



## Epiphany of Our Lord

January 5, 2025

10:30 am

St. Paul Lutheran Church

*Growing a Christian community where each is valued, accepted, and loved.*

106 Maple St., Reading, OH 45215 • 513-821-0987 • [stpaulreading.org](http://stpaulreading.org)

# Epiphany of Our Lord: January 5, 2025

Prelude: “Shine, Jesus, Shine”

## Gathering

### Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

*Please stand as you are able. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**C:** Amen.

**P:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Please kneel or sit as you are able.*

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**P:** God-with-us,

**C:** we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

*The minister stands and addresses the congregation.*

**P:** Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

**C:** Amen.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Entrance Hymn #75 (green hymnal) vv. 1-5

“Bright and Glorious Is the Sky”

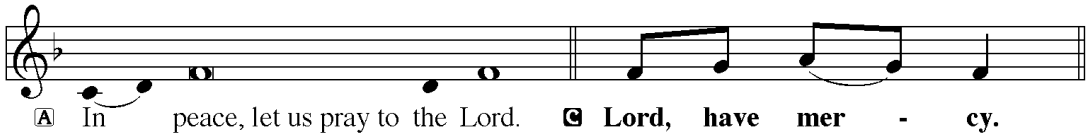
### Greeting

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

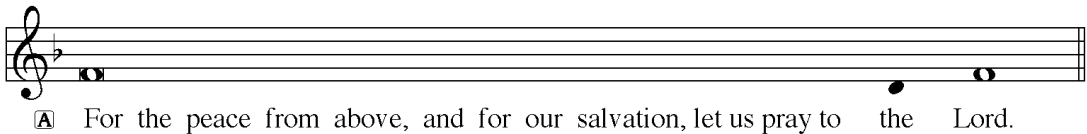
**C:** And also with you.

### Kyrie

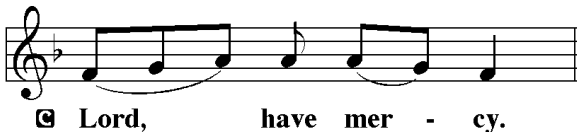
### LBW Setting 1



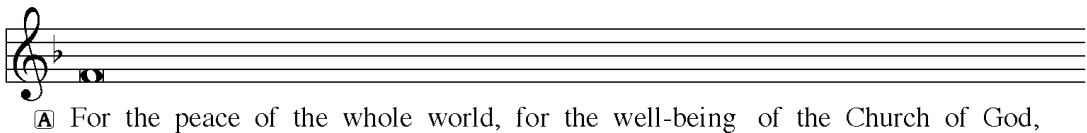
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



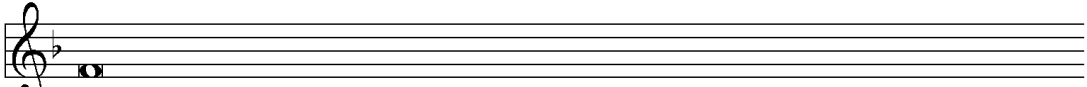
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



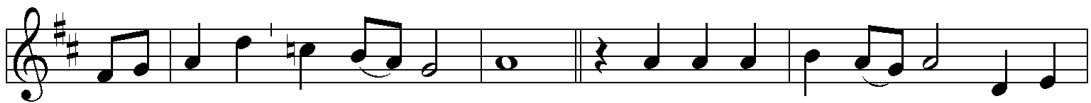
**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

## Hymn of Praise

## LBW Setting 1



**C** This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **D** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was



slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

**☐** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. **☐** Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and

strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

**☐** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. **☐** Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

**☐** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. **☐** For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray.

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.

C: Amen.

# The Word

## Blessing of the Lector

**P:** Cindy, may God bless you as you read for us the scriptures. May the word of God dwell in us richly so that everything we do in word or deed will be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**C:** Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## First Reading: 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.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalmody: Hymn #646 (blue hymnal)**

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

**Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>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.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Gospel Acclamation: Hymn #75 (green hymnal) v. 6**

“Bright and Glorious Is the Sky”

**Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.



<sup>1</sup>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

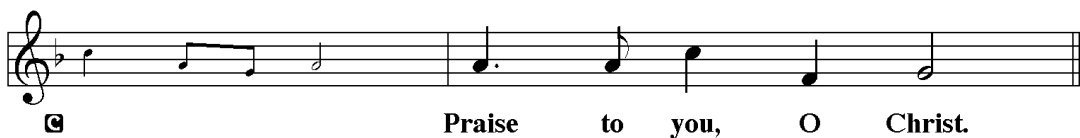
Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



*Please be seated.*

## **Children’s Sermon**

## **Sermon**

*Silence for reflection and meditation.*

## **Hymn of the Day #56 (green hymnal)**

“The First Noel”

## **The Nicene Creed**

A: Let us confess our common faith with all Christians throughout time and place, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

**A:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*After each petition:*

**A:** Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** Hear our prayer.

*After the last petition:*

A: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

### **The Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace.*

### **Invitation to Offering**

A: As the star showed the Wise Men that Jesus was born, let us give our offering to show with our money that Jesus is born for all people.

### **Offering: Hymn #701 (blue hymnal)**

“What Feast of Love”

### **Offering Prayer**

A: Let us pray.

C: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.


# The Meal

## Dialogue

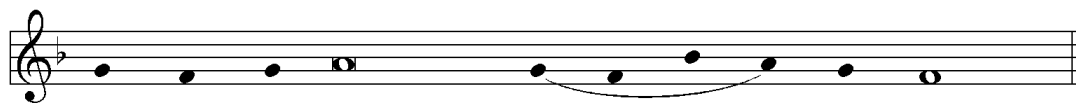
## LBW Setting 1



♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And al - so with you.



♩ Lift up your hearts. ♪ We lift them to the Lord.



♩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



♪ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# Sanctus

## LBW Setting 1



☪ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

P: 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:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: 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.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: 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.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

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

**C: Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.

### Invitation to Communion

P: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

*Please be seated.*

### Agnus Dei

### LBW Setting 1

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

## **Communion**

P: The Body of Christ, broken for you.  
The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

*Those who wish to commune at the altar rail may either bring forward their individual Communion kit, or receive the wafer and wine/grape juice by intinction (dipping) from the Communion Ministers, when they are directed forward by the usher. Those who wish to commune in their seat with their individual Communion kit may remain seated. Children may come forward with their family for a blessing.*

## **Communion Hymn #76 (green hymnal)**

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!”

## **Table Blessing**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

## Post-Communion Canticle

## LBW Setting 1



**C** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Post-Communion Prayer

**A:** Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.  
Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your  
peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

**C:** Amen.

## Sending

## Announcements for God's Mission in the World



## Upcoming Events

### **Sunday, Jan. 5: Epiphany**

9 am Sunday School / Adult Forum

10:30 am Worship Service

After Worship: Evangelism Committee

### **Tuesday, Jan. 7**

11 am Bible Study

### **Sunday, Jan. 12: Baptism of Our Lord**

9 am Sunday School / Adult Forum

10:30 am Worship Service

### **Tuesday, Jan. 14**

11 am Bible Study

## Copyright Notices

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*: Text and music by Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music (admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere). All Rights Reserved.  
ASCAP

*Bright and Glorious Is the Sky*: Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*What Feast of Love*: Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland OR 97213. All rights reserved.

*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!*: Tr. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*: Text and music by Kathleen Thomerson © 1970, 1975 *Celebration*

Music and liturgy used by permission under ONE LICENSE #A-726103, CCLI Licenses #21045423 and #21045416, and Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS010308. All rights reserved.