

Welcome to St. Michael Lutheran Church

# The Day of Epiphany

(observed) January 4, 2026 + 11:00 am

## MORNING SONG

( \* = please stand )

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

### \* SHARING OF PEACE OF THE LORD

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP FOR EPIPHANY *(Portions of Psalm 22 and 72)*

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Give the King Your justice, O God,

**C: And Your righteousness to the royal Son!**

P: May He judge Your people with righteousness,

**C: And Your poor with justice!**

P: May He defend the cause of the poor of the people,

**C: 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: In His days may the righteous flourish,

**C: And peace abound, till the moon be no more!**

P: May He have dominion from sea to sea,

**C: And from the River to the ends of the earth!**

P: May all kings fall down before Him,

**C: All nations serve Him!**

P: Kingship belongs to the Lord,

**C: And He rules over the nations.**

P: Before Him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

**C: Posterity shall serve Him;**

P: It shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

**C: They shall come and proclaim His righteousness to a people yet unborn,**

P: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**C: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(including 1 John 1:5-9, and Psalm 32:11)*

P: This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you:

**C: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.**

P: If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live in the truth.

**C: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.**

P: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**C: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

P: *(We pause for a brief time of silent reflection and confession)* Holy God. . .

**C: Heavenly Father, we come to You with contrite hearts, for we know that we have sinned against You, both by what we have done, and by what we have failed to do. You have called us to fear and love You above all things, and to love and care for others as we do ourselves, and yet selfishness and sin have reigned in us instead. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and rose again, look upon us with mercy, pardon all our offences, and grant us Your peace. Amen.**

P: God has heard Your confession, and in His great grace, extends to You His mercy and love. Therefore, in the place and at the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;

**C: Sing, all you who are upright in heart!**

## \* SONG OF PRAISE

### \* PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

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 enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING:** Isaiah 60:1-6

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE READING:** Ephesians 3:1-12

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### \* RESPONSE FOR EPIPHANY (*Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8*)

P: Praise the Lord, all nations!

**C: Extol Him, all peoples!**

P: For great is His steadfast love toward us,

**C: And the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.**

P: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name;

**C: Bring an offering, and come into His courts!**

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

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

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.** (*After the reading the following is said. . .*)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### \* NICENE CREED

**C: 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.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### BIBLE MESSAGE

### MUSICAL OFFERING

### \* PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(*Each petition concludes with "Lord, in Your mercy," to which the congregation responds: "Hear our prayer"*).

### \* SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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 Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God, for You have fulfilled Your promises and brought us salvation through Your Son. By Your Holy Spirit, help us with true faith receive the gift of His body and blood in the bread and wine of this sacrament for the forgiveness of our sins, life, and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the same night in which 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 body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, this cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me." Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus we are bold to pray together the prayer that He taught us. . .

**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.**

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.

**C: Amen.**

## SONGS DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

### “The First Noel“

- 1) The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel!*

- 2) They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night. *[Refrain]*
- 3) And by the light of that same star  
Three Wise Men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went. *[Refrain]*
- 4) This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay. *[Refrain]*
- 5) Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
Fell reverently upon the knee,  
And offered there, in His presence,  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense. *[Refrain]*
- 6) Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of nought  
And with his blood mankind has bought. *[Refrain]*

### “We Three Kings“

- 1) We three kings of Orient are;

Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

*Refrain: O star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

- 2) Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign. *[Refrain]*
- 3) Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, voices raising,  
Worshipping God on high. *[Refrain]*
- 4) Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *[Refrain]*
- 5) Glorious now behold him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Sounds through the earth and skies. *[Refrain]*

#### \* THANKSGIVING

A: Thank the Lord and sing His praise.

**C: Tell everyone what He has done.**

A: Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice

**C: And proudly bear His name.**

A: He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy

**C: With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

A: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

#### \* ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* **EPIPHANY BLESSING** *(based on John 8:12, Matthew 5:14 and 2 Peter 1:19)*

P: May our Lord Jesus, the Light of the world, enable you to follow Him so that you will never walk in darkness but have the light of life;

**C: May we let our light shine before others so that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven;**

P: And may you, by the power of the Holy Spirit, give heed to God's Word as to a light shining in a dark place until the day dawns and the Morning Star, our Lord (+) Jesus Christ, rises in your hearts.

**C: Amen.**

#### \* CLOSING SONG

#### POSTLUDE

##### SERVING TODAY (1/5)

**Presiding & Preaching (P):** Rev. Daniel Maske

**Lay Ministers:** Rich Conklin, Jeff Burnett

##### SERVING NEXT WEEK (1/12)

*Rev. Dr. Paul Naumann*

*Rich Conklin, Jeff Burnett*

**Music Director:** Jane Connon  
**Ushers:** Jesse Hogue  
**Greeters:** Virginia Hetrick, Meg Bess  
**Lector:** Kerry Batten  
**Children's Message:** Pastor Maske

*Jane Connon*  
*Jesse Hogue*  
*Virginia Hetrick, Dar Swift*  
*Jesse Hogue*  
*Julie Prentice*

### **Isaiah 60:1–6**

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

### **Ephesians. 3:1–12**

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone 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 manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

### **Matthew 2:1–12**

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, <sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> "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." <sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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." <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.