

# Second Sunday after Christmas    Epiphany Celebration

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

January 4, 2026

## The Word of God

Processional Hymn

Hymnal 124

What star is this, with beams so bright, more beauteous than the noonday light?  
It shines to herald forth the King, and Gentiles to his crib to bring.

True spake the prophet from afar who told the rise of Jacob's star;  
and eastern sages with amaze upon the wondrous token gaze.

The guiding star above is bright; within them shines a clearer light,  
and leads them on with power benign to seek the Giver of the sign.

O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek thy face,  
let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of thy light to use.

To God the Father, heavenly Light, to Christ, revealed in earthly night,  
to God the Holy Ghost we raise our equal and unceasing praise.

Words: Charles Coffin, tr. John Chandler    Music: *Puer Nobis*, Michael Praetorius

*Celebrant*            Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

*People*              And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you,  
we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of  
God the Father. Amen.

### **The Collect of the Day**

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:  
Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face  
to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen

### **The Old Testament Lesson**

*Isaiah 60:1-6*

A Reading from the Book of 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.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 72:1-7

- 1 Give the King you 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 little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people;\*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure. \*  
From one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
Like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish;\*  
There shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

## The Epistle

Ephesians 3:1-2

*A Reading from the Letter to the 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 time 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 generation this mystery was not made known to human kind, 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.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

## Gradual Hymn

Hymnal 117

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining, Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Shall we then yield him, in costly devotion  
odors of Edom, and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
vainly with gifts would his favor secure;  
richer by far is the heart's adoration, dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Words: Reginald Heber

Music: *Morning Star*, James Proctor Harding

## **The Holy Gospel**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

*Priest*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
*People*            Glory to you, Lord Christ

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.

*Priest*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **The Sermon**

The Rev. Martin Gutwein

## **The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## The Prayers of the People

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. We pray as pilgrims, “Lead us to your presence; let us see your glory.”

Almighty God, grant to your Church wisdom. Work through us that we might lead many to the knowledge and love of you.

Lead us to your presence;

*People: Let us see your glory.*

Defend the needy, Lord Christ. Rescue the poor and thwart all the ways of oppression.

Lead us to your presence;

*People: Let us see your glory.*

The heavens reveal your wonders, O God. Give us eyes to see, hearts to follow, and lives that pay you homage.

Lead us to your presence;

*People: Let us see your glory.*

Bless all students as they return to school and university. May they find wisdom as well as knowledge; give them a hunger for your truth.

Lead us to your presence;

*People: Let us see your glory.*

Loving God, you are the help of the helpless and the deliverer of those in distress; bless and heal all those in need.

Lead us to your presence;

*People: Let us see your glory.*

Great redeemer, you have guided us to your presence; you have shown us your glory. Grant us, that we might at last, see you face to face.

Lead us to your presence;

*People: Let us see your glory.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding collect*

## Confession of Sin

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Minister and People*

Most merciful God, we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

## The Peace

<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.

## Announcements

*The Celebrant says*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.  
*Ephesians 5:2*

## Offertory Hymn

Hymnal 128

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King for ever, ceasing never  
over us all to reign. (Refrain)

Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, gladly raising,  
worship him, God Most High. (Refrain)

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Refrain)

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;  
heaven sings alleluia:  
alleluia the earth replies. (Refrain)

Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr.

Music: *Three Kings of Orient*, John Henry Hopkins, Jr.

## The Holy Communion

### The Great Thanksgiving

#### Eucharistic Prayer B

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says*

The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

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

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our  
hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the  
company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



*Celebrant and People*

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.

*The people kneel. The Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;.

*The Celebrant continues*

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [\_\_\_\_\_and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN

*The Celebrant then continues*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

## **Agnus Dei**

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## **Spiritual Communion**

*A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion*

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

## Communion Hymn

Hymnal 497

How bright appears the Morning Star, with mercy beaming from afar;  
the host of heaven rejoices;  
O righteous Branch, O Jesse's Rod! Thou Son of Man and Son of God!  
We, too, will lift our voices:  
Jesus, Jesus! Holy, holy, yet most lowly, draw thou near us;  
great Emmanuel, come and hear us.

Though circled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast a pitying eye  
upon his helpless creature;  
the whole creation's Head and Lord, by highest seraphim adored,  
assumed our very nature;  
Jesus, grant us, through thy merit, to inherit thy salvation;  
hear, O hear our supplication.

Rejoice, ye heavens; thou earth, reply; with praise, ye sinners, fill the sky,  
for this his Incarnation.  
Incarnate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on, great Conqueror,  
till all know thy salvation.  
Amen, amen! Alleluia, alleluia! Praise be given  
evermore, by earth and heaven.

Words: William Mercer & Philipp Nicolai  
Music: *Wie Schon Leuchtet*, Philipp Nicolai, harm JS Bach

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray.

