



Lutheran Church

Epiphany of Our Lord
8:30 a.m., January 7, 2024

Worship Leadership

Rev. Christian Marien, *Lead Pastor*
Rev. Anthony Acompañado, *Pastor*
Rev. Edwin Aparicio, *Pastor*
Vicki Taylor, *Director of Music Ministries*

Acolyte: Ethan Sorkness

Altar Guild: Gary Bauer

Choir Accompanist: Kathy Johnson

Communion: Jennifer and Scot Werner

Greeters: Sarah Boales and Emily

Greeter: Nancy Cahen

Media: Adam Boales

Reader: Tom Hoffmann

Ushers: Bill Klippel, Dennis Mohr

Usher: Al Wollschlager

PRELUDE

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star, *Johann Pachelbel*

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son ☩, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son ☩, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

We Three Kings



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; Bear - ing gifts we
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold I bring to
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: In - cense owns a
4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a life of
5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and



1. tra - verse a - far Field and foun - tain, Moor and moun - tain,
2. crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er, Ceas - ing nev - er
3. De - i - ty nigh; Prayer and prais - ing Glad - ly rais - ing,
4. gath - er - ing gloom; Sor - rowing, sigh - ing, Bleed - ing, dy - ing,
5. Sac - ri - fice; "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!"



1. Fol - low - ing yon - der star. O star of won - der,
2. O - ver us all to reign.
3. Wor - ship him, God on high.
4. Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
5. Sounds through the earth and skies.



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.

KYRIE

p. 138

HYMN OF PRAISE

This Is the Feast

p. 140

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Tony

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 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.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Angels, from the Realms of Glory (v. 3)

ELW 275

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-12

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 enter-

ing 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL RESPONSE **Angels, from the Realms of Glory** (v. 4)

ELW 275

SERMON

Pastor Tony

HYMN **Bright and Glorious Is the Sky** (v. 1-3, 5)

ELW 301

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Healing: Marie Renn, surgery
Michelle Shulfer, knee injury following a fall
Ruth Dewitz, pneumonia
Cynthia Carlson's sister, MaryAnn, back surgery

Comfort: For Garnet Wolff at the death of her sister Daisy

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING **Arise and Shine!**, *John Paradowski*
(Choir sings verses; all sing refrain)

Ascension Choir

Congregation:

Antiphon



A - rise and shine! Your light ___ has come to



all who dwell in dark-ness. A - rise and shine, for



in ___ our midst the light of Christ is with us.

OFFERTORY **What Child Is This** (v. 3)

ELW 296

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All those believing in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection are welcome to receive communion at this table of grace. We offer both bread and wine for holy communion. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.

LAMB OF GOD

p. 146

HYMNS

The First Noel

ELW 300

Brightest and Best of the Stars

ELW 303

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace now and forever.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Lord God, you call your servants into the world to follow where you lead. Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us. Day by day, guide us and give us what is needed, friends to cheer our way, and a clear vision to which you call us. By your Holy Spirit, be present in our journeys, that we may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

ELW 310

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Festive Variations and Toccata on "I Saw Three Ships," *David Lasky*



ASCENSION

Children Are God's Gift: We are a noisy church. We are happy to celebrate the sounds of children during worship. You are welcome to step into the lobby with your child for a break.

Pew Pads: Please fill-out the blue pew pad and pass it to your neighbor. You might make a new friend!

Los Reyes Magos: The Three Kings will be arriving at Ascension today in the Spanish-language service. We will welcome them with a potluck lunch after worship.

Children and Youth Groups: BLAST meets today at 9:45 a.m. CRASH meets tonight at 6 p.m. JOLT meets Thursday, Jan. 11, at 6 p.m. Students should bring their Advent project.

Offering Envelopes: If you use envelopes, please check the table in the narthex for yours. If there isn't a box for you and you would like one, please contact Amy Gilgenbach in the church office, admin@ascensionelca.org or 262-547-8518.

Community Outreach Meeting: The Community Outreach Committee will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 6:30 p.m. to plan outreach activities for 2024. If you have an interest in outreach, please join us. Contact Shirley Wehmeier, shwehmeier@gmail.com, with questions.

Choirs Resume! Now is a great time to join one of our choirs. Children's Choir will meet Thursday, Jan. 11, 5-5:40 p.m. in the music room. Ascension Choir and Ascension Ringers rehearsals will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 10, with bells at 6 p.m., and choir at 7:15 p.m.. New singers and ringers are always welcome! Email Vicki Taylor, vicki@ascensionelca.org, for more information or to join.

