



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church
of
St. Matthew

*A friendly
household of faith*

Chartered Dec 6, 1664

**361 years
of
Gospel Ministry**

A congregation of
The Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod.

Welcome to a divine worship service.
We gather in the Lord's presence at his
invitation and in the company of the whole
Church in heaven and on earth.



A gathering of St. Matthew and Immanuel
congregations on Zoom. Meeting ID: 821 423 1875
Tuesday, January 6, 2026 – 7 pm

IMMANUEL
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

**Feast of
The Epiphany
of Our Lord**

The Rev. Peter A.D. Deebrah, Pastor

HYMN: The First Noel

1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

4 This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

Text: English traditional

A decorative, cursive script of the word "Rejoice" in black ink. The letters are fluid and elegant, with the "R" and "J" having long, sweeping strokes. The "o" and "i" are smaller and more compact, and the "c" and "e" have simple, rounded loops.

- P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C the light no darkness can overcome.
- P** Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
P and the day is almost over.
- P** Let Your light scatter the darkness
C and illumine Your Church.
- P** Joyous light of glory:
C of the immortal Father;
heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.
We have come to the setting of the sun,
and we look to the evening light.
We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
You are worthy of being praised
with pure voices forever.
O Son of God, O Giver of life:
the universe proclaims Your glory.
- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Psalm 141

- C** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
- P** O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly;
hear my voice when I cry to You.
- C** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

P Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,
and guard the door of my lips.
Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.
But my eyes are turned to You, O God;
in You I take refuge. Strip me not of my life.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

HYMN: Jesus, the Light of the World

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
Jesus, the Light of the world;
“Glory to the newborn King,”
Jesus, the Light of the world.

Refrain: We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,
come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright.
Shine all around us by day and night,
Jesus, the Light of the world.

2 Joyful, all you nations, rise,
Jesus, the Light of the world;
join the triumph of the skies;
Jesus, the Light of the world. *Refrain*

3 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Jesus, the Light of the world;
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Jesus, the Light of the world. *Refrain*

4 Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
Jesus, the Light of the world;
hail the Sun of righteousness!
Jesus, the Light of the world. *Refrain*

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788; addl. text “J.V.C.”; adapt. George Elderkin

The Readings - Hear the word of the LORD. (Jeremiah 2:4)

FIRST LESSON - a reading from Isaiah the Prophet

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

²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.

³And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A 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 bring good news, the praises of the Lord. *Isaiah 60:1-6*

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-11 (congregation speaks text in bold print)

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!

**²May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!**

**³Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!**

**⁴May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor!**

**⁵May they fear you while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!**

**⁶May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!**

⁷In his days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

⁸May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth!

⁹May desert tribes bow down before him
and his enemies lick the dust!

¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render
him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

¹¹May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

SECOND LESSON - a reading from Ephesians

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—
²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Ephesians 3:1-12

A The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

P THE HOLY GOSPEL according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. *Matthew 2:1-12*

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

HYMN: As with Gladness Men of Old

- 1 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 by thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle, 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 heav'nly king.
- 4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.
- 5 In the heav'nly 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.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - THE APOSTLES' CREED.

P God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ Jesus.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life \ddagger everlasting. Amen.

LITANY

P In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the
well-being of the Church of God, and for the
unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who offer now their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all bishops and pastors in Christ, for all
servants of the Church, and for all the faithful,
let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all public servants, for governments
of the nations and those who work for safety
and welfare of all, that they may be upheld
and strengthened in every good deed,
let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who work to bring peace, justice,
health, and protection in this and every place,
let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in our congregation(s), those who toil, those who sing, and all who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord: **C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord: **C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord: **C** Lord, have mercy.

Other petitions may be offered

- P** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord: **C** Alleluia.
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- P** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord: **C** To You, O Lord.
- P** Abba Father, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray...
- C** 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.

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and $\text{\tfrac{a}{c}}$ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

HYMN: We Three Kings of Orient Are

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

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

- 2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [Refrain]
- 3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. [Refrain]
- 4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]
- 5 Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

Text: John H. Hopkins (1857)

P Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Announcements & greetings