

Welcome to  
Bethania Lutheran Kirke



January 5, 2025

9:30 a.m.

4120 Wright Avenue, Racine, WI 53405 (262)632-7267

**Order of Worship  
for  
Sunday, January 5, 2024**

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.

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS**

## **GATHERING**

*(Please rise )*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: Arise; shine, for your light has come!

**C: We are called out of our darkness into light.**

P: Lift up your eyes and look around.

**C: We rejoice in the gift of light.**

P: Come let us worship the God of light and joy and peace.

**C: We come to kneel at the cradle of the babe,  
the light incarnate.**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

P: Let us pray,

**C: God of promise and light, open our eyes this morning,  
that we may see your light in the darkness.**

**Open our hearts, that we may perceive your promises  
of justice and righteousness fulfilled in the babe of  
Bethlehem. May we, like the Magi, have a star to guide us  
on our journey quest to find the one who will truly set us  
free. May this time of worship bring us closer to you, that  
the good news of the birth of light and love will transform  
our lives. Amen.**

## **PROCESSIONAL & GATHERING HYMN**

“ We Three Kings Of Orient Are” # 646

*With One Voice—Blue Hymnal*

### **SALUTATION**

L : The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: 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.

**C: Amen**

*(Please be seated)*

## WORD

**OUR FIRST LESSON** is from the book of Isaiah, chapter 60, verses 1 through 6.

*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup> 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 proclaim the praise of the LORD.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**OUR SECOND LESSON is from the book of Ephesians; chapter 3, verses 1 through 12.**

*What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

<sup>1</sup> This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup> that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

L: This is the Spirit speaking to the church.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*(Please rise)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*(WOV #716)*

1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from  
heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth  
faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

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

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL:** Matthew 2:1-12

*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**



*(Please be seated)*

## MESSAGE

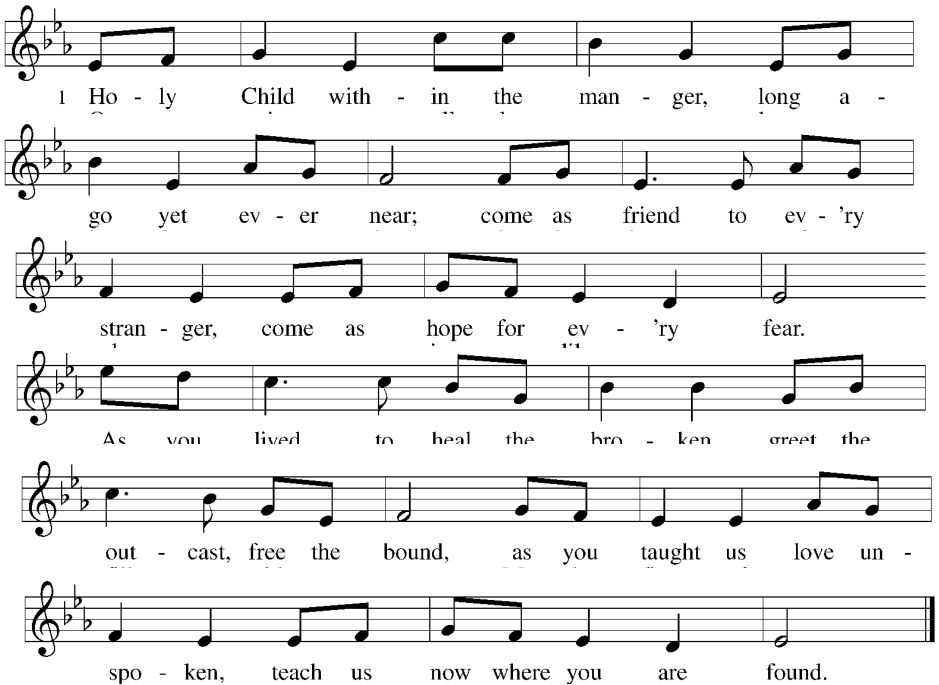
*(Please rise)*

## HYMN OF THE DAY -

"The First Noel" # 56 vs. 1,3,& 5  
*Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal*

## PRAYER SONG

(WOV638 )



1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -  
go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry  
stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.  
As you lived to heal the bro - ken greet the  
out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -  
spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.

## PRAYERS

P: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*A brief silence.*

P: Your glory fills the earth. Bless the work of all who engage in dialogue with people of other traditions and faiths. Bridge our differences with a shared mission of revealing your boundless love to the world. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Restore the glory of creation. Send rain to water-parched lands. Revive ecosystems and habitats threatened by a changing climate, and protect the peoples and creatures who live in them. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Give the rulers your justice and reveal your righteousness to those who govern. Frustrate the plans of tyrants and oppressors. Encourage the work of community organizers and activists who speak out against injustice. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Help those who have no helper. Draw near to those who have no one to advocate for them or those who feel forgotten. Deliver those who call to you *especially* Jeff & Sue O., Bonnie, Anita, Grete L., Bettie, Sherry, Jean D., Brad L. , Tom N., Cathi, Jim & Sharon L., Kim D, Melanie W., Ingaborg, and all those we name in our hearts. Precious are they in your sight. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Liberate this congregation from a yearning for the past that forgets the future. Fuel in us a passion for discovery. Give us the boldness to dream and to imagine our ministries in new and different ways. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: We give thanks for all your holy ones who now rest in your radiant glory. Make us, with them, sharers in the boundless riches of Christ, our hope and promise. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER SONG (repeated)

(WOV #618)



1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -  
go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry  
stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.  
As you lived to heal the bro - ken greet the  
out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -  
spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: Lift your eyes and look around.  
The light of the babe of Bethlehem  
shines from the face of each one here.  
Let us now greet that light,  
rejoice that we are here together,  
and pass the peace of Christ,  
our joy and our hope.

*(Shaking of hands and sharing the peace with others around you.)*

## **OFFERTORY**

*(LBW #82)*

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.  
the dear Christ enters in.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Let us pray,

God of light and promise,  
we bring our gifts  
to further your work in a dark world.

May they bring your light  
to those overwhelmed  
by darkness, pain, and loneliness.

Accept these gifts of money and time,  
indeed, the gift of our very selves.

Let them shine for all to see,  
and be brought into the sphere of your love  
and righteousness.

**C: Amen**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE MEAL**

P: Christ be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to God.**

P: Let us give our thanks to the Holy One.

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

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,  
Our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks,  
Broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.  
Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
And gave it for all to drink, saying;  
This is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you  
And for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Reaching out to one another let us join our hands and hearts together in the prayer that our Lord taught us to pray:

**C: 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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

Come, receive the gift of Jesus. All are welcome

*(Please be seated)*

## **SHARING THE MEAL**

*For in person, come up the center aisle, receive your communion wafer, carefully dip your wafer into the wine. If grape juice/ covid safe is preferred let the assistant know.*

*For at home using plain bread/crackers and wine/grape juice.*

## **COMMUNION HYMN -**

“ As With Gladness Men of Old ” #82

*Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal*

*(Please rise)*

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

L: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

P: Arise, and go forth to shine for all the world to see.

**C: We go to spread the good news of light and love,  
righteousness and justice.**

P: Go now and follow the star  
that will guide you on your journey  
this week, this year, and forever.

**C: As the Magi of old,  
we go forth in trust and excitement,  
transformed in the presence  
of the child of light.**

P: May the blessing of the God of light  
rest upon you and fill you with light.

**C: 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.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: WHERE THE PROMISE SHINES, Bob Moore, b. 1962

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## **RECESSIONAL**

A: We follow the cross of Christ into the world.

(Congregation turns as the cross passes them—so they are facing the back of the church)

## **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

### **UNHANGING OF THE GREENS**

#### **TODAY After WORSHIP**

Please help us undecorate the church and put away the Christmas decorations today after worship.

Thank you.

**TODAYS WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: Anne Woodward

Communion Assistants: Brad Larsen & Jeff Alderson

Building Host, Acolyte, Offering Presenter: Brad Larsen

Coffee Hour: Open                      Altar Flowers: Open

Live Stream Tech: A Volunteer

Musician: William Mueller

**WORSHIP LEADERS NEXT WEEK (Sunday 1/12):**

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: Jeff Alderson

Communion Assistants: Brad Larsen & Jeff Alderson

Building Host, Acolyte, Offering Presenter: Jeff Alderson

Coffee Hour: Altar Guild                      Altar Flowers: Open

Live Stream Tech: A Volunteer



**SUNDAY JANUARY 26, 2024**

**Following Worship in the Hearth Room**

NOTE: Annual reports are due to the office next Sunday, January 5 2025.

# The Calendar...

Sunday, January 5, 2025 - Epiphany

**9:30a.m. . -Worship In Person & on Facebook Live**

**10:30a.m. – Coffee Hour / Unhanging of the Greens**

Friday, January 10, 2025

8:00am to 3:00p.m. —RUSD Fell. Hall

Sunday, January 12, 2025 - Baptism of Our Lord

**9:30a.m. . -Worship In Person & on Facebook Live**

**10:30a.m. – Coffee Hour**

*Note: The church office is closed for health reasons unless oth-*



Jeff & Sue O., Bonnie, Anita, Grete L., Bettie, Sherry,  
Jean D., Brad L. , Tom N., Cathi, Jim & Sharon L.,  
Kim D, Melanie W., Ingaborg,