

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 4, 2026

"We Have Come to Worship Him"

THE OPENING HYMN #412 *"The People That in Darkness Sat"*

1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - ring
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -

light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The

shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

5 His righteous government and pow'r

Shall over all extend;

On judgment and on justice based,

His reign shall have no end,

His reign shall have no end.

△ 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,

And make us Thine alone,

Who with the Father ever art

And Holy Spirit, one,

And Holy Spirit, one.

THE INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☧ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

(please be seated)

THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 72:1–11 (ESV)

P: Give the king Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to the royal son!

C: **May he judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice!**

P: Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!

C: **May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!**

P: May they fear You while the sun endures,

C: **and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!**

P: May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!

C: **In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!**

P: May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!

C: **May desert tribes bow down before him and his enemies lick the dust!**

P: May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

C: **May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE #367 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
△ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scand - ing,
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
Ye have seen His na - tal star.
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;
Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to know in heaven the fullness of Your divine goodness; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 60:1-6 (ESV)

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. 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. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. 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. 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. 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE Ephesians 3:1-12 (ESV)

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 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. 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. 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. 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, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that He has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(please stand)

THE VERSE *(sung) (page 156 in the hymnal)*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)

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

C: *(sung) Glory to You, O Lord.*

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel' [Micah 5:2,4]." Then Herod summoned the Wise Men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the Child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung) Praise to You, O Christ.*

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(please be seated)

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #397 "As with Gladness Men of Old"



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to Thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At Thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright Need they no cre - at - ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be - fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
So may we with ho - ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al - loy,
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev - er - more be led by Thee.
So may we with will - ing feet Ev - er seek Thy mer - cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.
There for - ev - er may we sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King.

THE SERMON "We Have Come to Worship Him" Text: Matthew 2:1-12

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS "What Child is This" (#370, verse 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!

(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the response: "Let us pray to the Lord" "Lord, have mercy.")

THE 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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

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

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

#388 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

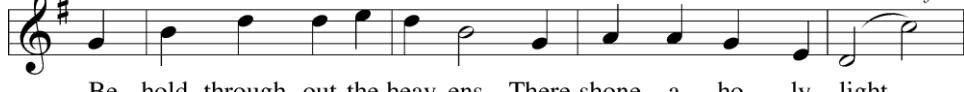


1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



Be - hold, through - out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.

Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.

And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

#394 “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;
 3 Man - i - fest in mak-ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
 4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
 5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest-ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
 And at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God-head man - i - fest;
 Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
 Christ will then like light - ning shine, All will see His glo - rious sign;
 Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
 Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring - ing good from ill;
 All will then the trum - pet hear, All will see the Judge ap - pear;
 That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - them be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 An - them be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 An - them be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 Thou by all wilt be con-fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

#400 "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"

1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on His cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
3 Shall we not yield Him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,

Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Fra - grace of E - dom and of - f'rings di - vine,
Vain - ly with gifts would His fa - vor se - cure.
Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;

Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorm - ing,
An - gels a - dore Him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;
Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorm - ing,

Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - - ior of all.
Myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?
Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
Guide where our in - infant Re - deem - er is laid.

(please stand)

THE DISMISSAL

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

C: Amen.

THE POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Let us pray. O God the Father, . . . through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and **¶** give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS