

APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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The community of Apostles Lutheran Church warmly welcomes you to worship today!

As Lutheran Christians, we proclaim that there is nothing, no human action that we can undertake, to earn God's love or the gift of God's grace. It is a gift promised and given to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh. It is a gift given to everyone regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or background. This Easter promise, this gift of grace, frees us from the fear of having to earn God's love and it moves us to simply try to love our neighbor as best we can. We have been blessed to be a blessing to others and proclaim that there is a place for you at Christ's table.

Welcome, celebrate this good news with us!

Pastor Peter Edwardsen

APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH
Service of Holy Communion
January 12, 2025
The Celebration of the Epiphany

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 Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

God-with-us,
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. *Amen.*

Gloria

(#854 ELW verse 1)

*Blessing and honor and glory and pow'r, wisdom and riches and strength evermore,
be to the Lamb who our battle has won, whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the
throne; whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne.*

Prayer of the Day

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray together the prayer for today, January 12th, the Sunday of Epiphany

*Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant
shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands,
and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Gathering Hymn: "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" # 310 ELW (3 verses)

*Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
manifested by the star to the sages from afar,
branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.*

*Manifest at Jordan's stream, prophet, priest, and king supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest in your God-head manifest;
manifest in pow'r divine, changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.*

*Manifest in making whole weakened body, fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill:
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.*

Please be seated.

The First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. 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. Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 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. 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.

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.

WORD

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: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

72:1 Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

72:2 May he judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice.

72:3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

72:4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

72:5 May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

72:6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

72:7 In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

72:10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

72:11 May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

72:12 For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

72:13 He has pity on the weak and the needy and saves the lives of the needy.

72:14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.

The Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12 This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 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: that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 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.

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

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: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: "Baptized and Set Free" by John Helgen.
Performed by Apostles Lutheran Church Choir and Phyllis Griffiths

Please rise, if you are able, for the Gospel reading.

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia #174

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, 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."

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: '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.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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."

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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*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 St. Mark the 2nd chapter.

All: Glory to you O Lord.

After the reading

P: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word, this is the Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: *The Rev. Peter Edwardsen*

Please rise if you are able.

Hymn of the Day: "How Good Lord to Be Here" #315-ELW (5 verses)

*How good, Lord, to be here! Your glory fills the night;
your face and garments, like the sun, shine with unborrowed light.*

*How good, Lord, to be here, your beauty to behold
where Moses and Elijah stand, your messengers of old.*

*Fulfiller of the past and hope of things to be,
we hail your body glorified and our redemption see.*

*Before we taste of death, we see your kingdom come;
we long to hold the vision bright and make this hill our home.*

*How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain;
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.*

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in Christmas joy and as we prepare to lift our voices in prayer, we confess our faith 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

**Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.*

Prayers and Concerns of the Community

“Come Bring Your Burdens to God” *South African Traditional*
Come, bring your burdens to God. Come, bring your burdens to God.
Come, bring your burdens to God. For Jesus will never say no. (sing twice)

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

A brief silence.

The Deacon, pastor, or worship leader continues with the prayers. Each petition ends;
D: God of grace, ***All: Receive our prayer.***

The final petition ends;

D: 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.**

Sharing of the Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ

Please be seated.

Offering

P: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to this feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **C: Amen.**

Please rise if you are able as the collection plates are presented at the table of the Lord.

Offertory music: “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord” #184 ELW

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of
life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

Offertory prayer:

D: 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**

The Meal

The Great Thanksgiving:

P: The Lord be with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

All: And also with you.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

**All: It is right to give our thanks
and praise.**

Preface: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(ELW page 108)

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven 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.



Eucharistic Prayer:

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.

Remembering, therefore his salutary command, his life giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to life as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer:

P: And now let us pray as our Lord Jesus has taught us.

**All: 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.**

Lamb of God
(ELW page 112)

*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.*

Invitation to Communion

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

C: Amen!

Please be seated.

As sinners redeemed not by our own actions but by God's promise of grace alone Lutherans practice an open table: Christ invites all to the table. All who desire to receive communion are welcome. Christ turns no one away.

Ushers will direct you when to approach the altar rail. Communion trays contain empty cups for wine, as well as filled cups of grape juice in the center for those who cannot drink wine. If you have a gluten sensitivity, please tell the pastor as he approaches with the bread and he will offer you to take from the tray of gluten-free wafers.

If you are unable to approach the rail and would like to receive communion in your seat, please let the ushers know.

