

# Sunday of Epiphany

## People of All Nations Worship Jesus

January 5, 2025 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

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### **As We Gather: The “Wise Men”**

Some time after the birth of Jesus, some wise men from the east came to worship him. Even as a child, the light of Jesus shone on people from different races, languages, and nations. The word “Epiphany” means the “revealing” of the light of Jesus. Today we celebrate that Jesus, the light of the world, has come to save all people, no matter what their race or nation.

### **The Season of Epiphany**

“Epiphany” means the “revelation” or “manifestation” of God. Jesus Christ is God, who came to our world as one of us. Jesus showed himself to be our God and Savior, not only to the Jews but also to people of every nation and culture. These people “had an epiphany”, that is, they saw Jesus and came to realize who Jesus really is, and they believed in him. The light went on!

We also have “had an epiphany” because we have come to see that Jesus is our God and Savior too! And God wants the people around us also to come to understand and believe in Jesus. During January and February (the season of Epiphany this year), we are going to hear from the Bible how many different people saw the light of Jesus and came to believe in him. And God’s Word will also show us how we can shine the light of Jesus to the people around us, by what we say and do.

### **Prelude**

### **Words of Welcome**

Stand

### **Sharing God’s Peace with One Another**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying “Peace be with you” as a sign of our unity and reconciliation in the Holy Spirit. As we are forgiven by God, so we forgive each other. (Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3)

## Opening Hymn Songs of Thankfulness and Praise LSB 394, verses 1 and 5



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,  
5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest - ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,  
Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - pip - h - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text and tune: Public domain

### Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### Prayer of Confession

**P** Heavenly Father, we live in a dark world. All around us we see selfishness, corruption, evil, sickness, strife, and problems. Other people have hurt us with their words and actions. We also have sinned in many ways. We have not always obeyed you nor have we loved others as you wish. Forgive us, Lord.

**C** **Thank you, Father, for sending Jesus Christ, the light, to our dark world. In the name of Jesus, cleanse me and forgive me. Take away my dark thoughts and feelings, my harsh words, and the things I have done that were not right. Take away everything that is bad in me and help me to live in the light! Amen.**

## Words of Forgiveness

- P** Jesus Christ is the light that drives out the darkness! He came to save us, to forgive us, and to give us a new life. The Bible says, "God is light... If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.**" (1 John 1:5 and 7) Because we trust in Jesus as our Savior, I can tell you with certainty from the Word of God that our sins and wrongdoing are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!
- C Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Introit (Bible Verses for the beginning of worship)

- P** Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
**C And the glory of the Lord rises upon you.** (Isaiah 60:1)
- P** Nations will come to your light,  
**C And kings to the brightness of your dawn.** (Isaiah 60:3)
- P** The wise men said: "We saw his star in the east,  
**C And have come to worship him."** (Matthew 2:2)
- P** Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."  
**C The light shines in the darkness but the darkness has not overcome it.** (John 1:5)
- P** A light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
**C And for glory to your people Israel.** (Luke 2:32)
- P** God made his light shine in our hearts,  
**C To give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.** (2 Corinthians 4:6)
- A** **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.**

### Kyrie ("Lord, Have Mercy") LSB 204



- C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## Gloria in Excelsis ("Glory in the Highest") LSB 204



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

### Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**  
**P** Let us pray together:  
**C** **Lord God, you revealed your light to the wise men through a special star. Now, through your Word, make your light shine in our hearts. We want to see Jesus, our Savior, more clearly. In this name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

Sit

### Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

*(The nations will come to the light of the Lord.)*

<sup>1</sup>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.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

*(The mystery that has now been revealed is that  
all peoples can be saved through Jesus Christ.)*

<sup>1</sup>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.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

### Alleluia and Verse



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



**C** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

### Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

*(Wise men from the east came to the light of Jesus.)*

<sup>1</sup>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.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

**Song while Children Come to the Front:** This Little Gospel Light of Mine (LOSP 103)

1. This little Gospel light of mine, I’m going to let it shine!  
This little Gospel light of mine, I’m going to let it shine!  
This little Gospel light of mine, I’m going to let it shine!  
Let it shine all the time, let it shine!

## Children’s Message

### Hymn

### Shine, Jesus, Shine

Make a Joyful Sound p. 48

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness, shining.  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us.  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory.  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze. Set our hearts on fire!  
Glow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence,  
From the darkness into your radiance.

By the blood I may enter your brightness.  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me, shine on me. (Refrain)

3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness,  
So our faces display your likeness.  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me. (Refrain)

## **Sermon**

Stand

## **Nicene Creed**

- ☐ **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come.  
Amen.**

## **Prayers and Petitions**

We bring all our needs to God in Jesus' name, because Jesus is the one who brings light to the darkness all around us.



- P** Heavenly Father, as you have promised, provide what we and our families need each day. Help those among us who are unemployed or do not have the material resources they need. Lord, in your mercy,
- C Hear our prayer!**
- P** Lord Jesus, shine your light upon those among us who walk in the shadows of sickness, loneliness, hurt or grief. (*See our prayer list at the back of the bulletin.*) Heal us and help us. Lord, in your mercy,
- C Hear our prayer!**
- P** Holy Spirit, help us to reflect the light of Jesus to all the people around us. Help us to show Jesus' love to everyone and to tell about Jesus' love at every opportunity. Lord, in your mercy,
- C Hear our prayer!**
- P** Lord God, let our church and school – and every church and church school – be bright with your light. Guide our pastors and teachers and leaders and help us to love each other as you have loved us. Lord, in your mercy,
- C Hear our prayer!**
- P** Heavenly King, shine the light of your peace in our country and around the world. Guide our leaders and protect everyone who serves and defends our nation. Lord, in your mercy,
- C Hear our prayer!**
- P** Christ our Savior, let your love shine in our families and in our hearts. Help us to forgive each other and live together in harmony. Lord, in your mercy,
- C Hear our prayer!**

[Other petitions may be made here.]

- P** Lord, we know that no darkness can stand before your light, and so we put all of our needs in your hands, trusting that you will help us at the right time and in the right way. In Jesus' name.
- C Amen.**

Sit

### Offering

The Bible says that wise men from the east worshipped Jesus after his birth. They "opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh." (Matthew 2:10, NIV) In the same way, our offerings are part of our worship, part of our response to God's love. What we give is used to support the work of our church and missions throughout the world.

## Offering Prayer of Dedication

- A** Oh Lord Jesus, as the wise men from the East gave you gifts from their treasures, we too give you a part of the material things that you have blessed us with. Accept and bless these offerings, Lord. Let them be used so that your light may shine among all nations. In your own name we pray. Amen.

## Sung Prayer      LSB 370, verse 3

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh. Come, peasant, king, to own him!  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him!  
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

## ✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion is one of the precious gifts that God gives to His people, as we receive the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus, who died on the cross to forgive all of our sins. To prepare for this sacrament, we follow the instruction found in 1 Corinthians 11:28: "*Let each man examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks the cup.*" Therefore, we ask that you review and affirm the following questions:

1. Do I believe I am a sinner without hope of eternal life, except for God's mercy offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?
2. Do I repent of my sins and turn to Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior?
3. Do I believe that the bread and wine I receive is the true body and blood of Jesus, and not just a symbol of it?
4. Do I intend, with the help of God, to live a life that is pleasing to God?

We believe that your "yes" to these questions indicates a common faith with our Christian congregation and, therefore, we invite you to receive Holy Communion with us.

- The light-colored beverage in the center communion cups is non-alcoholic.
- Gluten free wafers are available. Just ask Pastor during distribution.
- Children and those not communing are welcomed to come forward for a blessing, but are not given communion until they have completed basic instruction classes on the Christian faith.

If you are unable to go to the altar, please let an usher know and the Pastor will bring the Lord's Supper to your pew. Please sit close to any of the three aisles in the church.

Our Savior's wish is that all Christians receive His body and blood often. Ascension offers gluten free communion wafers for those who are protein/gluten intolerant or may have a wheat allergy. Simply notify the Pastor during communion if you desire a gluten-free wafer.

Please see the Pastor following service if you have any questions.

## Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts!

**C** **We lift them to the Lord!**

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

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** Lord Jesus, it is truly good and right that we give you thanks and praise every moment and in every place. For Christ our Lord came to our world and by faith we have seen that he is the light which scatters all the shadows and darkness. For this reason, with the whole church here on earth and with all the choirs of heaven, we praise your name and sing in your honor:

## Song of Praise      The Lord is My Light      (LSB 723, refrain)

*Refrain*

The Lord is my light and my sal-va - tion, The Lord is the  
strong-hold of my life. Since the Lord is my life, my  
strength, and my all, Whom then shall I fear?

*To Stanzas*

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## Lord's Prayer

- 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.

## The Words of Jesus

- P** I encourage you now in Christ to pay special attention to the words of Jesus. He has given his body and blood **for you, for forgiveness.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✝}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✝}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

LSB 180

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

# Agnus Dei

LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Communion Hymns

### As with Gladness Men of Old LSB 397



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;  
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to Thy low - ly bed,  
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At Thy cra - dle, rude and bare,  
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the nar - row way;  
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright Need they no cre - at - ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;  
There to bend the knee be - fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;  
So may we with ho - ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
And when earth - ly things are past, Bring our ran - somed souls at last  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra - cious Lord, may we Ev - er - more be led by Thee.  
So may we with will - ing feet Ev - er seek Thy mer - cy seat.  
All our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.  
There for - ev - er may we sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King.

Text and tune: Public domain

### Joy to the World (LSB 387)



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text and tune: Public domain

### Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning (LSB 400)



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
 2 Cold on His cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;  
 3 Shall we not yield Him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,  
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,  
 5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;  
 Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;  
 Fra - grance of E - dom and of - f'rings di - vine,  
 Vain - ly with gifts would His fa - vor se - cure.  
 Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;



Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
 An - gels a - dore Him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
 Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
 Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;  
 Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.  
 Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.  
 Myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?  
 Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
 Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

Text and tune: Public domain

### Beautiful Savior (LSB 537)



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of



God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd  
 flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is  
 spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines  
 God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -



serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.  
 pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

Text and tune: Public domain



## Song after Communion: Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Closing Prayer

- P** Let us pray.  
**C** **Holy Spirit, thank you for strengthening my faith in this time of worship. Help me now to live according to your Word. Be with me wherever I go and help me to share Jesus' love. In Jesus' own name. Amen.**

**Benediction** (2 Corinthians 13:14)

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all.

**C** Amen.

**Closing Hymn**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

LSB 411



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.  
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
I want to look at Je - sus.  
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.  
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,  
When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.  
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*



In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

## **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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### **Worship Leaders**

Pastor: Rev. Richard Schlak  
Organist: Ruth Ann Ostergren  
Elder: Russ DeWitt, Andy Barber  
Acolyte: Jake Walker  
Reader: Kristal Wade  
Ushers: Team 1

## **Prayer Ministry      Philippians 4:6-7**

Please call the church office @ 915-833-1009 to include a prayer request or update for the bulletin. If you have a prayer request or update for the prayer chain, please e-mail Jan Schlak at [oveja6925@aol.com](mailto:oveja6925@aol.com).

The passing of **Delores Behl-Strassburg** (Steve Behl's mother) **and Maria Sotero** (Leticia Behl's mother), pray for peace and comfort for the Behl family.

