



# Epiphany

Immanuel Lutheran Church ELCA

Forest City, Iowa

Pastors Rod Hopp & Zech Anderson, Intern Elizabeth Carr

January 7, 2024 9:15am

[www.immanuelfamily.com](http://www.immanuelfamily.com)

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*Building community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ.*

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*The feast of Epiphany ("manifestation") concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people.*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

L: Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: God of life,

**C: you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

L: Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ☩ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

**C: Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: **"As With Gladness Men of Old"**

#302 ELW

### 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.**

### 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.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6 *Nations come to the light*

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 [read responsively]

<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.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12 *The gospel's promise extends to all*

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12 *Revelation of Christ to the nations of the earth*

*Announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

*Conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.***

CHILDREN'S SERMON / SERMON

Pastor Zech

HYMN OF THE DAY: **"Bright and Glorious is the Sky"**

#301 vs. 1,3,4,5

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: *L: God of grace, C: receive our prayer.*

**Ruby Sue** Albertsen

**Joyce** Kasper

**Wilma** Sauer

**Kristy** Anderson

**Chris** McCormick

**Tim** Schmidt

**Liam** Bartleson

**Carol** Merritt

**Lowell** Solberg

**Hayden** Despenas

**Jill** (Lewison) Nedved

**Jennie** Spencer

**Parker** Farland

**family of Larry** Nerem

**Missionary Karen** Anderson

**Carroll** Reines

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Magallanes**

SHARING OF THE PEACE: *L: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.*

OFFERING: "Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain"

Choir

OFFERTORY: **"As the Grains of Wheat"**

#465

OFFERING PRAYER

L: God of abundance,

**C: receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world of the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING / Holy, Holy, Holy

Eucharistic Prayer / Eucharistic Acclamations

Through Christ, with Christ, In Christ

Lord's Prayer

COMMUNION: **"Arise Your Light Has Come"**

#314

**We Three Kings of Orient Are"**

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

*Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again;  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most High.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;  
Heav'n sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: **"Praise to You, O God of Mercy"**

#208

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING HYMN: **"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"**

#815

BLESSING / DISMISSAL: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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