



Sunday, January 5, 2025 Epiphany of Our Lord

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! We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

Worshiping. Today’s service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

Communion: *Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood “in, with, and under” the bread and wine in the Lord’s Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.*

ST. STEPHEN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH
270 South Broadway + Hicksville NY 11801
Church Office: Monday through Thursday, 8am - 2pm
Church Office: 516-931-0710
Rev. Dr. Joann Heaney-Hunter
Mason Griffin, Minister of Music
Michelle Burkhardt, Parish Administrator (*email ststephenoffice@msn.com*)
Church Website www.ststephenshicksville.com
Join us on Facebook: St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Hicksville, NY 11801

+GATHERING+

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Pause for silent 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 the good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn is 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.**

GATHERING SONG: *We Three Kings*



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

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!

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

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and

peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

I Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you

Refrain

for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -



lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

A - men. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's

peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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

A reading from Isaiah.

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 on 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. The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14



Give the king your jus- | tice, O God, and your righteousness to | the king's son;
that he may rule your | people righteously and the | poor with justice;
that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people, and the | hills, in righteousness.
**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people, rescue the poor, and crush | the
oppressor. R**

May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure, from one generation | to another.
**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field, like showers that wa- | ter the
earth.**

In his time may the | righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the
moon shall | be no more.

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and
Seba | offer gifts. R**

May all kings bow | down before him, and all the nations | do him service.

**For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress, the oppressed, and those
who | have no helper.**

He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor, and preserves the lives | of the needy.

**From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives, and precious is their blood
| in his sight. R**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from Ephesians.

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 to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

P The Lord be with you. **C And also with you.**

P The holy gospel according to Matthew. **C Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.” 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 wise men 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 at its rising, 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. The gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

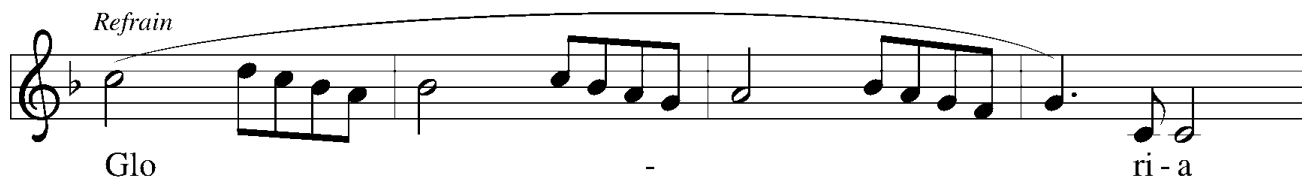
HYMN OF THE DAY: *Angels We Have Heard on High* (ELW 289)



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

P Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Kevin Dolan, who is becoming a member of St. Stephen's and affirming his baptism.

P Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for Kevin, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called him to yourself, enlightened him with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished him in the community of faith. Uphold your servant in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. **C Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P Kevin and the whole congregation, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C 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 will come to judge the living and the dead.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C 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.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

P Kevin, you have made public your profession of faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Kevin: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P People of God, do you promise to support Kevin and pray for him in his life in Christ?

C We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in Kevin the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **C Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Response to today's petition is: receive our prayer.

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

A 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.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always. **C And also with you.**

P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

BIRTHDAY SONG

He who began a good work in you 2x

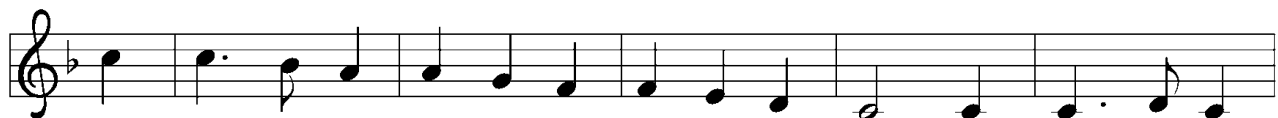
Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)

Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)

He who started the work will be faithful to complete it in you!

+MEAL+

OFFERING: *Away in a Manger* (ELW 277)



- 1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
- 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
- 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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 our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -

est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God...