### **Illness and Recovery:**

**Helen Weesner**, (friend of Maritza Schlak recovery from mini stoke and return home), **Gloria Voge**, (knee surgery successful and recovery with no complications); **Sophia**, Lorena's mother, Concepcion Arellanes's, caregiver, has cancer (prayers for recovery). **Margaret Yeager** (complete recovery with no complications); **Aubrey McDermott** (15-year-old with MS in hospital due to stroke); **Ken McLennan** (pray for upcoming heart procedure and peace, patience, and strength for his wife); **Barb Spott** (for no further medical issues and for relief from vertigo); **Melissa Reddick** (friend of Barbara Lewis diagnosed with inoperable cancer pray for peace and comfort); **Richard Neal** (husband of Martha Neal recovery from stroke and for peace and strength for Richard and Martha); **Abigail Kailukatis** (friend of Jan Schlak's daughter Elizabeth for effective treatment); **Lupita Burke**(Ascension Preschool Teacher recovery from fracture); **Merle DeMartelaere** (father of David DeMartelaere correct diagnosis and treatment for for Edema and AFib); **Marcy LaFramboise** (friend of Connie Swinney recovery from Multiple Myeloma); **David Kwiatkowski** (friend of Connie Swinney recovery and treatment for brain cancer); **Gilbert Provencio** (for healing and correct diagnosis); **Mary Lou Provencio** (pray for peace and guidance); **Elizabeth Hinson**, (for recovery from intestinal bug); **Ruby Lugo** (sister of Jessica Acosta and co-worker of Sally Benitez and Kristal Wade for recovery from heart issues); **Jim Werner** (brother of Elliott Werner successful treatment of and healing from cancer); ; **Brian Stickney** (recovery from cracked ribs); **Rebekah Livesay** (For healing and correct diagnosis); **Susanne Warren** (former member of Ascension recovery from surgery for a broken femur); **Dick Seiders** (father of Ron Seiders healing from cancer and recovery from hip surgery); **Jesus Rivera** (friend of Elliott Werner diagnosed with non-Hodgkins Lymphoma stage 4); **Mary Spott** (Barb Spott's niece Keighley Spott's mother heart related issues); **Ann Perdue** ( relief from Osteoarthritis); **Amanda Bowser** (friend of the Walker Family recovery from cancer); **Donna Welch** (sister of Candice Gebler heart issues); **Sherri Pfeifer Wilson** (niece of Vicki Pfeifer cancer); **Patty Jones**, (sister of Martha Neal-stage 4 breast cancer); **Robert and Karin Gaudet**, (restoring relationships); **Sean Sweeney**, (brain tumor); **Laurie Sterling**, (colon cancer); **Bruce Walker**, (being treated for Parkinson's); **Coby Clark and family**, (continued cancer recovery); **Ryan Walker**, (cancer is in

remission), **Mariella Kraus**, (cancer), **Kathy Kiphart**, **John Weiske**, **Bob Gallagher**, **Linda Seiders**.

If you have an update to the status of those on our prayer list, please contact Jan Schlak or the church office.

# Ascension News & Notes



Antonio Sullivan

## Job Opening

Ascension has an open position for an administrative assistant to our pastor and other church staff members.

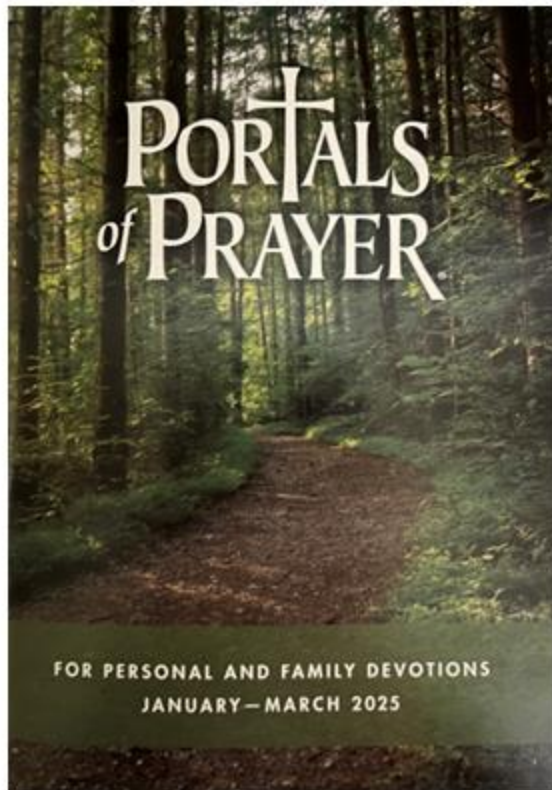
The position is part time, working five to six hours per day on Tuesdays through Fridays, though some flexibility of schedule may be required.



Anyone interested in this position can contact the church office by  
alc6520@swbell.net  
eMail .

Position details are posted on church website  
<https://alconnect.faith>

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# Attention!! All Ladies of Ascension

## Ladies Night Out: January 2025

All ladies of Ascension are welcome.

Once a month on the 3rd Wednesday @ 6:00 PM

We meet at a restaurant and enjoy food and fellowship. (Dutch treat)

January 15th we will be meeting at:

Red Lobster

SUNLAND PARK MALL, 800 Sunland Park Dr,

For information call Robin Wiegert at (915)581-5566

I hope you can join us!



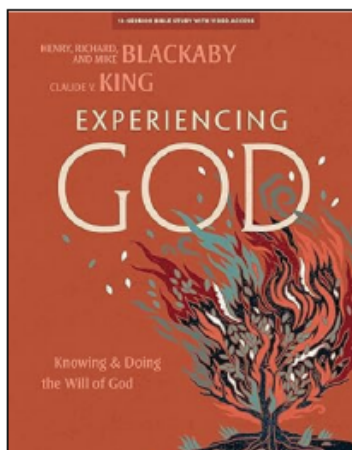
Jesse Faugstad deployment address is:

Major Jesse Faugstad

4-6 IN, HHC

Unit 29943

APO, AE 09753



# Tuesday Night Bible Study Winter 2025

- Time:** 6:30 p.m. gather, visit, share prayer requests  
[Video rolls at 7 p.m.]
- Place:** *Via ZOOM!*
- Date:** First session is Tuesday, January 7, 2025  
(proposed schedule below)
- Cost:** Order *Experiencing God* (with video access)  
directly from [Lifeway.com](http://Lifeway.com) or [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

## Experiencing God

By Henry T. Blackaby, Richard Blackaby, Mike Blackaby and Claude V. King

God is inviting you into an intimate love relationship through which He reveals to you His will, His ways, and His work. When you recognize where God is working, you can join Him in what He is doing. Carefully listening to His voice will anchor you in His plan and set you free to live it with boldness and freedom. Then you will experience God doing through you what only He can do.

### Proposed Schedule:

#### Features:

- Biblically-rooted and gospel-centered content
- Interactive teaching videos  
(approximately 15-20 minutes per session)
- 12 group sessions (12 weeks of homework, optional)

#### Benefits:

- Stay connected with your sisters in Christ with weekly fellowship, encouragement and prayer from the comfort and convenience of your own home!

| Date         | Lesson #                     |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| Jan. 7, 2025 | 1                            |
| Jan. 14th    | 2                            |
| Jan. 21st    | Break-Church Council Meeting |
| Jan. 28th    | 3                            |
| Feb. 4th     | 4                            |
| Feb. 11th    | 5                            |
| Feb. 18th    | Break-Church Council Meeting |
| Feb. 25th    | 6                            |
| Mar. 4th     | 7                            |
| Mar. 11th    | 8                            |
| Mar. 18th    | Break-Church Council Meeting |
| Mar. 25th    | 9                            |
| Apr. 1st     | 10                           |
| Apr. 8th     | 11                           |
| Apr. 15th    | Break-Church Council Meeting |
| Apr. 22nd    | 12-Final Session             |
| Apr. 29th    | Dinner/Fellowship            |

Please RSVP your attendance to Anita Werner by December 31st ([awerner@elp.rr.com](mailto:awerner@elp.rr.com))

**Please visit [Lifeway.com](http://Lifeway.com) or [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and  
order *Experiencing God* (with video access)  
prior to our first session.**

## **This Week @ Ascension**

### **Sunday (January 5)**

9:00 AM Adult Bible Study  
10:00 AM Fellowship  
10:30 AM Worship w/Communion  
11:45 AM Confirmation

### **Monday (January 6)**

**Church Office Closed**

### **Tuesday (January 7)**

#### **Preschool Resumes**

6:45 PM Boy Scouts  
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study (FH)

### **Wednesday (January 8)**

9:00 AM Preschool Chapel  
11:00 AM Sit and Sew (FH)

### **Thursday (January 9)**

9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (FH)  
6:00 PM Choir (S)

### **Friday (January 10)**

12:00PM-2:30PM Preschool Extended Care (FH)

