

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Divine Service Four

The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 8, 2023





The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 8, 2023

8:00 and 10:30 AM

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Missouri Synod)

9770 Foothills Canyon Blvd.

Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Sunday Worship Services.....8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Bible Classes and Sunday School.....9:25 a.m.

Rev. Bruce Skelton, Pastor, Office.....303-683-1300

Fax..... 303-470-0165

Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:

Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!

Prayer for the Epiphany of Our Lord

Lord Jesus, by Your preaching and the miracles that accompanied it, You revealed exactly who You are and exactly what You came into this world to accomplish. Your words and miracles forever stand as unshakeable proof that as the God-man You fully accomplished Your mission of earning forgiveness for a whole world of sinners. In this Epiphany season, as we study Your Word, strengthen our confidence in You as our only Savior and Lord. In Your name we pray. Amen.



Confession and Absolution

398 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Stand

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

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Exhortation

Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3–4; Luke 18:13

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession of Sins

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

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.

G Amen.



Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 45:6–8a; antiphon: v. 17



I will cause your name to be remembered in all gener- | ations;*
therefore nations will praise you forever and | ever.

**Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter
of your kingdom is a scepter of up- | rightness;*
you have loved righteousness and hated | wickedness.**

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of
gladness beyond your com- | panions;*
your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and | cassia.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

I will cause your name to be remembered in all gener- | ations;*
therefore nations will praise you forever and | ever.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



G Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

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.
And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

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.
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.
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.**

Gradual

Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8



Praise the LORD, all | nations!*

Extol him, all | peoples!

For great is his steadfast | love toward us,*

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;*

bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!

Epistle: Ephesians 3:1–12

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When

you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 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. 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.

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. 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, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, 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



John 20:31



Matthew 2:1–12: Matthew 2:1–15

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

G Glory to You, O Lord.

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, 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." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"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."

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 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." 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. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 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. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.



Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Sermon

"Out of Egypt I Have Called My Son"

Text: Matthew 2:1-15

399 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here

Stand

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Sit

Offering

(Please add your name to the red fellowship book and pass it to your fellow worshippers.)

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
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.

Closing Collect

- P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

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 ☩ give you peace.

C Amen.

400 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning



Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone be the glory.)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Announcements



Assisting Elders:

8 a.m. – Steve White

10:30 a.m. – Curt Oliver



A big “Thank You!” to those who helped take down the Christmas tree and decorations yesterday. Your participation was greatly appreciated!

Offering Envelope



The 2023 Offering Envelopes are available on the table in the narthex. If you didn’t find yours or would like to request envelopes, please contact Dave Shavlik.



Thank you to everyone who so kindly sent me cards and offered encouragement and prayers for a healthy recovery. You are so very appreciated. You meant for me to receive a blessing and in turn you also received a blessing for your loving, caring compassion.

Marie McQuarrie



The LWML is having “Mite Box Sunday” TODAY and the second Sunday of every month. On these Sundays they have the big Mite Box in the narthex to gather free will offerings to support the mission projects they have selected to provide for this year.



Please check the **Sunday Greeter schedule**, posted on the bulletin board, to find out when you're scheduled to serve. Thank you!

Portals of Prayer for January-March 2023 are out!

Pick up your copy from the table in the narthex. We have digest size copies if you need larger print. These are a great resource to use in your daily devotions!

JOURNEY OF THE WISE MEN

A CHRISTMAS STORY

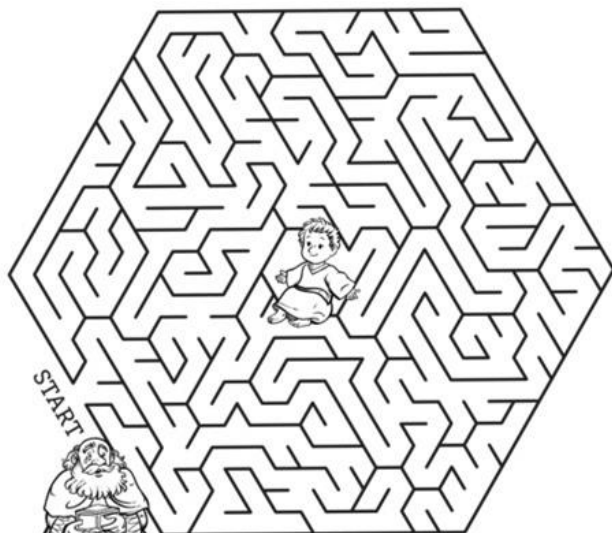


Discover the hidden words.



