

Sunday, January 5, 2025 Epiphany

Service Theme THE GIFT OF GOD IS 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.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Epiphany Dialogue

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us. When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.



Salutation

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Prayer

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.

Amen

Old Testament

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.

¹The Queen of Sheba heard about Solomon's fame, which was connected with the fame of the LORD, so she came to test him with hard questions. ²She came to Jerusalem with a very great entourage—with camels carrying spices and a large quantity of gold and precious stones. She came to Solomon and told him everything that was on her heart.

³Solomon answered all her questions. There was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her.

⁴The Queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon, the house which he built, ⁵and the food on his table. When she saw the council meeting of his officials, the careful attention of his ministers, as well as their attire, his cupbearers, and the whole burnt offerings which he offered at the House of the LORD, it took her breath away.

⁶She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your accomplishments and your wisdom is true. ⁷I did not believe the report until I came and saw it with my own eyes. The truth is, not even half of it was told to me! Your wisdom and wealth surpass the report which I heard. ⁸Blessed are your men, blessed are your servants, who stand before you continually hearing your wisdom! ⁹May the LORD your God be blessed, who was pleased to put you on the throne of Israel. Because the LORD loves Israel forever, he made you king to administer justice and righteousness."

72A Lord, Every Nation on Earth Will Adore You Psalm 72A



Endow the king with your justice, / O God, the royal son with your / righteousness.

May he endure as long / as the sun, as long as the moon, through all gener- / ations.

May he be like rain falling on a / mown field, like showers water- / ing the earth.

In his days may the righteous / flourish and prosperity abound till the moon / is no more.

Refrain

May all kings bow / down to him and all nations / serve him.

Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be / given him. May the kings of Sheba and Seba pre- / sent him gifts.

May people ever / pray for him and bless him / all day long.

Then all nations will be / blessed through him, and they will / call him blessed.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son and to the Holy / Spirit, as it was in the be- / ginning, is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

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Epistle Reading

Acts 13:46-49

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

⁴⁶Then Paul and Barnabas responded fearlessly, "It was necessary that God's word be spoken to you first. But since you reject it and consider yourselves unworthy of eternal life, look: We are now turning to the Gentiles! ⁴⁷For this is what the Lord has instructed us:

I have made you a light for the Gentiles,

that you may bring salvation to the end of the earth."

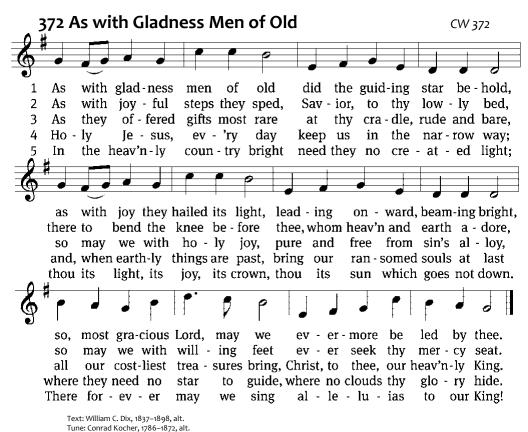
⁴⁸When the Gentiles heard this, they were rejoicing and praising the word of the Lord. All who had been appointed for eternal life believed.

⁴⁹And the word of the Lord was being carried through the whole region.

Verse of the Day

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, 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.



Gospel /Sermon

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Matthew 2:1-12 (NASB 2020)

Behold, the World's Saviour,

- 1) Who His own people failed to seek;
- 2) To whom the LORD will lead all His chosen.

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ² "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." ³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH,
ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH;
FOR FROM YOU WILL COME FORTH A RULER
WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.' "

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him." ⁹ After hearing the king, they went on their way; and behold, the star, which they had seen in the east, went on ahead of them until it came to a stop over *the place* where the Child was *to be found*. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And after they came into the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary; and they fell down and ^bworshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And after being warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, *the magi* left for their own country by another way.

Apostles' 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.





Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, abr., adapt Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608 Text and tune: Public domain

Installation of Members Who Participate in the Public Ministry

Dear friends,

In Holy Baptism, our Lord Jesus Christ set you free from sin and death and made you members of his body, the church. Through Word and sacrament, the Holy Spirit has nurtured your faith and increased your love.

You have now been appointed to serve our Lord on behalf of this congregation. The Lord has entrusted you with responsibilities that you are to carry out according to his Word. St. Paul wrote concerning service in the church: "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

St. Paul spoke to all who serve the Savior: "It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." The Lord has promised to be with you and give you the gifts you will need to carry out the work entrusted to you.

As servants of Jesus Christ and workers in this congregation, you are to set aside time for study of the Scriptures so that you may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. You are to strive to be an example of Christian faith and life so that others may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

So that the congregation may be assured of your willingness to serve, I ask you in the presence of God and this congregation:

Will you diligently and faithfully carry out the work entrusted to you, according to the ability which God gives you? If so, answer: I will, and I ask God to help me.

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Installation

I install you as [called position] at Divine Word Evangelical Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord pour out on you his Holy Spirit for the work you have been called to do that you may faithfully carry out all your duties and responsibilities with the Word of God as your confidence and guide.

