



# St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 4, 2026 – The Festival of Epiphany



**Welcome!** Thank you for joining us for worship. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word, and through the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

**Restrooms and a drinking fountain** are located on the right in the hallway outside the sanctuary. We have **personal hearing devices**. If you need one, please let an usher know before the service. If you are a parent with young children, we want you to know that we love having children worship with us since worship includes them, too. At the same time, we know that children sometimes like to make their presence known in spite of the best efforts to keep them quiet. For your convenience and in consideration of those seated near you, we have a **Family Room** located through the door in the back of the Fellowship Hall. The facility includes a TV, a window, and speakers so that you can still follow along with the worship service. **Busy bags** are also available near the central sanctuary doors.

**Prayer before worship:** Dear God of all glory, through eyewitnesses you have revealed to us your Son as the Babe of Bethlehem, as the Savior at the cross, and as the risen and ascended King of heaven. Help us, therefore, to praise him properly in the celebration of his birth, to receive him humbly in his grace, and to look for him to come again in glory! We ask it for Jesus' sake, amen.

# Service of the Word

## Love Has Come

CW 364

*The arrival of God's love also brings God's light. He shines among us with his presence, life, peace.*



1 Love has come, a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high!  
name she whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

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## Invocation

**Pastor:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**Congregation:** And also with you.

## Confession

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

## Absolution

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

## Prayer and Praise

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

## O Taste and See

CW 965

O taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless-ed are they who take  
ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it  
stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con -  
tin - ues for - ev - er. O taste and see that the  
Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

## Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray: Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## First Reading

*Isaiah 60:1–6*

*The one born king of the Jews would draw kings from distant lands to the light of his glory.*

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.

<sup>2</sup>Look, darkness covers the earth,  
and deep darkness covers the peoples,  
but the LORD will dawn upon you,  
and his glory will be seen over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations will walk to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Look up. Look all around and see!  
All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you.  
Your sons will come from far away,  
and people will carry your daughters on their side.

<sup>5</sup>Then you will look and be radiant.  
Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.  
For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you.  
The wealth of the nations will come to you.

<sup>6</sup>Caravans of camels will cover your land,  
young camels from Midian and Ephah.  
All those from Sheba will come.  
They will carry gold and incense,  
and they will announce the good news of the praise of the LORD.

P: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## 72B A King on High Is Reigning

Psalm 72B



1 A King on high is reign - ing whom end - less a - ges bless,  
2 As rains that gent - ly nour - ish and bring the seed to birth,  
3 The poor are in his keep - ing, he hears their bit - ter cry,  
4 His name en - dures for ev - er who formed the fer - tile land;



from sea to sea sus - tain - ing his rule of right - eous - ness.  
his right - eous - ness shall flour - ish, his peace pos - sess the earth;  
his watch - ful - ness un - sleep - ing to an - swer ev - 'ry sigh;  
the fruits of our en - deav - or shall pros - per in his hand.



Be - neath his strong de - fend - ing his peo - ple stand se - cure,  
her scep - tered kings ac - claim him, be - fore his feet they fall,  
the lone - ly and ne - glect - ed, the out - cast and in need,  
With prayer and song and sto - ry his prais - es sound a - gain,



whose jus - tice knows no end - ing while sun and moon en - dure.  
the na - tions kneel to name him the sov - 'reign Lord of all.  
for - sak - en and re - ject - ed, to him are dear in - deed.  
in all the earth his glo - ry; so be it, Lord! A - men!

## Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2–12

*Paul explains that people from all nations are united as equals in the Savior's kingdom of grace.*

<sup>2</sup>Surely you have heard of the administration of God's grace given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly). <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>This mystery was not made known to people in past generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and people who also share in the promise through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>I became a servant of this gospel, in keeping with the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>To me—even though I am the very least of all the saints—was given this grace: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ <sup>9</sup>and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup>He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup>In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

P: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia! Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

*Magi from the east were the first in a long line of Gentiles joining Israel in worshiping Jesus as King of all.*

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, <sup>2</sup>“Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>He gathered together all the people's chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet: <sup>6</sup>You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. <sup>11</sup>After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

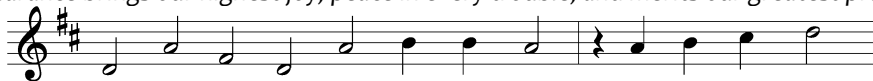
P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

# How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

CW 370

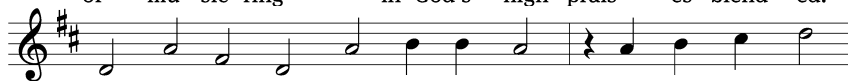
*Christ's appearance brings our highest joy, peace in every trouble, and merits our greatest praises!*



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see  
 2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won, true Son of God  
 3 O might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved me ere  
 4 Oh, joy to know that you, my friend, are Lord, be - gin -  
 5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, let all glad sounds



and hail a - far the light in Ju - dah shin - ing.  
 and Mar - y's son, the high - born King of a - ges!  
 you had be - gun this an - cient world's foun - da - tion.  
 ning with - out end, the first and last, e - ter - nal!  
 of mu - sic ring in God's high prais - es blend - ed.



