

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 4, 2026

## Prairieland Parish

*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.  
May we together experience the presence of God*

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***We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord***

## Epiphany Service of Lessons and Carols

*Book of Common Worship*

*(Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993), p. 192-193.*



### **Prelude – Welcome - Announcements**

#### **Opening**

The people who walked in darkness have  
seen a great light.  
The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.  
Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness,  
on them has the light shined.  
We have beheld Christ's glory,  
glory as of the only Son of the Father.  
For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.  
In him was life, and the life was the light  
of all people.

#### **Opening Prayer:**

**Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls,  
who brought the nations to your light  
and kings to the brightness of your rising:  
Fill the world with your glory,  
and show yourself to all the nations;  
through him who is the true light  
and the bright morning star,  
Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Hymn****First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1–6 (NRSV)****The Ingathering of the Dispersed**

*60 Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

*2 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.*

*3 Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

*4 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.*

*5 Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,[a]  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.*

*6 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.*

**Response:****Hymn****Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:1–12 (NRSV)****Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles**

*3 This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for[a] Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— 2 for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, 3 and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, 4 a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 5 In former generations this mystery[b] was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: 6 that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.*

7 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. 8 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, 9 and to make everyone see[c] what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in[d] God who created all things; 10 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. 11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.[e]

**Response:**

**Hymn**

### **Third Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)**

#### **The Visit of the Wise Men**

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men[a] from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising,[b] and have come to pay him homage." 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah[c] was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 '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[d] my people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men[e] and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 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." 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,[f] until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped,[g] they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 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. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Response:**

**Hymn**

## Fourth Lesson: John 1:1–14 (NRSV)

### **The Word Became Flesh**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life,[a] and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.[b]

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own,[c] and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,[d] full of grace and truth.

**Response:**

**Hymn**

## Fifth Lesson: Matthew 5:14–16 (NRSV)

14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

**Response:**

**Hymn**

**Service of Word and Table III  
(UMH #15)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image  
and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed,  
your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,  
made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through the prophets.

And so, with your people on earth  
and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.**

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,  
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with  
Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
 one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
 until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
 all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **BREAKING AND SHARING**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
 in which you have given yourself to us.  
 Grant that we may go into the world  
 in the strength of your Spirit,  
 to give ourselves for others,  
 in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Offertory/Doxology/Prayer**

God of Light. We take these gifts and present them with love. We rejoice in our ability to share, but long to do more. Help us to be like the magi and carefully plan the gifts we bring you. May we not be satisfied with what is enough, but instead be inspired to do more. May these gifts be used so others may know the hope that is found in you. In His name, we pray. Amen.

### **Joys/Concerns**

#### **Litany for Epiphany**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation  
 of our God. Alleluia!

#### **Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!**

With joy let us pray to our Savior,  
 the Son of God who became one of us, saying:

#### **The grace of God be with us all.**

O Christ, let your gospel shine in every place  
 where the Word of life is not yet received.  
 Draw the whole creation to yourself  
 that your salvation may be known through  
 all the earth.

#### **The grace of God be with us all.**

O Christ, Savior and Lord,  
 extend your church to every place.  
 Make it a place of welcome for people of every  
 race and tongue.

#### **The grace of God be with us all.**

O Christ, Ruler of rulers,  
 direct the work and thoughts of the leaders  
 of nations that they may seek justice,  
 and further peace and freedom for all.

#### **The grace of God be with us all.**

**O Christ, Master of all,**

support of the weak and comfort of the afflicted,  
strengthen the tempted and raise the fallen.

Watch over the lonely and those in danger.

Give hope to the despairing and sustain the faith  
of the persecuted.

**The grace of God be with us all.**

**Lord's Prayer...**

**Departing Hymn****Charge and Benediction**

Go in peace; love and care for one another in the name of Christ;  
and may the Spirit of God which filled John and Jesus,  
fill your hearts, souls and minds;  
may the power of God which upheld them,  
strengthen you for each day;  
and may the love of God which directed their every action  
be your guiding light and your shining star,  
both now and forevermore. Amen