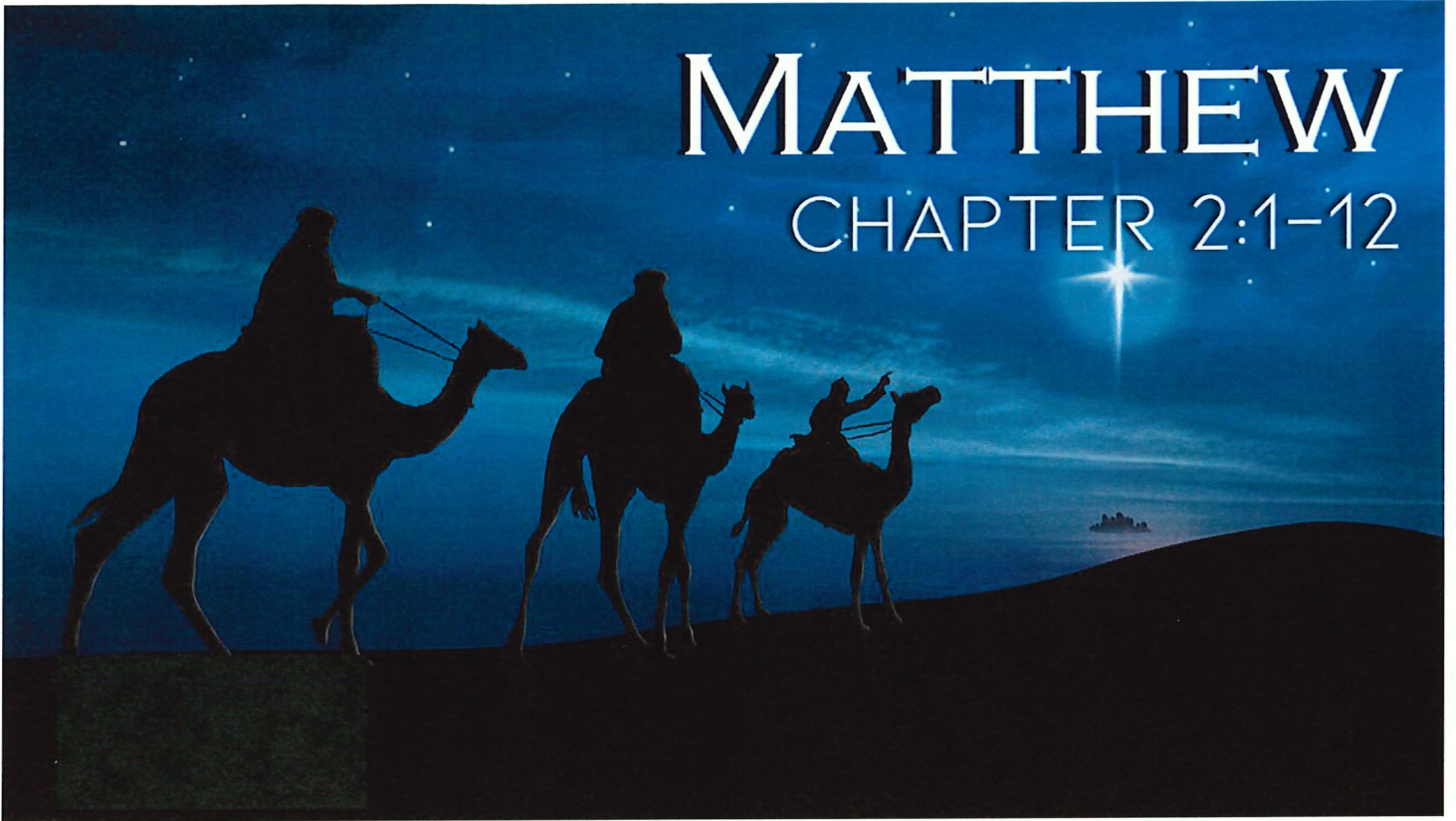


# MATTHEW

## CHAPTER 2:1-12



*First Lutheran Church*

January 11, 2026

Epiphany Sunday

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The feast of Epiphany 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.

