

First Lutheran Church

Tiffin, Ohio



January 5, 2025

Celebrating the Epiphany

WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025
EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD, YEAR C**

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

KINGS OF ORIENT

Matthew H. Corl

We Three Kings

+ please stand as you are able

GATHERING

+EPIPHANY CALL TO WORSHIP

L: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

C: **The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!**

L: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

C: **The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!**

L: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

C: The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan,
making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the
gospel!

L: O come, let us worship the Lord,

C: for God has done wondrous things!

+ **GATHERING SONG**

ELW # 275

Angels, from the Realms of Glory



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla - tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

+ **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.

+ CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



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



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



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

Refrain



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



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



2 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.
Final refrain
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

+ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

WORD

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

R: A reading from Isaiah, the 60th chapter.

- ¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- ² 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.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ 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.
- ⁶ 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.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

R: A reading from Ephesians, the 3rd chapter.

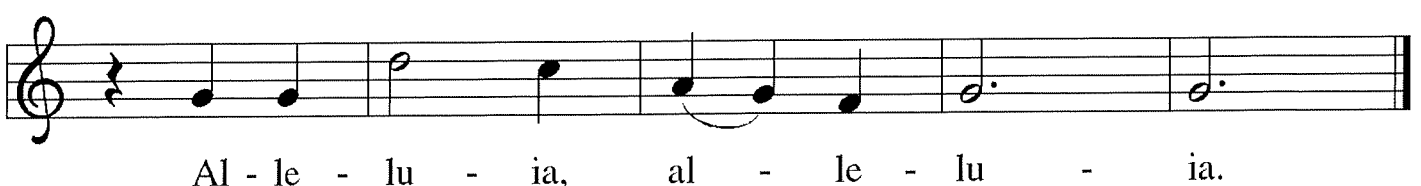
¹ This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ 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: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: **Thanks be to God.**

+ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



+ GOSPEL

MATTHEW 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

P: A reading from Matthew, the 2nd chapter.



¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² 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." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ '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.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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.



SERMON

REVEREND DOUG DEVOS

+ HYMN OF THE DAY

We Three Kings of Orient Are



ALL	1	We	three	kings	of	O - ri - ent	are;	bear - ing
Cantor	2	Born	a	king	on	Beth - le - hem's	plain,	gold I
MEN	3	Frank - in -	cense	to	of - fer	have	I;	in - cense
Women	4	Myrrh	is	mine;	its	bit - ter	per - fume	breathes a
ALL	5	Glo - rious	now	be - hold	him	a - rise,	King	and




gifts	we	tra - verse	a - far,	field	and	foun - tain,
bring	to	crown him	a - gain;	king	for - ev - er,	
owns	a	de - i - ty	nigh;	prayer	and	prais - ing,
life	of	gath - er - ing	gloom;	sor - rowing,	sigh - ing,	
God	and	Sac - ri - fice;		heav'n	sings	al - le -



moor	and	moun - tain,	fol - low - ing	yon - der	star.
ceas - ing	nev - er,	o - ver	us	all	to reign.
glad - ly	rais - ing,	wor - ship - ing	God	Most	High.
bleed - ing,	dy - ing,	sealed in	the	stone - cold	tomb.
lu - ia:	al - le - lu - ia	the	earth	re - plies.	

Refrain



ALL: Oh, star of won-der, star of night, star with roy - al beau-ty bright;
west-ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.
Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

+ APOSTLES' 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

P: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

L: Your glory fills the earth. Bless the work of all who engage in dialogue with people of other traditions and faiths. Bridge our differences with a shared mission of revealing your boundless love to the world.

P: God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Restore the glory of creation. Send rain to water-parched lands. Revive ecosystems and habitats threatened by a changing climate, and protect the peoples and creatures who live in them.

P: God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Give the rulers your justice and reveal your righteousness to those who govern. Frustrate the plans of tyrants and oppressors. Encourage the work of community organizers and activists who speak out against injustice.

P: God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Help those who have no helper. Draw near to those who have no one to advocate for them or those who feel forgotten. Deliver those who call to you. Precious are they in your sight.

P: God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Liberate this congregation from a yearning for the past that forgets the future. Fuel in us a passion for discovery. Give us the boldness to dream and to imagine our ministries in new and different ways.

P: God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We give thanks for your holy ones who now rest in your radiant glory. Make us, with them, sharers in the boundless riches of Christ, our hope and promise.

P: God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.**

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.**

+ **PEACE**

L: Sisters and brothers, rejoice! Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace!

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **An also with you.**

MEAL

OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION

THE FIRST NOWELL

J. Wayne Kerr

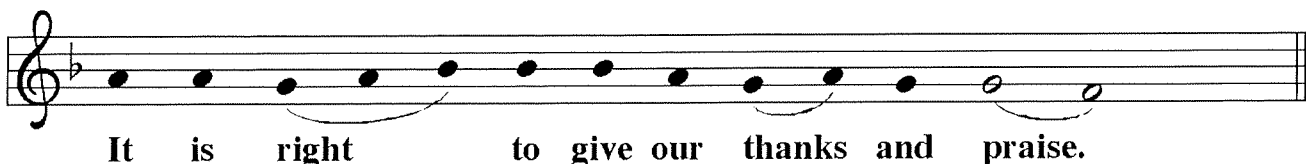
Shepherd's Noel

+ **OFFERING PRAYER**

L: 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.