O Da - vid's son of Ja - cob's race, my Bride-groom and  
 In your blest bod - y let me be, e'en as the branch  
 Your Son has made a friend of me, and when in spir -  
 And you at length— O glo - rious grace— will take me to  
 Christ will be with me all the way, to - day, to - mor -



my King of grace, for you my heart is pin - ing.  
 is in the tree, your life my life sup - ply - ing.  
 it him I see, I joy in trib - u - la - tion.  
 that ho - ly place, the home of joys su - per - nal.  
 row, ev - 'ry day till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.



Low - ly, ho - ly, great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious  
 Sigh - ing, cry - ing for the sa - vor of your fa - vor,  
 What bliss is this! He is liv - ing, to me giv - ing  
 A - men, a - men! Come and meet me, quick - ly greet me!  
 Sing out, ring out tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious



Prince of grac - es, fill - ing all the heav'n - ly plac - es.  
 rest - ing nev - er till I rest in you for - ev - er.  
 life for - ev - er; noth - ing me from him can sev - er.  
 With deep yearn - ing, Lord, I look for your re - turn - ing.  
 cho - sen na - tion; praise the God of your sal - va - tion.



## Love's Pure Spotlight

*Questions to help follow/reflect on the sermon:*

- 1) Explain the connection between Epiphany and this mystery.
- 2) Does an inheritance usually bring more unity or disunity? Why?
- 3) How far ***unsearchable are Christ's riches*** (v.8)? Why is that relevant?
- 4) In what way(s) was St. Paul "***the very least of all the saints***" (v.8)?
- 5) Compare and contrast the situations of Paul and the magi.
- 6) How does the light offer us both ***boldness*** and ***confident access*** (v.12)?

## Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.**

## Offering

***To our guests:*** *Our offering is not a debt we owe God but a way that we return to God a portion of what he generously gave to us. Our motivation, then, is not obligation but love for God. Please do not feel obligated to contribute. We're happy that you're with us to hear about God's love for you.*

**NOTE:** At this time we are not passing the offering plates. You can place your offering in the plate in the Gathering Area as you leave today.

## Lord's Prayer

**C:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## Joy Has Dawned

CW 352

*Christ's light brings joy as he establishes peace, draws the world to himself, and wins the victory forever!*



1 Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion—  
 2 Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels  
 3 Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry.  
 4 Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som;



God's sal - va - tion now un-furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.  
 as the might - y Prince of life shel - ters in a sta - ble.  
 Gifts of men from dis - tant lands proph - e - sy the sto - ry:  
 rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ, our might - y cham-pion!



Not with fan-fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,  
 Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in dark-ness,  
 gold— a king is born to - day; in - cense—God is with us;  
 What a Sav - ior! What a friend! What a glo - rious mys - t'ry!



but a hum - ble gift of love— Je - sus born of Mar - y.  
 cling now to a moth-er's breast, \_ vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.  
 myrrh— his death will make a way, and by his blood he'll win us.  
 Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, \_ now the Lord of his - t'ry.

## Prayers

P: Lord of glory, as the light of your star once led the wise men to Jesus, so the light of your Word has led us to see Jesus. Let your Word so shine in our hearts by your Spirit that each day we see Christ at the center of all we do. With him let us find comfort from sorrows, forgiveness from sins, and rest from turmoil. In his name, cause us to do good to others, to reveal him to the lost, and to praise your holy name.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## The Blessing

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

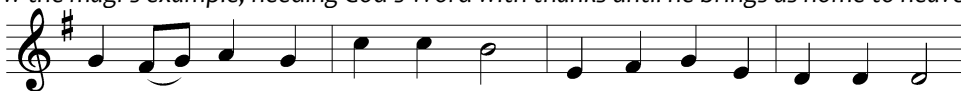
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## As with Gladness Men of Old

CW 372

*We follow the magi's example, heeding God's Word with thanks until he brings us home to heaven.*



- 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: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.

Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

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# IDENTITY

revealed

a new sermon series at  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Do you ever ask,  
"Who am I?"

The answer lies in  
one simple truth.

An Epiphany Series

IDENTITY  
revealed

- |      |                              |
|------|------------------------------|
| 1-11 | Jesus Is the Anointed One    |
| 1-18 | Jesus Is the Lamb            |
| 1-25 | Jesus Is the Light           |
| 2-1  | Jesus Calls You Blessed      |
| 2-8  | Jesus Calls You Salt & Light |
| 2-15 | Jesus Is the Glorious Son    |

St Paul's Lutheran

6150 N Lecanto Hwy

Beverly Hills, FL

Video Preview



## + Ministry Notes +

### **Our good day in God's house continues after worship, too.**

Our after-worship adult Bible Class time is a great time for good Christian encouragement as we grow in the Word together and take time to pray for one another. Today we will pause our *Hidden Acts* study, instead having a special favorite Christmas hymn-sing. Sunday school will not be meeting, but children are welcome to attend the hymn-sing.