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

KINGS OF ORIENT

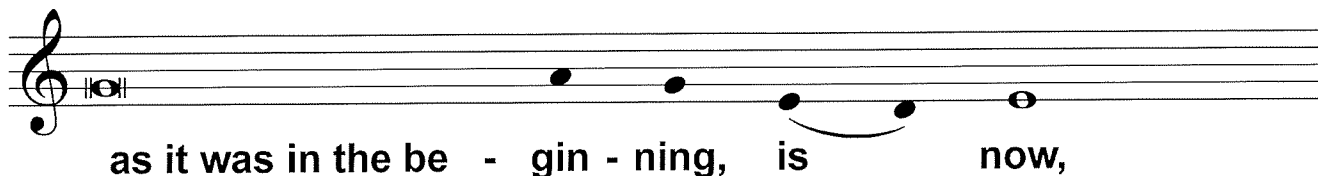
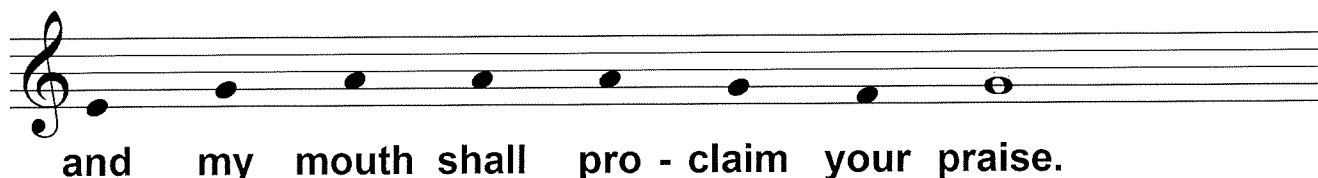
Matthew H. Corl

*We Three Kings*

*(Please stand)*

### MORNING PRAYER

#### OPENING DIALOGUE AND DOXOLOGY



## INVITATORY

**PSALM 95:1-7**

*The Cantor will sing the verses.*

Oh, come, let us wor - ship and praise.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** 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.**

*(Please be seated)*

*++ Children may go to Sunday School*

## **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 sixtieth chapter.*

- <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 in 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.

*R: The word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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 third chapter.*

<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 in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*R: The word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Cantor: Alleluia. We have observed his star | at its rising,\* and have come to | worship him. Alleluia. (Matt. 2:2)*

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: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.*



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi 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 in the east 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 magi 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 in the east, 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: This is the gospel of our Lord.*



Praise to you O Christ!



**ALL** We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing  
**MEN** Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
*Cantor* Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense  
*Women* Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
**ALL** 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.



**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

(Please be seated)

*(Please stand)*

**CANTICLE***Refrain*

In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our  
God the dawn from on high shall  
break up - on us.

*The Cantor will sing the verses.*

**APOSTLE'S 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.



*(Please kneel)*

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION***

P: Celebrating the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church,  
creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

L: You separate us from our sin and unite us with one another.  
Heal the animosity in our hearts, and bind us together in love.

*Each petition concludes:*

P: Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you,  
O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

***OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION***

*DIX*

*Janet Linker*

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

*(Please stand)*



ALL 1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;  
 Women As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,  
 ALL 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,  
 MEN 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

## OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray.

God of glory,  
 great are your wonders among us  
 and many are the blessings you bestow.

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,  
 that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,  
 through Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

## ***LORD'S PRAYER***

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

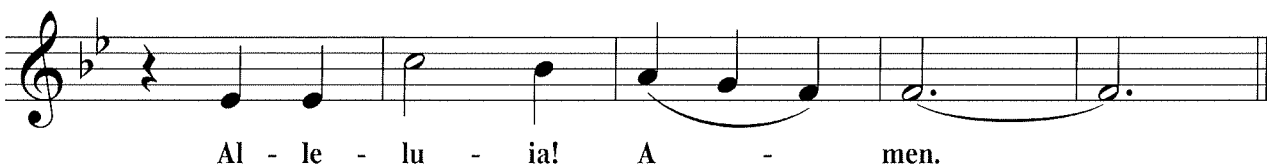
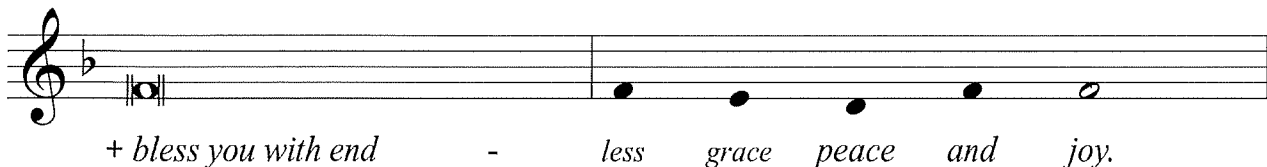
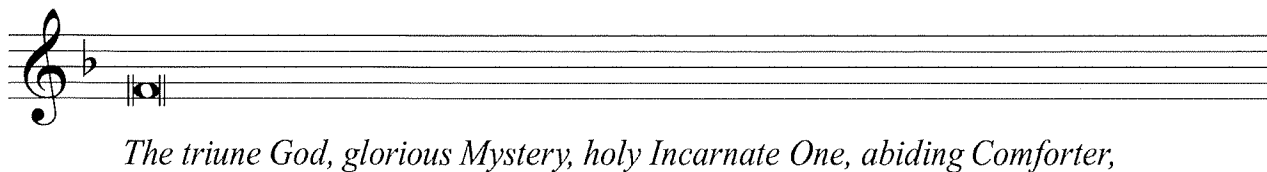
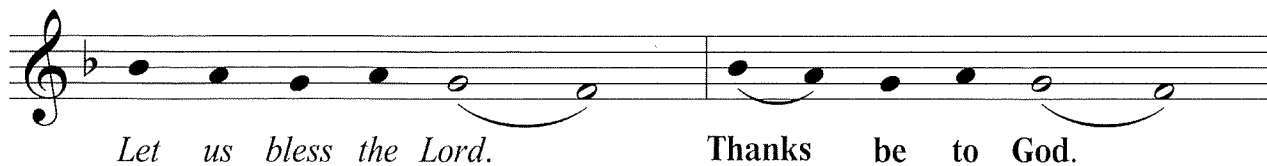
C:       Our Father, who art in heaven,  
          hallowed be thy name,  
          thy kingdom come,  
          thy will be done,  
              on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
      and forgive us our trespasses,  
          as we forgive those  
      who trespass 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.

