



## Inviting People to Journey with Christ's Family in Spreading God's Love and Mercy

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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January 6, 2019

Epiphany of Our Lord

Epiphany means “manifestation.” On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

#### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
who shines in glory  
clothes us in compassion,  
and bears gifts of mercy for all.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins with confidence in God’s promise of forgiveness.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, wonderful counselor,  
**we confess that we have turned from your gifts  
and chosen our own way.**

**We have not made room for you  
in our hearts or in our world.**

**We have lived in fear;  
we have not welcomed the stranger;  
we desire gifts that will not endure.**

**Forgive us our sins, known and unknown,  
and open us to receive the peace of Jesus  
dwelling in and among us.**

**Amen.**

God's lovingkindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior.  
We are saved, not by anything we have done,  
but by God's mercy poured out on us richly.

In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Through the Spirit living in you,  
God give you faith to trust Jesus,  
who is Love born for you, now and always.  
**Amen.**

\*Gathering Hymn      "As With Gladness Men of Old"      **ELW #302**

**\*GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**Amen.**

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

“This Is The Feast” ELW pgs. 149-150

Prayer of the Day

**O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

A Reading from Isaiah 60:1-6

- <sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- <sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.
- <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
- <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought 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 proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

- <sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;
- <sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**
- <sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.
- <sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
- <sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.
- <sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**
- <sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- <sup>10</sup>**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**
- <sup>11</sup>May all kings bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.
- <sup>12</sup>**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**
- <sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.
- <sup>14</sup>**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

## A Reading from Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not

made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see 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 wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

\*\*Gospel Acclamation ELW p. 151

**The holy gospel according to Matthew 2:1-12**  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the

child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

\*Hymn

“The First Noel”

**ELW #300**

**\*CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

\*\*Offertory

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

ELW #184

\*Offertory Prayer

**Holy God,  
your beauty shines forth from the manger  
and your love flows from the cross.  
As you gather us around these signs  
of your love come among us,  
warm us to extend your care  
among the hungry and all in need.  
In Jesus’ name we pray.  
Amen**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to our Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW p.153

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Distribution

*Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.*

“Lamb of God”

ELW p. 154

Prayer after Communion

**God of wonder,  
in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near.  
As you have come among us now,  
send us out in joy, hastening to share  
the good news of your love.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever.  
Amen.**

## **SENDING**

Benediction

Sending Hymn

“This Little Light of Mine”

**ELW #677**

Dismissal:

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THOSE SERVING TODAY

*Ministers:* All God's People *Pastor:* Bill Pursley *Organist:* Nalani Bever  
*Greeters:* Dixie and Leonard Arndt *Reader:* Greg Bever  
*Communion Server:* Barb Ornes *Altar Committee:* Nalani and Greg Bever  
*Ushers:* Leonard Arndt, Jerry Von Haden, Greg Bever, Steve Brandau, Sr.

## IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Matt Zirk, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Robert Cale

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Shirley Meranti, Ron Clark, Carol Osteboe, Mildred Radke, Lorayne Denter, Marjorie Muhr, Ed Bauer, Jerry Eckelberg, Helen and Evan Summerfield, Linda Bauer, Linda Finnigan, Bob Sullivan, Lois Schultz, Stuart Thayer

In an emergency situation, please contact Caitlyn Stanek @608-633-1824 or Dan Buchholz @608-435-6126 (H) or 608-487-6525 ©

Prayer chain contact: Nalani @608-387-2311

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**Website:** <https://www.stpaulswilton.com/>

**FACEBOOK!! Home page: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Wilton WI**

## CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 7 – JANUARY 13

Sun., Jan. 13	Council Meeting	9:00 AM
	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Special Congregational Meeting	Immediately Following Worship

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Notice is hereby given of a Special Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, January 13, 2019, immediately following the worship service. The only business to be conducted at this meeting will be a discussion and possible vote to extend a call to a Rostered Minister as brought forth by the Call Committee, Church Council, and approved by the Bishop of the La Crosse Area Synod - ELCA.**

Reports for the Annual Meeting Report should be to the office no later than next Sunday, January 13. The report will be available after worship on January 20.