We have one more special service **New Year's Eve** – Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM  
- A service of reflection and repentance, rejoicing in God's grace for another year.

### **Bible Information Class**

The next round of the Bible Information Class will be beginning in just over a week. On **Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM** all are welcome to learn/review the basic teachings of Scripture together. Whether you're just curious about what the Bible teaches, have questions, would like to become a member, or have been one for decades, all are encouraged to attend this class that gathers us around God's Word.

### **Family Game Night!**

On **Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>** we will be hosting a Family Game Night in the church Fellowship Hall. Bring a favorite game or two, snacks, and drinks (with several options of all of the above provided). Games and gamers of all levels are welcome. Join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, and friendly competition and collaboration!

### **New Flower Chart Available**

The flower signup chart is available for the Sundays in 2026! Please sign up on the chart in the Gathering Area.

### **Offering Envelopes for 2026**

Our financial secretary has placed the offering envelopes for 2026 on a table at the back of the Fellowship Hall. Please pick yours up at your earliest opportunity.

### **LWMS Reporter needed!**

We are grateful to Sue Leinberger for serving as our LWMS Reporter. Sue has chosen to step down from her position, so we are now in need of another woman in the congregation to help promote and serve as contact for the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society. If you are interested in learning more or would like to be considered for the position, please speak with Pastor Saatkamp.

## Our Christian Stewardship of God's Gifts

*Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. – 1 Cor. 4:2*

**PREACHER:** Tim Rosenow  
**ACCOMPANIST:** Cindy Lendt

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** Tim Rosenow  
**STREAMING:** Tony Moore

### Let's pray this week!

*birthdays* | **Angie Freihofer** (1-4)

*anniversaries* | **Austin & Katrina Naber** (1-4 – 1 year!)

*homebound members* | **Dave Brandt, Bee Grunig, John Hambel, Leona Harms, Leon and Barbara Johnson, Susan Rammel, Kathy Saracione, Josephine Throo, and Paula Vitolo**

*health* | **Linda Bond** (continue recovery); **Tom Colwell** (ongoing pain and cancer treatment); **Madison Duncan** (Becky Ramsey's daughter, ongoing autoimmune issues); **Richard Floyd** (heart issues); **Rick Robinson** (continued recovery); **Barbara Sadler, Kathy Babcock** (Barbara's daughter), and **Kathy's daughters** (genetic health issues); **Nancy Scruton** (recovering from her medical procedure); **Jim Teller** (ongoing heart issues)

*divine call* | **Justin Siegler** (5<sup>th</sup> grade, school music, at Zion, Columbus, WI); **Cindy Lendt** (Asia-Oceania Team, Women's Ministry Coordinator *new position*)

### Serving in worship next week

*Streaming:* 1/11 Bill Hoeltke

#### This Week | January 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>

**January 1-7** – Pastor Saatkamp on vacation

**MON** – School resumes

**WED** – “Stump the Pastor” study 10 AM

**THU** – Choir 6:30 PM

**FRI** – Chapel 8:30 AM

#### Upcoming Events

**January 12** – Kingsway Birthday Celebration 1 PM; \*NEW\* Bible Information Class 6 PM

**January 13** – Council of Ministry meeting 5:15 PM

**January 16** – Family Game Night 6 PM

**January 18** – Midyear Voters' Meeting

**January 19** – NO SCHOOL (MLK Day)

**January 20-23** – Spirit Week

**February 8** – First Grade Bible presentation

# Who We Are

## (Our Mission)

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a family. Like any family, we have our strengths and we have our weaknesses. We experience successes and we experience struggles. These are the things which unite us. For we know that we aren't perfect, but our Heavenly Father is; and he has loved us with a perfect love, sending his Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins and to give us eternal life in heaven. With that same love, he comes to us through his Word, the Bible, to equip us and encourage us as we live in a world which can leave us feeling discouraged and hopeless at times. So, as a family, we **gather** together around God's Word in church and in Bible classes. We have a school where children can **grow** in their relationship with our Heavenly Father and where we can **go** to share the love of Jesus with them. We want as many people as possible to know the joy and hope which we have as members of God's family.*

*If you would like to learn more about our church family or the ministries we offer through our church, school, and preschool, please speak with our pastor, principal, preschool director, faculty, or one of our members.*

*Thank you for being a part of our church family today!*



St. Paul's Lutheran  
Church and School  
Precious Lambs Preschool

6150 N Lecanto Hwy  
Beverly Hills, FL 34465  
352.489.3027  
www.stpauls.edu  
office@stpauls.edu

Sunday worship: 9:30 AM  
Sunday School & Bible Class: 10 minutes  
after



## OUR STAFF

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Becky Ramsey *Preschool teacher*

Lucy Siegler *Kindergarten teacher*

Hannah Foley *1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher*

Cindy Lendt *2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher*

Lindsey Klingenschmitt *3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher*

Noah Uhlenbrauck *5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher*

Justin Siegler *7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher*

Dorothy Draeger *Administrative assistant*