*The Celebrant and People together say*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Epiphany Blessing

*The priest blesses the people, saying*

May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also, in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth. **Amen.**

May God, by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen**

## Recessional Hymn

Hymnal 119

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger-bed;  
there to bend the knee before him whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare;  
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ! to thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus! every day keep us in the narrow way;  
and, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed lives at last  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright, need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;  
there forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

Words: William Chatterton Dix

Music: Dix, Conrad Kocher, arr. William Henry Monk

## The Dismissal

*Celebrant*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*

Thanks be to God.

## Notes and Announcements

January 4, 2026

### PRAYER LIST

Anglican Cycle of Prayer for the Church of the Province of Central Africa...

Diocesan Calendar of Prayer for Members and Ministry of the Anti-Racism Commission....

Parish Calendar of Prayer for the Alcoholics Anonymous Group...

For Our sons and daughters in the Military for Nathan, Kenny, Zach, Jack, Garrett, Willie, Charley, Erin...

For those Celebrating Birthdays this Week Megan Woods 01/04; Tim Ward 01/06; Robert Wolfgang 01/06; Carol Slim 01/07; Margaret McFadden 01/08; Dot Pinto 01/08; James Cruz 01/09 ...

For the Sick, Suffering & Infirm Denise, Dan Sr., Stephen, Matt, Mark, Tanya, Joseph, Julia, Olivia, Lisa, Amanda, John, Sue, Bob, Dennis, Alex, Lisa, Ben, Margie, Virginia, Brigid, Sharon C., Kate, Megan, Lisa & Frank, Mindy, Carol, Michael, Douglas, Christine, Al, Barbara, Maureen, Drew, Alec, Greg, Tina, Mark L, Michael, Audrey, John, Colleen, Bob N, Kay, Milton, Shelley, Buddy, Bob, Gordon, Maggie, Sally...

PLEASE CONTINUE TO WELCOME The Rev. Martin Gutwein whose ongoing care of our Holy Trinity family is deeply appreciated.

### UPCOMING EVENTS!

- TODAY, January 4 – Sunday School and Youth Fellowship 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 13 – Vestry Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, January 25 – Annual Meeting & luncheon after the 9:00a.m. Service
- Saturday, January 31 – Gender Affirming Clothing Swap

### AND A LITTLE FARTHER OUT

- Thursday, February 12 – Ukes & Brews Valentines Day Open Mic 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 17 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Wednesday, February 18 – Ash Wednesday

### *\*At the church this week:*

- This afternoon: Sunday School and Youth Fellowship 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
- This evening: Liberty Youth, 6:00-8:00, Parish Hall & Conference Room
- Monday evening: AA 7:00 to 9:00, Parish Hall
- Wednesday evening: Boy Scouts 7:00-9:00, Parish Hall
- Thursday evening: Ukes & Brews, 6:30 to 8:30, Parish Hall

*\*Note – Additional events are added frequently. All facility usage should be coordinated through the Verger to ensure no double booking of spaces.*

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS DUE SOON – If you are a ministry head, please start working on your report for the Annual Meeting booklet. All reports are requested by NEXT SUNDAY, January 11th

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH FELLOWSHIP** Our next Sunday School session will be TODAY, January 4. We meet the first and third Sundays of each month, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Activities include a children's chapel service, followed by age-appropriate activities for children and youth from pre-K through high school. Contact Theresa Hoyt-Chattin (609) 941-1651 for more information.

**AN INVITATION FROM UKES & BREWS** – We're all invited to join Ukes & Brews for their practice session this Thursday evening. Feel free to drop in anytime between 6 and 8:00 p.m. for some post-holiday music and refreshments. And mark your calendar for their Valentines Open Mic night in February!

**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026** Please pick-up your box of new envelopes available at the back of the church. Should you have any questions, contact the treasurer, Debbie Cruz 609-707-5158

**DURING THE SEASON** Christmas Communion is offered to the sick and shut-ins. Please let the church office know of anyone unable to be in church for the Christmas Season. (856-858-0491)

**2026 CALENDARS** are available at the back of the church (free). Take several and share with a friend, neighbor or family member.

**ALL YARN LOVERS - KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS** usually meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month during or after coffee hour in the Parish Hall.. If you are a novice or never tried using knitting needles or a crochet hook, we have quite a few people in our group who would help you get started on your first project. Any questions? Call Sharon Wolfgang at 856-854-2643 or leave a message at the Church 856-858-0491.

**UPCYCLING GREETING CARD PROGRAM** – Please bring in no longer wanted greeting cards and leave them in the box at the back of the Church. They will be given to St. John of God Community Services in Westville. The Vocational Rehabilitation and Adult Services group will remove the front of each card to create a new greeting. For more information call Craig Burgess at 856-240-7337.

**ONLINE GIVING**– To make it easier to make your weekly offering, just follow the link on the [Holy Trinity website](#) to send your contribution electronically through Vanco. (You are still welcome to mail your weekly offering if it is easier for you.) Thank you for your continued financial support.