend to join us!

Faith's Little Flock

This month, Faith's Little Flock will enjoy activities related to Jesus as a boy in the temple, Jesus' Baptism, His love for all people, and calling His disciples to be fishers of people. Faith's Little Flock is for children ages 2-6 and meets in the classroom next to the nursery after the Children's Sermon. "Big Kid Helpers" are welcome and appreciated in our Faith's Little Flock class. Our Big Kid Helpers do just that - they help the little ones with the more difficult parts of the crafts. The children all return to the sanctuary for the communion blessing. Word-finds, crossword puzzles, and other activity sheets are available in the gathering area for the older children to help reinforce the message of the day. We look forward to seeing all of the children in the New Year!

(Note: We would love to have older adult volunteers to read the scripture story to the children. Please contact Melissa Street if you are interested!)

Doorbell Dinners

delivery will be **January 13-17**, and there are still some spots to fill. If you are able to help, please sign up in the gathering area (counter by the coat closet).

Discipleship Group

Please join our next discussion at 10:00am on **Wednesday, January 15**, in the Faith Library. For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at khartz@sompo-intl.com.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 19 marks the start of the national Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. To commemorate, the Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is hosting a celebration of music and prayer on **Sunday, January 19, at 2:00 p.m.** at Rammelkamp Chapel. The event is being organized by Jean Welch and Pastor Adam. If you would like to sing in the community choir, please let Jean know.

Contribution Envelopes for 2025 are available in the gathering area.

Annual Reports

Anyone who would like to have an **Annual Report** included in the Annual Report Packets for 2024, please have your report to the church office (by e-mail is preferred) **by January 12**. The Annual Meeting will be held on January 26, and we need time to duplicate the reports into a packet to distribute on Sunday, January 19.

Reverse Advent Project

A huge Thank You for your generosity and kindness! We are overwhelmed by all the food. On January 11, we will be delivering the family bags; we'll go to New Directions to sort the bags for the homeless and enjoy pizza.

Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$6.50** regular; **\$7.50** decaf; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$6.50** cashews). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with "*coffee*" designated in the memo area.

Sign-Up Sheets

are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Bible Boot Camp & Faith Inkubators

Stay tuned for a schedule for 2025!

Pillars Giving Tree

Bring Christmas Joy to the Children at the Pillars of Africa Children's Ministry

This Christmas season, we again have the opportunity to share the love of Christ with the children at the Pillars of Africa Children's Ministry. The Giving Tree, in the gathering area, is adorned with ornaments, each representing a child and their needs this Christmas. Choose an ornament, make your donation payable to HUGS, and place it in the offering box.

LSSI Foster Care

Last month we heard about the ministry of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. With so many in our Faith Family engaged in foster care, we would like to support LSSI's efforts in this ministry. If you would like to make a donation, make your check to Faith Lutheran Church, designate it to "*LSSI Foster Care*," and drop it in the offering box.