



Epiphany of Our Lord

January 5, 2025

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

1308 Mt Holly Rd

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(609) 387-1202

HOLY TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

www.holytrinityelc.org

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License # A-713124 for music where applicable.

January 5, 2025

10:00am

Epiphany of Our Lord

Introduction

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.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE

*THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

Amen.

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.

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.

THE GATHERING SONG:

#303

Brightest and Best of the Stars

*** THE 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.

*** THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

Amen.

THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

¹ 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, 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.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
² **that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**
⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance
of peace till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the Isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**
¹¹ May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.
¹² **For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**
¹³ He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.
¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

¹ This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for 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 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.

⁷Of 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 what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in 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.

The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

* **THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Sung page #151a

C: Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

* P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 2nd chapter

* C: **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men 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, 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 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 my people Israel.'" ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men 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, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

GOOD NEWS 101

THE SERMON

THE HYMN OF THE DAY:

#302

As With Gladness Men of Old

* **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

page 217

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

**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 he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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. Amen.**

***THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

God of grace,
Receive Our Prayer

* **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

**OFFERING
SPECIAL MUSIC**

* **THE OFFERTORY:** Let the Vineyards be Fruitful # 184

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.

THE MEAL

* **THE OFFERING PRAYER**

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.
Amen.

* **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** (Sung) page 152

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

* **THE 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:

* **THE HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** (Sung) page 153

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
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.**

* **THE THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

* **THE LORD'S PRAYER** page 154

**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.**

* **THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

THE LAMB OF GOD (sung) page 154

**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.**

THE DISTRIBUTION

*** THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.
Amen.

THE SENDING

*** THE BLESSING**

The God of love,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

Amen.

*** THE SENDING SONG:**

#310

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

• THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.
Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

Serving Today: January 5, 2025

Communion Assistant: Lynn Haab

Acolyte: Scarlett Johnson

Lector: Judy Bariexca

Usher: Steve Anderson & Bonnie Mazza

Musician: Danny Allen

Sound System: Amber Johnson

Serving Next Week: January 12, 2025

Acolyte: Scarlett Johnson

Lector: Hank Bariexca

Ushers: Amber Johnson & Allyson Schmalz

Musician: Ryan Peiffer

Sound System: Amber Johnson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE CALL the church office (609-387-1202) whenever a family member, neighbor, or friend who is a member of Holy Trinity is hospitalized or moves from one hospital to another. Due to stricter privacy laws, hospitals do *not* notify the church when a member is admitted to the hospital and keep us informed of hospitalizations so Pastor Haab can visit and keep people in our prayers.

SUNDAY MORNING: 9am Sunday School & Worship 10AM every Sunday.

MORE INFORMATION: on these and other upcoming worship times and events can be found on the church Facebook page [HolyTrinityBT](https://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityBT) and the church website: www.holytrinityelc.org

It is that time of year when your elected Council meets to look over and prepare our spending plan for the new year.

Do you ever wonder how your offering is used. Plate offering not only supports the general day to day operations of the church, it pays the Church staff who keep the work going all week, not just on Sunday mornings. It supports the work of the Pastor, not just for leading us in worship, but for home & hospital visits, meeting with community families in need, participating in synod work and so much more. Your offering is used to maintain our building, painting, repairs, etc. We ask that as you look over your personal budget for 2025; that you be in prayer about how much you are able to faithfully give to the work of the Lord here at Holy Trinity and the church worldwide.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST: January 19, 2025, immediately following worship. Please mark your calendars for this important meeting. Our budget, spending plan and goals for our church will be discussed and voted on.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME: Have you ever thought about joining one of our worship teams. We are always looking for new people to help usher, read, help with communion or acolyte. Please see Bonnie Mazza if you are interested.

FOOD PANTRY: Our food pantry is open the third Sunday of each month. We are in need a few people to come and take inventory of what we have left so we can restock. If you are able to help out please call the office.

END OF YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: If you want a 2024 year-end financial statement of your donations, please email Hank Bariexca at: htelctreasurer@gmail.com or call the Church office at (609) 387-1202 with your request. If you don't supply an email address the statements will be left in the Narthex for you to pick up.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Mark your calendars for the first Sunday school special event of 2025: Saturday, February 1st Our young people will meet at 2:00PM to prepare a shared meal for the congregation. Families and friends are invited to enjoy the fruits of our labor at 6:00PM. See you there!



COUNTERS NEEDED: We are looking for volunteers to help count offering on Monday mornings around 10am. If you would like to volunteer for this ministry please reach out to Bonnie in the office to schedule a day and time to help out.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Today 9:00AM Sunday School
10:00AM Worship

Monday: 7:00-9:00pm Burlington Entertainers

Wednesday 5:00—7:00PM Sisters of Sobriety

Friday 7:00—10:00PM AA

Next Sunday: 9:00AM Sunday School
10:00AM Worship