N	W	I	Y	D	O	B	K	D	B	S	H	I	U	X
E	R	Z	K	O	Q	A	K	V	W	S	J	C	Z	C
M	H	V	P	R	U	V	T	O	I	E	G	F	F	B
E	A	E	A	E	V	Z	R	W	D	E	Z	L	L	J
S	K	K	A	H	F	S	E	E	D	B	J	T	E	T
I	P	I	U	R	H	J	P	G	F	U	F	R	L	N
W	H	Q	N	I	T	M	Q	U	J	C	U	L	M	D
L	Z	Z	P	G	E	J	E	A	I	S	X	U	G	V
B	O	V	M	E	H	U	O	H	A	G	R	J	X	I
B	I	R	T	H	D	A	V	L	E	D	U	I	H	O
F	Y	U	N	K	J	Z	E	Z	E	L	G	Y	F	G
U	V	V	W	Z	N	M	C	R	B	A	H	O	R	N
M	K	Y	H	R	U	K	Q	X	M	O	U	T	N	I
F	I	J	E	S	U	S	O	T	G	R	A	N	E	E
M	S	B	S	O	X	R	Q	Q	H	Y	U	S	Z	B

HEROD
MAGI
JERUSALEM
KING
JEWISH
WORSHIP
BETHLEHEM
JESUS
BIRTHDAY
MURDER
WISEMEN
HEART



Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



Petitions and Prayers: In its simplest form, prayer is “calling upon the name of the Lord.”



Health concerns:

Dear Jesus, Great Physician of body and soul, hear our prayer for those who are sick. Be for them the grace sufficient for them in this time of suffering. Remind them that in their weakness Your power is being brought to perfection. If it be Your will, bring healing to these people, even as we anticipate the ultimate healing in the joys of heaven. Amen.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Kathy Harrington's sister, Barbara, in Hospice
- Devon Hanson (grandson of Connie and Terry Mitchell) – mental health issues
- Roger Frank (brother of Connie Mitchell) cancer
- Julie Ann Zamora is having shoulder surgery Jan. 10
- Mary (relative of Tabris') pray for protection and wisdom for her family concerning special needs.
- Angela (single mother in Illinois) friend of Helen Tabris should officially be on heart transplant list soon
- Jamie (is missing and has mental health issues) and young daughter Jade (is being adopted by family in Colorado)

Prayer of intercession:

A Prayer for the Epiphany of Our Lord

**Light of the world, when You saw us stumbling around in the darkness of sin, unable to find our way out, You took compassion on us. As true God, You became also true man so that You could bear our sins. Keep the light of Your Gospel shining in our hearts and lives as we await heaven's glorious radiance. In Your most holy and precious name, Jesus, we pray. Amen.*

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life January 8, 2023

“When an abortion is performed, we proclaim that we know better than God. We disregard His wisdom, for He taught us that we should never kill innocent human beings. We proclaim that we do not want or need a gift from God. And in doing so, we seek to make ourselves more powerful than God. We seek to make ourselves God.”

Archbishop Samuel Aquila

A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



**For if we have been united with him in a death like his,
we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.**

Romans 6:5

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***Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:
Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!***



**Check out
The Lutheran Hour
Sunday mornings at
6 a.m. on 850 KOA Radio or
or and click on "Listen Now"
anytime.**

Holy Cross Lutheran Church



Holy Cross Lutheran is on Facebook.
Check us out and Like us at
facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch.



**Daily devotion
is better than
yearly resolution.**

