

Epiphany Sunday

January 11, 2026

Liturgy: TLH p. 5

Organist: Kathy Lueck



# FELLOW HEIRS members of the SAME BODY partakers of the PROMISE



## ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Church & School

100 W. Market St.

P.O. Box 98

Okabena, MN 56161

Sam Rodebaugh, Pastor

(414) 534 - 7279

[sam.rodebaugh@gmail.com](mailto:sam.rodebaugh@gmail.com)

[www.okabenalutheran.org](http://www.okabenalutheran.org)

## † Opening Prayer †

**Hymn: TLH #106:1, 4-7**

*"The People That in Darkness Sat"*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **℟ Amen.**

**P** Pastor

**C** Congregation

### Confession of Our Sins

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **℟ Who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

**C** **℟ And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

**P** Almighty God our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Absolution from Our God

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)*

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord unto us all.

**C** **℟ Amen.**

## The Introit

Ps. 45:6-8; 17

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

**P** I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

**C** **Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.**

**P** Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions; your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

**C** **I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.**

## The Gloria Patri

TLH 131:5

Latin for "Glory be to the Father."

**C** **℟ All glory, Jesus, be to Thee  
For this Thy glad epiphany;  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Ghost forevermore.**

## The Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **℟ And with thy spirit.**

## The Collect Prayer of the Day

**P** O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **℟ Amen.**



**Isaiah 60:1-6**

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.

**P** The Holy Gospel is written in the second chapter of St. Matthew, beginning at the first verse:

**C** *Glory be to Thee, O Lord!*



### **Matthew 2:1-12**

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** Here ends the Gospel.

**C** *Praise be to Thee, O Christ!*

---

### Confession of Faith

### The 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.

Hymn: TLH #127

"As With Gladness Men of Old"



### Ephesians 3:1-12

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of 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.

### **The Mystery Revealed**

#### **The Offertory**

TLH #343

---

**C** *Now richly to my waiting heart,  
O Thou, my God, deign to impart The grace of love undying.  
In Thy blest body let me be, E'en as the branch is in the tree,  
Thy life my life supplying. Sighing, Crying,  
For the savor Of Thy favor; Resting never,  
Till I rest in Thee forever.*

#### **† The Offering of Thankful Hearts †**

#### **Hymn: TLH #129**

“Hail, Thou Source of Every Blessing”

#### **† The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer †**

#### **The Benediction**

Numbers 6:24-26

*The blessing given by God for His people.*

---

**P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

**C** *Amen, amen, a – men.*

#### **Hymn: WS #717**

“Bright and Glorious is the Sky”

**Church Undecorating** will be taking place today after church.

**Mary Durst's Funeral** will be this Saturday, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>. Visitation will be at 10 am, funeral at 11 am, with a meal to follow.

**Annual Meeting** – The voting members of St. John's are invited and encouraged to attend the Annual Voters' Meeting on Sunday, January 18, after the noon potluck meal. Besides regular Board reports, Agenda items will include: Finance Board status update on church/school/cemetery audit, CBP estimate, worship schedule for Lent/Easter, April Quarterly Meeting date. Please give any other Agenda items to Chairman Phil Strike as soon as possible.

**School Request** – Our teachers would like to ask for your consideration to share your time/talents with the students of St. John's. If anyone is interested in teaching a class or giving a presentation to our students, your time would be greatly appreciated by both the students and teachers. Perhaps you could teach a class or you could share a hobby or a special interest with the students. If you would like to help or have any ideas, please contact one of the teachers. Thank you!

**Communion Assistants** – After receiving input from the Elders, the following men have been appointed as Communion Assistants: Pastor Em. James Albrecht, Phil Strike, Nathan Voit.

**2026 CLC Mission Helper Trip** – The application deadline for the 2026 Mission Helper Trip to Africa is quickly approaching. Applications need to be submitted by Sunday, January 18, 2026. There are still spots remaining, so please apply soon. For information/applications, visit [www.mht.lutheranmissions.org](http://www.mht.lutheranmissions.org).

<b>Ushers</b>	1/11	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
	1/18	Kendall B, Larry B.
	1/25	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
<b>Cleaning</b>	This Week - Ferguson, Dronen, Baumann, Olmanson (wk. 1)	
	Up Next – The Boernsens	

## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

January 12<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

---

**Mon Luke 2:41-52** A glimpse of Jesus' glory, growing up: obedient to parents, but knows His true Father's business and amazes all who hear Him with His understanding and his answers.

**Tues Romans 12:1-2** The apostle calls for our entire lives to be lived to God as a fitting worship offering, in view of His saving mercies toward us. May He transform our minds to want the same things that He wants.

**Wed Romans 12:3-5** As we use the gifts which God has given to each of us, let us remember that each of us is only one member of the body of Christ, and walk humbly with one another.

**Thurs Isaiah 61:1-3** The Messianic Servant of Jehovah speaks by the Spirit about His mission to bring healing and freedom to those who are suffering and bound. He brings joy and comfort to those who mourn.

**Fri Psalm 80** The Psalmist seeks the Lord's saving help for His suffering people. Though their tears season their daily bread, may they remember His saving help in the past and see Him deliver them once more.

**Sat Psalm 13** Though the time of trouble seems long, the child of God looks to the Lord, and calls upon Him who gives the light of life. Even with sorrow in the heart (v2), he rejoices in the Lord's salvation (v5).

Service text and music reprinted and used by permission under OneLicense #A-7126690 and Concordia Publishing House, license #130002755. Scriptures quoted are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®) © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.