

The origin of the Feast of the Epiphany lies in the Eastern Church and was a celebration of the incarnation. It is one of the oldest seasons in the Christian Church year, second only to the Easter season. Epiphany is derived from a Greek word meaning manifestation. This Season of Lights emphasizes Jesus' manifestation as God and man. Many early Christians called the Feast of the Epiphany the *Theophany* ("revelation of God"). The Eastern epiphany on January 6 not only celebrated the birth of Christ (and all events associated with His birth...such as the visit of the Magi) but also the baptism of Jesus. That is a major part of the reason why catechumens were sometimes baptized and received first communion on the Epiphany of our Lord. By the late 4<sup>th</sup> century, Christmas was celebrated on December 25 while the Baptism of Jesus was celebrated on January 6 or 7.

When the Western Church acquired the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6, it did not adopt the Eastern commemoration of the baptism. Instead, it reserved only a part of the Christmas story for celebration on that date, namely the visit of the magi. That is why we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord the Sunday after Epiphany. As a result of these historical developments, our Epiphany celebration has been transformed into the Gentile Christmas. The Christ child makes Himself manifest to the nations. Though He has come to save His people from their sins, we know that disciples are to be made of all nations in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The light of the world has made Himself manifest to all peoples. He has broken into the darkness of this world. May you have a blessed Epiphany celebration as you walk in the light of the Lord of the nations.

To our visitors and guests:

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Good Shepherd in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sin. In joyful obedience to the clear teaching of our Lord Jesus those are invited to His table who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. They show forth His death until He comes. Because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and so are unable to receive the Sacrament are invited to meditate on God's Word in the distribution hymns and pray for the day when divisions will have ceased. You may also come up to the rail and receive a baptismal blessing. Signify this by crossing your hands over your chest. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Pastor.

**Introit:** Psalm 72:1–2, 10–11; antiphon: Liturgical Text

Behold the Lord, the ruler, has come,  
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in his hand.  
Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the royal son!  
May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice!  
May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute;  
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!  
May all kings fall down before him,  
all nations serve him!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Behold the Lord, the ruler, has come,  
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in his hand.

**Gradual:** Isaiah 60:6b, 1

Those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring  
good news, the praises of the LORD.  
Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

**Those serving today:**

**Music:** Beth Steuck

**Celebrant and Preacher:** Rev. James J. Stefanic

**Elder:** Scott Peterson

**Acolyte:** Isaiah Berner

## Epiphany of Our Lord

Processional Hymn: **LSB #397**

Divine Service III: **p. 184**

Confession and Absolution: **pp. 184-185**

Introit: **Bulletin**

Kyrie: **p. 186**

Gloria in Excelsis: **pp. 187-189**

Salutation-Collect: **p. 189**

Old Testament: **Isaiah 60:1-6** (back of bulletin)

Gradual

Epistle: **Ephesians 3:1-12** (back of bulletin)

Alleluia: **p. 190**

Gospel: **Matthew 2:1-12** (back of bulletin)

Nicene Creed: **p. 191**

Hymn of the Day: **LSB #395**

Sermon

Offertory **p. 192**

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament **pp. 194-199**

Distribution Hymn: **LSB #394**

Nunc Dimittis: **pp. 199-200**

Salutation and Benediction: **pp. 201-202**

Recessional Hymn: **LSB #400**

## Bible Readings

### Old Testament: Isaiah 60:1-6

**1** Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
**2** 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.  
**3** And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.  
**4** 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.  
**5** 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.  
**6** 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.

### Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12

**1** For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— **2** assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, **3** how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. **4** When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, **5** 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. **6** 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.

**7** 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. **8** 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, **9** and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, **10** so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. **11** This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,

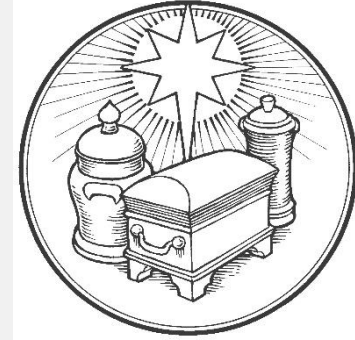
**12** in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

### Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

**1** 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, **2** 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." **3** When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; **4** and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. **5** They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

**6** "'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.'"

**7** Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. **8** 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." **9** 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. **10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. **11** 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. **12** And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.



## *Good Shepherd Lutheran Church*

*A Member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*

**Worship Schedule: Sunday 9:00 am**

**Education Hour: Sunday @ 10:30**

**Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday from 8-12:00**

**507-532-4857**

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*Pastor: James J. Stefanie*

**We, the members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, believing the Bible to be God's inspired and inerrant Word, acknowledging that Jesus Christ is Lord, and affirming that we are saved by Grace through faith in Him alone, offer the following as our statement of mission:**

**Empowered by the Holy Spirit and loving our neighbors as ourselves, we, as ambassadors for Christ, must strive to make disciples of all nations; Using the gifts the Lord has given to each of us, we must help the saints to grow in unity of faith through regular worship attendance, the partaking of the Sacraments, the study of God's Word, and by ministering to the spiritual needs of others; we will persevere in prayer and thanksgiving for all the opportunities and blessings which God places before us.**

**EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

**January 6, 2025 – 7:00pm**