



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.

**W**elcome 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.



*We have seen  
His Star  
and have come  
to worship  
Him*



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. Deebrach, 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

*Rejoice*

**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.
- G** **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.

<sup>2</sup>For 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.

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

<sup>4</sup>Lift 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.

<sup>5</sup>Then 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.

<sup>6</sup>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 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!

**<sup>2</sup>May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice!**

<sup>3</sup>Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness!

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

<sup>5</sup>May they fear you while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

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

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

<sup>8</sup>**May he have dominion from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth!**

<sup>9</sup>May desert tribes bow down before him  
and his enemies lick the dust!

<sup>10</sup>**May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render  
him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!**

<sup>11</sup>May 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—  
<sup>2</sup>assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was  
given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how the mystery was made known to me by revelation,  
as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into  
the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which 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. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the  
same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.  
<sup>7</sup>Of 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. <sup>8</sup>To 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, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone what is the  
plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that  
through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to  
the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the  
eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in 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, <sup>2</sup>saying, “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.” <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>“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.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And 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.” <sup>9</sup>After 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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And 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. <sup>12</sup>And 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.



## **AFIRMATION 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 † 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 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.

**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 ✠ 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,  
worshipping 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