El Salvador Trip Meeting: Ascension is returning to El Salvador this summer. We will be there for about a week at the end of July /beginning of August. It will be a time of learning about the ministries of our sister parishes, exploring opportunities for future shared projects, cultural excursions, and building friendships with the members of San Jorge church. We have our first informational meeting on Sunday, Jan. 14, following late church. Questions? Contact Sarah Wehmeier Aparicio, sarah@ascensionelca.org.

No Regrets 2024: Ascension men are invited to the men's No Regrets conference livestreamed at Ascension on Feb. 3. More information and registration online, <http://tinyurl.com/NoRegretsAMEN>. Join us for this event sponsored by Ascension's men's group, Amen.

January Newsletter: Read all about it in our January newsletter online <https://ascensionelca.org/events/newsletter/>.

Many Ways to Give



- 1) *QR code*
- 2) *Vanco Giving app*
- 3) *Online at tinyurl.com/SupportALC*
- 4) *Via text to 262-214-3681 with the amount*

CALENDAR <https://ascensionelca.org/events/>

Sun Jan 7

8:30am Worship S

9:45am BLAST

10:45am Misa EH

10:45am Worship S

12pm Tres Reyes Magos WH

6pm CRASH

7pm AA WH

Mon Jan 8

6:30pm AA Sm Group WH

Tue Jan 9

7am AMEN zoom

9:30am Women's Bible CR

6:30pm Comm. Outreach CR

7pm Holloway Group HR

Wed Jan 10

11:30am Staff Mtg HR

6pm Handbells S

7pm AA WH

7:15pm Adult Choir S

Thu Jan 11

10am AI Anon CR

11am Staff Spanish

5pm Children's Choir MR

6pm JOLT EH

Sun Jan 14

8:30am Worship S

9:45am BLAST

10:45am Misa EH

Sun Jan 14 cont.

10:45am Worship S

12pm El Salvador Meeting

7pm AA WH

Mon Jan 15

1pm Knit Wits WH

6:30pm AA Sm Group WH

Tue Jan 16

7am AMEN zoom

9:30am Women's Bible CR

Wed Jan 17

12pm Young at Heart WH

6pm Handbells S

7pm AA WH

7:15pm Adult Choir S

Thu Jan 18

9:30am TGIT HR

10am AI Anon CR

1pm Hansen Group CR

5pm Children's Choir MR

Sat Jan 20

10:30am Knit Wits WH, K

Sun Jan 21

8:30am Worship S

9:45am BLAST

10:45am Misa EH

10:45am Worship S

7pm AA WH

Mon Jan 22

6:30pm AA Sm Group WH

7pm Jubilate S

Tue Jan 23

7am AMEN zoom

9:30am Women's Bible CR

7pm Church Council HR

7pm Holloway group CR

Wed Jan 24

1pm Bunco WH

6pm Handbells S

7pm AA WH

7:15pm Adult Choir S

Thu Jan 25

10am AI Anon CR

11am Spanish class HR

5pm Children's Choir MR

6pm JOLT EH

Sat Jan 27

6pm CRASH Winter Warm-Up Fundraiser

Key

CR	Conference rm
EH	East Hall
HR	Hearth rm
MR	Music rm
S	Sanctuary
WH	West Hall
<i>Italics</i>	<i>Virtual/offsite</i>

Worship Support Schedule <https://tinyurl.com/worshippupport>

Jan. 14	8:30a	10:45a
Acolyte	Zach Jahner	Marti Mustapich
Altar Guild	Marge Schroeder	Mary Kolberg, Sue Mathews
Communion	Marge and Todd Schroeder	Pat Boyer
Greeters	Jim Koester, Jennifer Werner	Sandie Pfeiffer
Media	Todd Schroeder	Cheryl Anspach
Ushers	Bill Klippel, Dennis Mohr, Jeff Rohrer	Mike Rapp

Are You Visiting?

Date of Visit: _____

Time of Worship: _____

Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How did God invite you here?

How can we share the life of Ascension with you?

- Newsletter: e-mail or U.S. Mail
- BLAST (ages 3-5th gr.)
- JOLT (confirmation, 6-8th gr.)
- CRASH (high school)
- Bible study (small groups)
- Choirs or other music ministries
- Serving others (local/global options)
- Starting Point class (membership)

Please place in the offering plate.



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