...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

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...**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. C **Thanks be to God.**

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

SONG DURING COMMUNION: *The First Noel* (ELW 300)



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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

+SENDING+

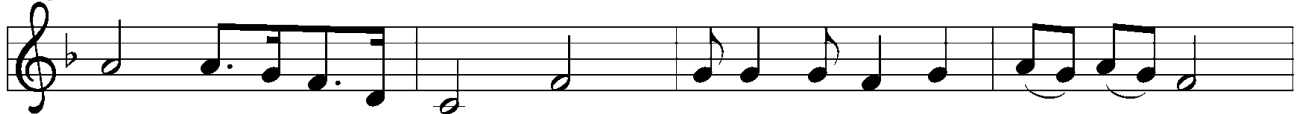
P The Lord be with you. **C And also with you.**

BLESSING

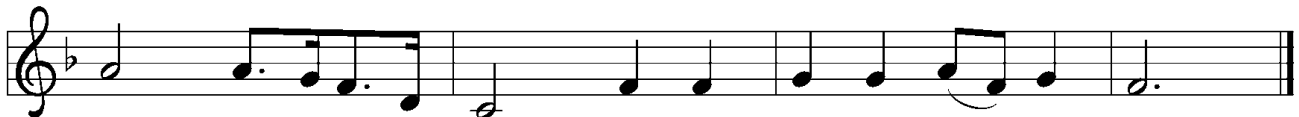
P The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **C Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (ELW 290)

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor. **C Thanks be to God.**

Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses

Matthew's account is a dramatic presentation of the truth that is spoken in the reading from Ephesians: that the Gentiles are "heirs with us, members of the same body," and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus. Traditionally, the Gentiles were excluded from the promise to Israel through Abraham. Thus they were thought to be alienated from God. Matthew's magi represent the Gentiles—they come from the East and they receive a revelation from nature—and they are portrayed as the first to pay homage to the king of the Jews. The impenetrable wall between Jew and Gentile has been overcome. God's salvation is for all the world. Epiphany is a celebration of the unfathomable gift of the birth of Jesus—and of the new possibilities that exist for the human race because of this gift of God to us. —*Kathleen Cannon, O.P.*

Upcoming Commemorations

Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710 ~ Thursday, January 9, 2025

African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England. He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.

**Announcements for the week of
January 5, 2025**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Tyler LaVorgna 1/14
Susan Portz 1/17
Anisa Belle Ruiz 1/20
Bill Artus 1/27

Jane Ebersberger 1/28
Lauren Artus 1/29
Sophie Maureen Pendas 1/30
Emilia Cea 1/30

~ **Farewell Breakfast for Pastor Joann** ~ TODAY, we will be holding a breakfast in the Pastor's lounge following worship where we can gather to say our goodbyes to Pastor Joann and Greg. We're hoping you'll join us as we express our thanks for all they've done for St. Stephen's and wish them Godspeed as they start on a new path in their lives.

~ **2025 Offering Envelopes** ~ If you haven't taken your envelopes yet, please remember to *take them today*. Help St. Stephen's save on postage!



~ Anyone who would like to pick up a poinsettia please feel free to take one after worship.

~ A chart on the lobby bulletin board allows us to designate weekly Sunday service altar flowers or the monthly sanctuary lamp candle as special memorial/in honor of gifts. Use the envelopes provided to forward the gift (\$25.00 for flowers; \$15.00 for candle). Be sure to include information concerning who is being honored/memorialized by your gift as well as your name, address and telephone number. You may also contact the church office at (516) 931-0710

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK (January 6th - January 12th)

Today **Epiphany of Our Lord**
 9:30 am Holy Communion
Tuesday 7:00 pm Back to Basics
Next Sunday, Baptism of our Lord
 9:30 am Holy Communion

SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, 9:30 AM

ASSISTING MINISTER: Barbara Engert
LECTOR: Jaclyn Shurman
ACOLYTE: Kiko Reyes
USHERS: Tyler LaVorgna & Rich Human
ACCOMPANIST Mason Griffin & Greg Hunter
GREETER: Lynn Browning
AUDIO/VISUAL: Tyler LaVorgna
ALTAR GUILD: Beth & Jane

PARISH PRAYER LIST

If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. Please remember to keep the office updated.

PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Bill Artus
Dottie Eberhardt
Roger Engert
Ilona Riggers

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES

Joe DiSalvo (cousin of Maureen O'Brien)
James Ebersberger (brother of Jane Ebersberger)
Jim Fritz (cousin of Lauren Artus and John Langbehn)
William Stanton (cousin of Kellie Barone)

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS

Rich Carlstrom (friend of the Staton family)
Cheryl Glasini (friend of the Ahlers-Pendas family)
John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger)
Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien)
Sarah Motyka (friend of the Maurer family)
Megan Mudd (friend of the Staton family)
Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger)
John Sheridan (friend of Bob and Nan Maurer)