Communion Hymn: "We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus" # 451 ELW

We are people created, chosen by God. Then we're washed, ever gently, in mercy and love. Sin has power no more. Jesus opened the door to a fountain bringing healing and wholeness and more.

We are fed and we're nourished, filled and refreshed. Then our hunger returns and again we are blessed. For whatever the need, God is greater indeed: endless ocean, always deeper than all of our need.

We are nourished by water, all living things, and by life that the Spirit abundantly brings. As we journey toward home, may your presence be known: precious river, ever-flowing, now carry us home.

Now with praise and thanksgiving, we join the song. All are welcome! We gather to sing loud and strong. Not enslaved, but set free! From now on, all will be one in Jesus, one in water, baptized and set free!

After all have received communion the community stands and sings three times:

*Jesus, remember me,
when you come into your Kingdom.*

Table Blessing

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep in you in his grace, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Canticle: "Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise" #207 ELW

*Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'ryone what God has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

Post Communion Prayer

P: 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.**

THE SENDING

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 Hymn: "Lord Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" # 545 ELW

*Lord, dismiss us with your blessing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us, trav'ling through this wilderness.*

*Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.*

*Savior, when your love shall call us from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us, glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever reign with you in endless day.*

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

All: Thanks be to God!

We pray for those celebrating a Birthday:

1/15 Barb Myers



Please keep in prayer...

... all communities suffering and mourning due to natural disasters.

... all communities and peoples that suffer from intolerance, injustice, racism, and violence.

... all areas of the world living under threat of violence and war.

We stand with those communities and organizations, faith-based and secular, that work towards healing, justice, and peace.

We pray that the Holy Spirit brings comfort to those who mourn, strength to those who advocate for change, and peace to those who struggle to make sense of the senseless.

God's purpose for the church is to witness to God's grace, forgiveness, compassion, and justice.

We fulfill this promise by serving and caring for your local and global communities.



The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory



of God.

Today's Altar Volunteers:

***Deacon: Mark L., Acolyte: Nicole G.,
Greeter & Usher: Paul G.,
Readers: Connie T., Mark L.,
Set Up: Sylvia D., & Clean Up: Connie T.***

January 19th Altar Volunteers:

***Deacon: David S., Acolyte: Nicole G.,
Greeter: Barb S., & Usher: Carol B.,
Readers: Laura E., David S.,
Set Up: Carol B., & Clean Up: Barb S.,***

***The Annual Congregational Budget Meeting is today
following the service.***

**January's Potluck Luncheon will be next Sunday, January the
19th.**

Please bring your favorite warm winter dishes.

Beginning this Sunday, there will be a collection box in the Narthex for items that will be donated to a local animal shelter. Some specific items needed are flat sheets (not fitted), blankets, Kong toys, and wet or dry Hills Science Diet pet food. Anything you can give is greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support!

January 23rd: Food Closet, 1-3pm

January 26th: “Soft Pretzel Sale” Soft pretzels will be available for purchase after the service.

December 2024 Financial Update

Year to Date Giving: \$113,720.96

Year to Date Expenses: \$144,003.61

Year to Date Shortfall: -\$30,282.65

Money Market/CD Balance: \$82,737.50

(For more information, please see Gene Abel or Joan Tartamosa)

The 2025 Offering Envelopes are now available in the Narthex.

(please see the other side for more announcements)

Please collect your containers and serving platters that are in the Kitchen! Thank you!

Altar Flower Dedications:

*******Please use the forms that are located next to the flower chart in the Narthex and return them to the church office at least one week before the date(s) you have chosen. This is to ensure that your dedication will appear in the bulletin. Thank you! *******

The January-March “Word in Season” booklets are now available in the vestibule.

There is now a “Memorial Wall” in the Narthex; if you would like, you can place a cross on the wall either in Honor of Loved ones who are no longer here, or to Memorialize an event. (We ask, if possible, that you include a command hook with the cross that you would like to place on the wall.)

If you wish to bring snacks for the Sunday Coffee Fellowship, there is a signup sheet in the Narthex.

We are collecting the following: Linens--towels, sheets, and blankets. Medical supplies-- Alcohol wipes, infusion set-ups, tubing, syringes, etc. Also, dog food, empty ink cartridges of all types, and pull tabs from aluminum cans for dialysis credits.

The Vanco system for online giving can be found on the Apostles’ website.

Any questions, please see Frank or Nick. Thank you.