C: **Amen.**

+ **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



+ *HOLY, HOLY, HOLY*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and'. The second staff continues the melody: 'might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -'. The third staff: 'san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The fourth staff: 'Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -'. The fifth staff: 'san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The score ends with a double bar line.

+ *THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE*

P: 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.

+ LORD'S PRAYER

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

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION IN TWO MANNERS

† You may commune in your pews.

Individual communion kits are available at the Narthex doors.

*The presiding minister will share a blessing,
all communing in-place will commune together.*

† You may come to the Table, to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.
A basket is available for disposal of your individual communion cups.

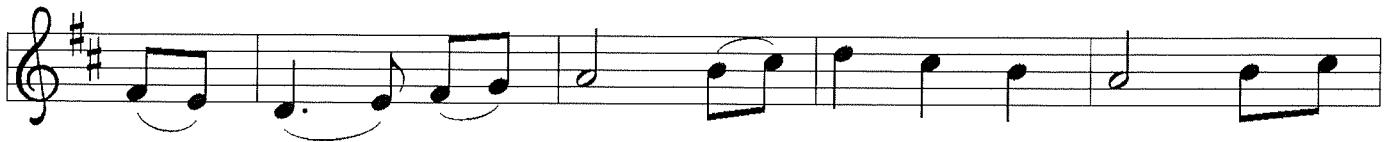
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION SONG

Lamm Gottes, du nimm hinweg die Sünde der Welt; hab Erbarmen mit uns. Lamm Gottes, du nimm hinweg die Sünde der Welt; hab Erbarmen mit uns. Lamm Gottes, du nimm hinweg die Sünde der Welt; gib uns Frieden, gib uns Frieden.

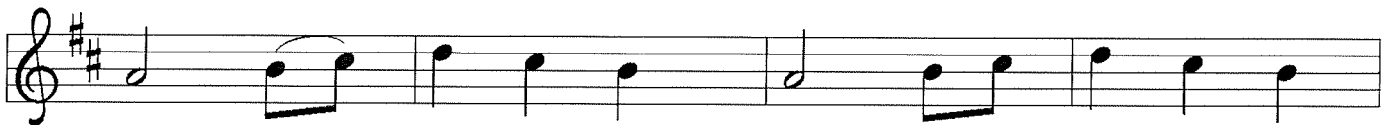
The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

+ *TABLE BLESSING*

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

C: **Amen.**

+ *PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION*

L: 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.
Amen.

SENDING

+ *CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER*

C: Oh God, your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure. We are grateful for the goodness you have shown us through the years, and we ask now for confidence to go forward into the future. Bless our community of faith, bless our healing, bless the changes that are before us, bless our call process and the pastoral leaders who will shepherd us through this time of transition. We thank you now for the wisdom you will show us as we align with your will, and servant or servants you are already preparing to send us in your blessed time. Help us to keep looking to you to define our ministry and our future. In his name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, **Amen.**

+ *BLESSING*

P: The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace, illumine your path,
and increase your joy, today and always.

C: **Amen.**

+ SENDING SONG

As with Gladness Men of Old



ALL 1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
Women 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
Men 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
Cantor 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
ALL 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

+ DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace.
P: The Word of God dwells in you richly.
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

REGENT SQUARE

Robert A. Hobby

Angels from the Realms of Glory

This Week's Calendar

Monday **January 6th**
10:00 AM Bible Study resumes at
The Willows

5:15 PM Bells of Praise Practice

6:30 PM Women's Bible Study

Wednesday **January 8th**
Piece Corp
9AM Fellowship Hall

Our Worship Leaders

Altar Guild:

Cantor: Elijah Shiley

Host: Nominee Family

Reader: Shelley Ross

Worship Assistant: Shelley Ross

Facebook Camera

Director of Music: Curtis L. King

Pastor: Pastor Doug DeVos

Emergency Contacts

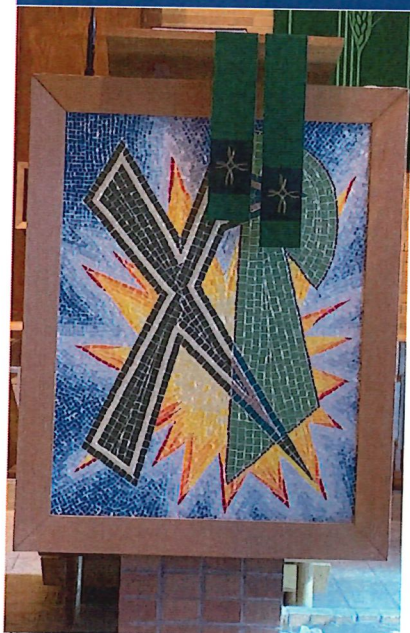
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Announcement

Cookies

Cookie Sign up sheets are located on the Dietz Room wall. Fellowship time is before and after Church Service. Approximately 4 dozen cookies are needed each week.



Our Mission Statement

"God is among us!"
"We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel, forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need."

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