

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

“A Disciple Making Community”

“KNOW, GROW, and GO”

West Salem, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

The Epiphany of Our Lord (Observed)
January 5, 2025



Our Mission:

“Prince of Peace exists to be a disciple making community for the Lord Jesus Christ”

Our Message:

“We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

Pastor Peter Adelsen

765-860-5204

pastor@wspop.org

Church Office

608-786-3938

office@wspop.org

Holy Communion at Prince of Peace, LCMS

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod practices “Close Communion” as an expression of unity in doctrine (1 Corinthians 10:16-17; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 1:10). When a person partakes of the Sacrament at the Altar he is also confessing his unreserved agreement with that church body’s doctrine. Because of doctrinal differences existing between the Missouri Synod and other Lutheran bodies, and also with other denominations, we cannot expect their members to make that kind of confession at our altar, nor do we desire anyone to compromise his own convictions and his church body’s teachings. Therefore, our practice of “Close Communion” admits only those in doctrinal agreement who are members of congregations of the Missouri Synod.

The Holy Sacrament requires a mature participation which includes self-examination (1 Corinthians 11:28). Scripture also warns against “unworthy” reception (impenitence or unbelief) which would bring God’s judgment on the recipient: 1 Corinthians 11:27; 1 Corinthians 11:29. Thus, out of loving concern for all, and commitment to the Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, we practice “Close Communion”. We thank you for your cooperation and respect for our practice.

Those who will not be communing, but would like to receive a blessing are invited to come forward. Please cross your arms on your chest to indicate that you are requesting a blessing. May the Holy Spirit bless us all as we “Search the Scriptures” (John 5:39), and humbly strive to “Continue in His Word.” (John 8:31) Please speak to an elder if you have questions concerning communion.

Theme

Light eradicates darkness, illuminates creation’s glory, and strips away the shroud of mystery. Christ is the light to which all kings and authorities bow down. He makes known the mysteries and salvation of God through the apostles and prophets. The Word and will of the Lord is no longer possessed by a singular people, nor is it cloaked in any kind of ambiguity. All are summoned and blessed to worship Christ. He is our exceeding joy in which our hearts thrill and exult.

Order of Service:

Divine Service 3, p. 184 ff.

Opening Hymn
Confession and Absolution

399 The Star Proclaims the King is Here
(LSB p. 184)

Service of the Word

(LSB p.186-193)

Introit

Psalm 45:6–8a; antiphon: v. 17

I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;

therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;

you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

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.

I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;

therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

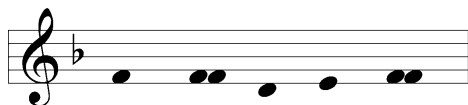
Kyrie

(LSB p.186)

Hymn of Praise: Gloria in Excelsis

(LSB p.187)

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P 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 A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60:1–6

Isaiah 60:1–6

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

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Epistle: Ephesians 3:1–12

Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—
²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which 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. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of 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. ⁸To 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, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

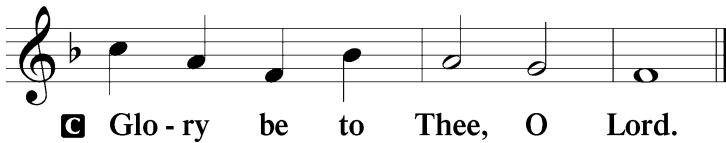
Alleluia



Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1–12

Matthew 2:1–12

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



¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “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.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They 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.”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And 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.” ⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And 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. ¹²And 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 Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

(p. 192)

Sit

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day

395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Sermon

"Revealing God's Unexpected Grace" Matthew 2:1-12

Offering

Offertory

(p. 192-193)

Installation of Church Officers

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For humble and grateful hearts enlightened by the Gospel, that we would always bow down and worship the King and willingly offer Him the most precious gifts we have to give, let us pray to the Lord: **C** **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the Church, that God's people may be united in doctrine, live in harmony and peace, and labor together to bring the light of Christ to those still dwelling in darkness and death, let us pray to the Lord: **C** **Lord, have mercy.**

P For leaders, that they may serve honorably; for pastors and missionaries, that they may proclaim the saving truth of God's Word without fear; and for those who hear, that they may be brought to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the leaders of the nations, that God would endow them with justice and fill them with wisdom, compassion and care; and that, unlike Herod, they would

seek to uphold life and watch over the welfare of the governed, let us pray to the Lord: **C Lord, have mercy.**

- P** Visit, O Lord, the homes in which Your people dwell, and keep all harm and danger far from them, especially *Kurt and Ona Childs*. Grant that we may dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels, sharing eternally in Your blessings, let us pray to the Lord: **C Lord, have mercy.**
 - P** For those who need the comfort of the Lord's presence, healing according to His will, relief of suffering, and an end to the terrors of mind and heart, [*especially _____,*] that He would sustain the weary with His Word, the wounded with hope and the dying with peace, let us pray to the Lord: **C Lord, have mercy.**
 - P** For peace and unity among the members of Christ's Body, that we may see the day when no divisions prevent us from kneeling in the Lord's presence and receiving this blessed Sacrament, let us pray to the Lord: **C Lord, have mercy.**
 - P** May Your light shine on us and bring forth the fruits of repentance in our daily lives. Give us confidence in Your Word, that we would embrace Your holy will without fear. Hear and answer us, we pray, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

(p. 194ff)

Distribution Hymns

370 What Child is This

367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

396 Arise and Shine in Splendor

Post-Communion Canticle	Nunc Dimittis	(LSB p. 199)
Post-Communion Collect		(LSB p. 201)
Salutation and Benedicamus		(LSB p. 201)
Benediction		(LSB p. 202)
Closing Hymn	397 As with Gladness Men of Old	