

# THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

## JANUARY 4, 2026

395 O MORNING STAR, HOW FAIR AND BRIGHT sts.

1–3

1 O Morning Star, how fair and bright!  
You shine with God's own truth and light,  
    Aglow with grace and mercy!  
Of Jacob's race, King David's son,  
Our Lord and master, You have won  
    Our hearts to serve You only!  
    Lowly, holy!  
    Great and glorious,  
    All victorious,  
    Rich in blessing!  
    Rule and might o'er all possessing!

2 Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,  
And deep within our hearts now shine;  
    There light a flame undying!  
In Your one body let us be

As living branches of a tree,  
Your life our lives supplying.  
Now, though daily  
Earth's deep sadness  
May perplex us  
And distress us,  
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.

3 Lord, when You look on us in love,  
At once there falls from God above  
A ray of purest pleasure.  
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood  
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food.  
You are our dearest treasure!  
Let Your mercy  
Warm and cheer us!  
O draw near us!  
For You teach us  
God's own love through You has reached us.

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

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*(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole**

**heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

395 O MORNING STAR, HOW FAIR AND BRIGHT sts.  
4–6

4 Almighty Father, in Your Son  
You loved us when not yet begun  
Was this old earth's foundation!  
Your Son has ransomed us in love

To live in Him here and above:

This is Your great salvation.

Alleluia!

Christ the living,

To us giving

Life forever,

Keeps us Yours and fails us never!

5 O let the harps break forth in sound!

Our joy be all with music crowned,

Our voices gladly blending!

For Christ goes with us all the way—

Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!

His love is never ending!

Sing out! Ring out!

Jubilation!

Exultation!

Tell the story!

Great is He, the King of Glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,

The Lord we love is first and last,

The end and the beginning!  
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,  
Transport us to that happy place  
Beyond all tears and sinning!  
Amen! Amen!  
Come, Lord Jesus!  
Crown of gladness!  
We are yearning  
For the day of Your returning!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

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## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

### ***SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY***

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known  
Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us,  
who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the  
fullness of Your divine presence; through the same

Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*OLD TESTAMENT READING*

Isaiah 60:1–6

**A** The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 60.

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.

<sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes all around, and see;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from afar,  
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant;  
    your heart shall thrill and exult,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned  
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 bring good news, the praises of the  
LORD.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*EPISTLE*

Ephesians 3:1–12

**A** The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter 3.

<sup>1</sup>For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus  
on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>assuming that you have  
heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given  
to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how the mystery was made known to

me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone 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 manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**(Stand)**

*ALLELUIA AND VERSE*

LSB 173

**C** Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

*HOLY GOSPEL*

Matthew 2:1–12

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them

where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

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

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a

dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*397 AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD*

sts. 1–3

- 1 As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led by Thee.
  
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,  
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare  
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.

Text: Public domain

# SERMON

## 397 AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD

sts. 4-5

4    Holy Jesus, ev'ry day  
    Keep us in the narrow way;  
        And when earthly things are past,  
        Bring our ransomed souls at last  
    Where they need no star to guide,  
    Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

5 In the heav'nly country bright  
Need they no created light;  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
Thou its sun which goes not down;

There forever may we sing  
Alleluias to our King.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.

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## *PRAAYER OF THE CHURCH*

# **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

## *PREFACE*

LSB 177

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**SANCTUS**

LSB 178

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:**

**Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**PRAAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

LSB 178

**P** **Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created**

and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\ddagger$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\ddagger$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy

cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### *LORD'S PRAYER*

**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.**

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

**C** Amen.

**C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*367 ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY*

1 Angels from the realms of glory,  
    Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
    Ye who sang creation's story,  
    Now proclaim Messiah's birth. Refrain

ref Come and worship, come and worship;  
    Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light. Refrain

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen His natal star. Refrain

4 Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear. Refrain

△ 5 All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One. Refrain

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–4): James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.  
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## 412 THE PEOPLE THAT IN DARKNESS SAT

1 The people that in darkness sat

    A glorious light have seen;

    The light has shined on them who long

        In shades of death have been,

        In shades of death have been.

2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness,

    The gath'ring nations come;

They joy as when the reapers bear

    Their harvest treasures home,

    Their harvest treasures home.

3 To us a Child of hope is born,

    To us a Son is giv'n,

And on His shoulder ever rests

    All pow'r in earth and heav'n,

    All pow'r in earth and heav'n.

4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,

    The Everlasting Lord,

    The Wonderful, the Counselor,

The God by all adored,  
The God by all adored.

5 His righteous government and pow'r  
Shall over all extend;  
On judgment and on justice based,  
His reign shall have no end,  
His reign shall have no end.

△ 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
And make us Thine alone,  
Who with the Father ever art  
And Holy Spirit, one,  
And Holy Spirit, one.

Text: John Morison, 1749–98, alt.

Text: Public domain

*THANK THE LORD*

LSB 181

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell  
ev'ryone what He has done.  
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and  
proudly bear His name.

**He recalls His promises and leads His people  
forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## *BENEDICTION*

LSB 183

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be  
gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\ddagger$  give you  
peace.

**C** Amen.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does its successive journeys run;  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
  
- 2 To Him shall endless prayer be made,  
And endless praises crown His head;

His name like sweet perfume shall rise  
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

- 3 People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on His name.
  
- 4 Blessings abound where'er He reigns:  
The pris'ners leap, unloose their chains,  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all who suffer want are blest.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

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