The minister speaks to the congregation:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I urge you to regard these fellow believers as servants of Jesus Christ and God's gifts to his church. Pray for them and support them in their service so that believers may be strengthened in faith and many others may come to know the Savior and the eternal hope he gives.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you bless your church through the willing work and special gifts of so many people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit to the servants we are installing today that they may carry out their duties with diligence, wisdom, and humility. Encourage them to seek guidance from your Word and lead them to pray for your direction. Help them to be good examples to others and support the work of the gospel ministry in this congregation. Keep them in your care and encourage them by your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The minister says to those being installed:

The Lord bless you and make your service a blessing to others.

The minister may thank those who have served in the past:

We sincerely thank those who in the past *year(s)* have served the Lord and his people with their time and abilities. May the Lord graciously bless you and those you have served.

Those being installed may return to their places.

Confession and Absolution Before Holy Communion

- M: My fellow disciples, in the Lord's Supper, Jesus is coming to us in a very special way: as we receive the bread and the wine of communion, Jesus is present to give us his actual body and blood, and to pronounce forgiveness to each one of us personally. Because of the Lord's presence and his forgiveness in communion, the Apostle Paul wrote, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." (1 Corinthians 11:28) Therefore, before the Lord comes to meet with us, let us honestly ask ourselves before God who knows our hearts:
- Do you confess that you have sinned against God and deserve his anger and punishment? If so, then answer, "I do confess!"

C: I do confess!

- M: It is good for you to confess because God's word says, "When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long." (Psalm 32:3)
- 2) Are you sorry for the sins you have committed against God by things you have done, said and thought, and by the things you have failed to do? If so, then answer, "I do repent!"

C: I do repent!

- M: It is right for you to repent because God's Word says, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not within us." (1 John 1:8)
- 3) Do you now believe that God will forgive you and save you for the sake of Jesus' perfect life and redeeming death? If so, then answer, "I do believe!"

C: I do believe!

- M: It is right for you to believe because Jesus himself says, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)
- 4) Do you now promise by the power of the Holy Spirit to make every effort to turn away from sin and live for your Lord? If so, then answer, "I do so promise!"

C: I do so promise!

M: It is right for you to promise because God's Word says, "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance." (Matthew 3:8)

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my T body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my T blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

As repentant and forgiven sinners, we now come to meet with our Lord.

Amen.



Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (st. 2): Martin Luther, 1483–1546 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter, alt.
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Thanksgiving

We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Prayer for Epiphany

Jesus Christ, Lord of glory, you delight in making yourself known to us and others. Bring us to recognize and rejoice in your majesty and your ministry. In love you chose to exercise your greatest strength to serve us in our greatest need. You revealed the brightness of your glory through humble deeds of love.

You called ordinary men to do extraordinary things as your disciples and apostles. You also call us confidently to follow you, diligently to learn from you, and lovingly to imitate you. Equip and empower us to serve you and our neighbor faithfully. Use us as your witnesses to bring many throughout the world to the light of your gospel.

You revealed your glory through mighty signs and wonders. Assure us that you still rule all things in the universe and use them to serve our eternal good. In wise compassion you often exercise your power to help and heal people with physical and emotional needs. Give us courage and compassion to relieve the distress of the hurting, to pray for all according to their needs, and to be content and cheerful when in your wisdom you ask us to endure hardship.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Preserve your truth among us, and by that truth preserve us until you appear in dazzling splendor to bring us to the glory of heaven. Let our anticipation of the heavenly kingdom ennoble our thinking and speaking, enrich our conduct, and increase our joy in all aspects of earthly life. Hear us, Light of the Gentiles and Glory of Israel. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

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

Amen.



Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt. Tune: Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702

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Divine Word Evangelical Lutheran Church

1081 Greenbank Rd., Ottawa, ON., K2B 5A8 613-825-1629 www.divinewordottawa.ca

Church Cleaners

January 5 - Thomas // January 12 - John

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR		
Su (5)	10:30 am 11:30 am	Sunday School / Bible Class Worship with Communion First Fellowship Worship in Poltimore
We (8)	4:00 pm	Communicating Christ (BIC)
Th (9)		Illumine (at St. Paul's) Youth Confirmation (W)
Fr (10)	•	Online Women's Bible Study Confirmation (D)
	10:30 am 11:30 am	Sunday School / Bible Class Worship with Communion Fellowship Communicating Christ (BIC)
Th (16)	•	Illumine (at St. Paul's) Youth Confirmation (W)
Fr (17)		Online Women's Bible Study Confirmation (D)
Su (19)	10:30 am 11:30 am	Sunday School / Bible Class Worship with Communion Fellowship Worship in Poltimore

Acknowledgments

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Installation of Congregational Officers, Council, and Boards

CHAIRMAN: Jeremy Doherty

SECRETARY: Stone Liu

TREASURER: Jim Neubauer

EDUCATION: Jason Pfotenhauer (Chair)

EVANGELISM: Jordan Alves (Chair)

STEWARDSHIP: Jim Neubauer (Chair)

BOARD OF ELDERS: Jeremy Doherty (Chair)

Paul Reepschlager Jason Pfotenhauer

Jim Neubauer

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Karl Mallon (Chair)

Ken Winges

Doug Morton

Adrian VanGalder Jeremy Doherty

Jordan Alves

Mike Pfotenhauer