



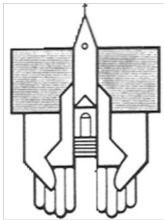
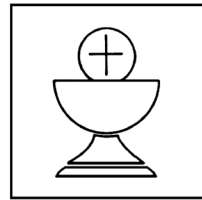
**OUR REDEEMER**  
*Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*  
 Worship Bulletin

**For 6 January 2024**  
**THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

Pastor: Tod R. Rappe (910)488-6010 (W) 488-3046 (H)  
 Organist: Nicole Nelson  
 Web site: www.faylcms.org



Our practice of closed communion is the historic practice of the church. It is prompted by love, both for God's Word and for God's people. It does not deny that members of other denominations are Christians. Rather, it bows the knee to the Bible's deep concern for doctrinal truth (Rom. 16:17) and the Bible's witness that doctrinal unity is central to the common reception of this sacrament. **For this reason, guests who desire to commune are asked to speak with the pastor before the service.**



**WELCOME!** We invite all visitors to sign the guest register in the narthex and worship with us again. If you are not a first time visitor and are not communing, please complete the card located with communion cards in front of the pews. If you have questions about how to join our church or study the Scriptures with us, please speak with one of our Elders or the Pastor.

Each Saturday evening from 6-8PM Pastor Rappe avails himself for private confession and absolution, that which the historical Lutheran Church refers to as the third Sacrament. This is made available to those whose consciences are burdened and whose hearts are troubled. No one is forced to make private confession, as no one is forced to Baptism or the Holy Supper. Rather, this is the means of God's gospel to those who seek Him and the forgiveness of sins in Jesus.



**OLD TESTAMENT**

Arise, shine;  
 For your light has come!  
 And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.  
 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,  
 And deep darkness the people;  
 But the LORD will arise over you,  
 And His glory will be seen upon you.  
 The Gentiles shall come to your light,  
 And kings to the brightness of your rising.  
 "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 nursed at your side.  
 Then you shall see and become radiant,  
 And your heart shall swell with joy;  
 Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,  
 The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.  
 The multitude of camels shall cover your land,  
 The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;  
 All those from Sheba shall come;  
 They shall bring gold and incense,  
 And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD.

**EPISTLE**

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles - if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

**ISAIAH 60:1-6**

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## HOLY GOSPEL

## MATTHEW 2:1-15

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, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;  
For out of you shall come a Ruler  
Who will shepherd My people Israel.'

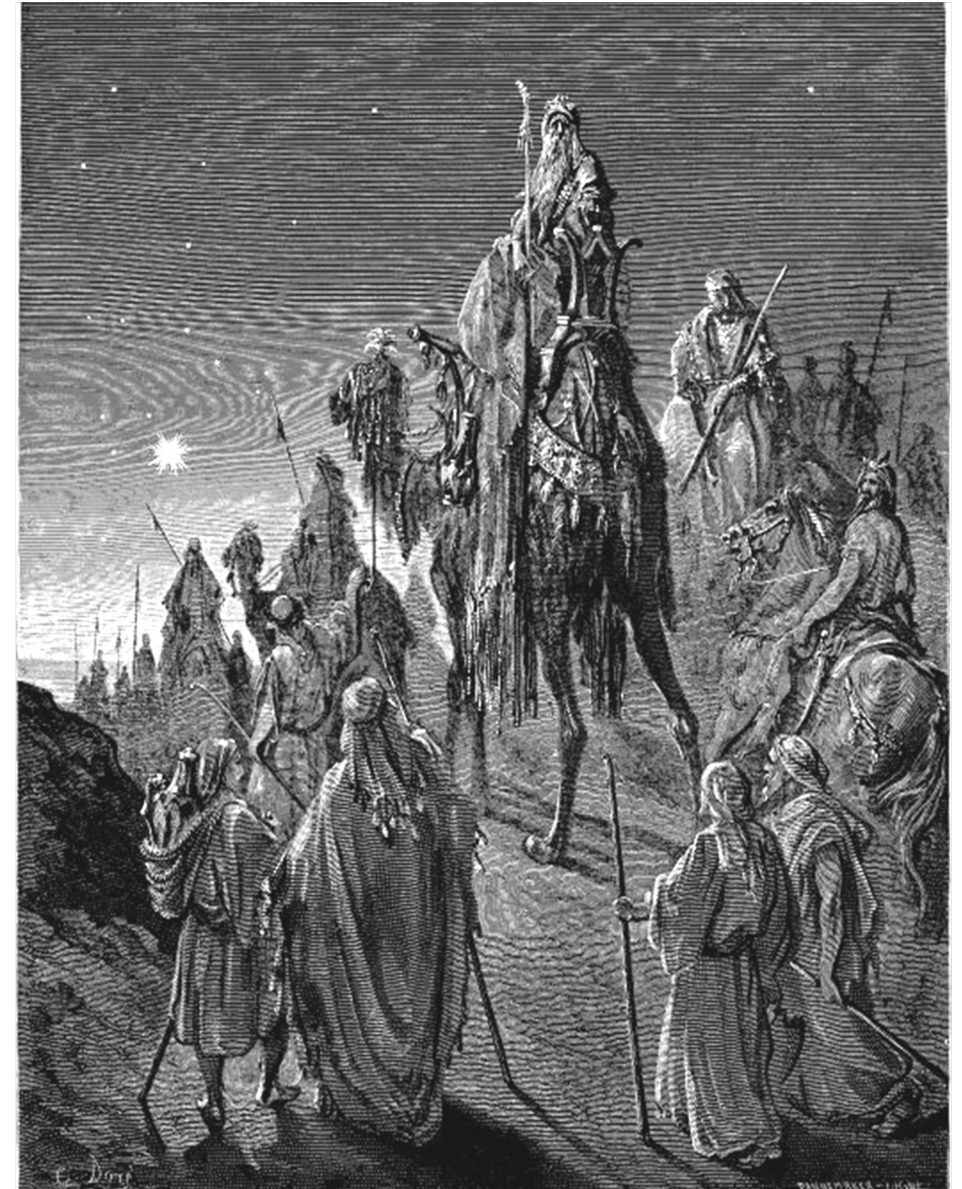
Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."



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For  
January 6, 2024  
The Epiphany of Our Lord