

# A Guide to the Divine Service

9:00 a.m.

January 5, 2025

## The Vigil of the Epiphany of Our Lord *Jesus is the Perfect Israel*

Israel and all his family went and dwelt in Egypt (Gen. 46:1-7). God made a great nation of him there, but that nation would prove unfaithful to the Lord. Therefore, the New Israel came. In fleeing the murderous Herod, our young Lord goes to Egypt (Matt. 2:13-23), so that the prophecy might be fulfilled, “*Out of Egypt I called my Son*” (Hos. 11:1). Jesus brings to perfection what old Israel could not. He is the faithful Israel, the embodiment of the people of God. He offers His perfect and holy life in place of our own. He submits Himself to persecution and suffering in order to save us. Therefore, “*says the Lord..., for your works shall be reward*” (Jeremiah 31:16). Our Lord came in order “*to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus*” (Rom. 3:26).



*et ex Aegypto vocavi filium meum*  
“...and I called my son out of Egypt”

## The Vigil of the Epiphany of Our Lord

### Readings for Next Sunday: The Baptism of Our Lord

Prophecy of the Day: Isaiah 42:1-9  
Epistle of the Day: Romans 3:19-26  
Holy Gospel of the Day: St. Matthew 3:13-17

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*A Confessional, Evangelical, Sacramental, and Liturgical  
Congregation of the Lutheran Confessions --  
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**NOTE ON PARTICIPATING IN THE LORD'S SUPPER**

As intended by Christ and as practiced by the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church throughout history, "closed communion" is observed here, in which the Lord's Supper is distributed only to those who:

- (a) are baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
- (b) have been instructed in the truth of Holy Scriptures as taught in the Lutheran Confessions, have been confirmed in this Lutheran faith and practice, and now embrace this same Lutheran faith in the same way that it is believed, taught, confessed, and practiced in this congregation;
- (c) believe that in this Sacrament the real Body and Blood of Christ are truly distributed to them and orally received by them, bestowing on them the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation;
- (d) repent of all their sins, and desire to receive God's forgiveness in this holy meal.

Guests at our services who are able to affirm these facts should speak to our pastor or the elder on duty before receiving the Sacrament. To other guests with us today, we express to you our sincere interest, friendship, and concern, and we assure you that it is for the spiritual welfare of all that we practice closed communion. Those desiring to learn more about our beliefs are asked to speak with our pastor.

[We rise and face the Processional Cross]

Processional

Hymn "Let All Together Praise Our God" #389

Confession of Sins and Holy Absolution p. 184

**The Service of the Word begins with the Introit**

The Light shall shine upon us today:

**For unto us is born the Lord.**

And He shall be called Wonderful, God, the Prince of Peace;

**The Father of the World to Come; and of His kingdom there shall be no end.**

The Lord reigneth, He is clothed with majesty:

**The Lord is clothed with strength, wherewith He hath girded Himself.** (Isaiah 9:2a, 6-7a; antiphon: Ps. 93:1)

**The Gloria Patri, The Kyrie p. 186**  
**The Gloria in Excelsis p. 187**  
**Salutation p. 189**

**Collect for the Vigil of the Epiphany of Our Lord:** O Lord, we beseech You, let the brightness of Your coming festival shine upon our hearts: whereby we may be able to escape the darkness of this world, and come at length to the country of everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.  
**A - - - men!**

Prophecy of the Day **Jeremiah 31:15-17**  
*[Mercy on Ephraim]*

This is the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God!**

[We are seated]

**Verse**

Alleluia, Alleluia. The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty:  
**The LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith He has girded Himself.**

(Ps. 93:1a)

Epistle of the Day **Romans 3:19-26**  
*[God's Righteousness Through Faith]*

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God!**

[We rise] **Triple Alleluia p. 190**

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**  
 Holy Gospel of the Day **St. Matthew 2:19-23**  
*[The Home in Nazareth]*

Responses to the Holy Gospel **p. 190**

**Nicene Creed p. 191**

[We are seated]

Hymn of the Day **"The Star Proclaims the King Is Here" #399**

Sermon

[We rise] **Offertory p. 192**

[We are seated]

**The offering is received**

*God richly bless you for your support of His work among us!*

Installation of Officers

[We rise] **Prayer of the Church**

*[Please review our Communion Policy inside this Guide]*

**The Service of the Sacrament p. 194**

*[We are seated for the Distribution of the Body & Blood of Christ]*

Hymn **"What Child Is This" #370**

[We rise] **Doxology #805**

**Dismissal, Nunc Dimittis, Thanksgiving, Salutation, Benedicamus, Benediction p. 199**

[We are seated for announcements]

[We rise for the Final Hymn]

Recessional Hymn **"From East to West" #385**