## **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 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



## SENDING SONG

## The First Noel

ELW # 300



ALL 1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
MEN 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing  
ALL 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .  
WOMEN This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .  
ALL 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

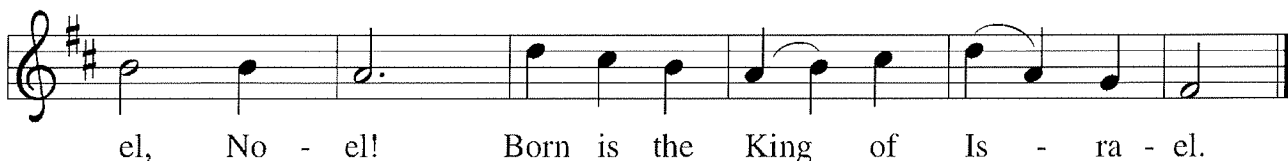


they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -  
king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the  
there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

*Refrain*



night that was so deep.  
tin-ued both day and night.  
star wher - ev - er it went. **ALL** 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

## DISMISSAL

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: **And peace to God's people on earth!**

L: Go in joy.

P: Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

THE FIRST NOWELL

*The First Noel*

Larry Wolz



## Events in Review



If you have a prayer request for today, please raise your hand during announcements and a host will give you a green card to fill out.

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



January 25, 2026  
After Service



Lent begins

February 18th.

January's Monthly Scroll along with Jan-March 2026 Portals of Prayer are now available on the lobby table



Cookie Sign up sheets are located on the Information Board in the hallway. The time is before and after Church Service. Approximately 4 dozen cookies are needed each week.



## Next Week

<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	<b>Jan 18</b>
10:00AM	Church Service
<b><u>Monday</u></b>	<b>Jan 19</b>
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
5:15PM	Bell Choir Practice
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	<b>Jan 20</b>
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b>Jan 21</b>
6:00 PM	Council Meeting
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	<b>Jan 22</b>
<b><u>Friday</u></b>	<b>Jan 23</b>
<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	<b>Jan 24</b>



## *Contact Us*



### ***First Lutheran Church***

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[www.firstlutherantiffin.com](http://www.firstlutherantiffin.com)  
[firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com)

## *Interim Pastor*

**Pastor Mark Schuring**

(740) 360-2306

[theskipster55@gmail.com](mailto:theskipster55@gmail.com)

## *Our Worship Leaders*

**Altar Guild:** Donna Brueggermeier,  
Sharon Losey, Deb Hohman

**Cantor:** Elijah Shiley

**Facebook Camera** The Rosses

**Host:** Janet Zirger

**Reader:** Shelley Ross

**Worship Assistant** Shelley Ross

**Director of Music:** Curtis L. King

**Minister:** Pastor Mark Schuring

## *Emergency Pastors*

**Pastor Mark Schuring**

(740) 360-2306

**Mike Porter**

(585) 813-5009

**Pastor Philip Scherr**

(814) 756-9435

## *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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January 4, 2026