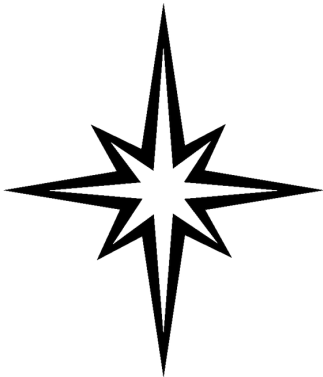


Feast of the Epiphany

January 6, 2027

Feast of the Epiphany (Year B)

In the darkness our eyesight is not clear. Shadows play tricks on our visual perception in dimly lit spaces. It's the same for our spiritual selves — in the darkness, we cannot see God clearly or perceive his love for us. But in the Light, which is Christ Jesus who came into our world to save us, we can see with crystal clarity God's love and mercy for his children. Our whole existence takes on a sense of hope and joy.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 **Arise, Your Light Has Come!**

The prophet foretold the future of the glory of God's people. "A time is coming soon when Israel will bask in the light," he proclaimed. "All who have been scattered will be brought back together." The people's sight will be perfected, and they shall see clearly the glory of the Lord that will be upon them. Get up and see!

Psalm 72:1-11 (12-15) **May Peace Abound**

In this psalm attributed to Solomon, the justice of the Lord is called upon for all people. This includes a plea for defense against Israel's enemies and increased prosperity for the poor and oppressed of the land. All foreign kings will bow down to the Lord, and all nations will serve God. God's peace will reign.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12 **Mystery Made Known**

St. Paul, "a prisoner of Christ," made known to the church in Ephesus his insight into the mystery of Christ. This mystery is nothing less than the full inclusion of Gentiles into the family of God. The beloved of Christ, no matter their background, are now heirs and members of the body, full recipients of the promises of Jesus.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 **We Saw His Star When It Rose**

When King Herod heard the news that a new king was born in his territory, he summoned the wise men from the east, who seemed to have some knowledge of the newborn king's whereabouts. The magi managed to find Jesus, give him treasures, and then safely escape to their homeland by an alternate route.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: White
- Use the Nicene Creed.
- For a Kyrie during Epiphany, consider using "In Peace We Pray to Thee," sung to the tune, "Bread of Life." It can be found on the Hymns and Music page of SOWeR.
- We cannot lose sight of the danger the magi could have gotten into, or could have caused, if they had revealed to Herod the whereabouts of the infant Messiah. Through the angel's messages in Luke's gospel, we see clearly how God reroutes his servants toward safety so that his will is accomplished.
- Pray for peace in the world and for peace-loving governments and leaders.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
We Three Kings	---	646	---	---	130	130
As With Gladness Men of Old	82	---	397	302	128	128
Arise, Your Light Has Come	---	652	---	314	---	---
Shine, Jesus, Shine	---	651	---	671	---	---
Another Year is Dawning	---	---	---	---	---	web
Give Me Jesus	---	777	---	770	214	214
God Whose Almighty Word	400	---	---	673	---	---
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	---	649	411	815	---	---
In the Bleak Midwinter	---	---	---	294	124	124
O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright	76	---	395	308	129	129

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOVS= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and "web" means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

- Praise Song Titles:**
- Comfort, Comfort All My People (CCLI# 1271882)
 - Adoration (CCLI# 27240)
 - Way Maker (CCLI# 7115744)
 - Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery (CCLI# 7026028)
 - Light of the World (CCLI# 7023299)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.