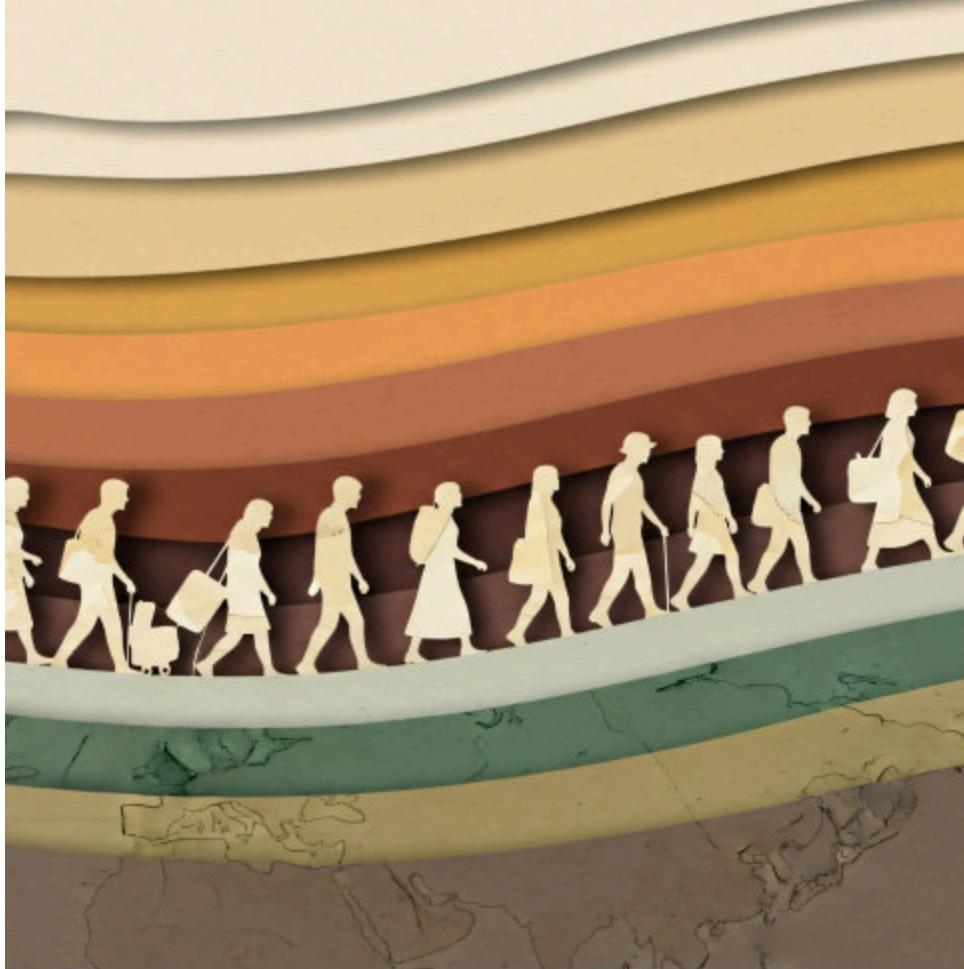


Trinity Lutheran Church



January 4, 2026
Epiphany Sunday

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN:

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (ELW 288)

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!

Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!

CONFESSİONAL

Holy God,
You placed a star in the sky,
yet we look down instead of up.
You sent wisdom to outsiders,
yet we trust only voices that sound like our own.

You reveal yourself in fragile places—
in a child,
in a migrant family,
in a manger—
and we confess our desire for power, certainty, and control.

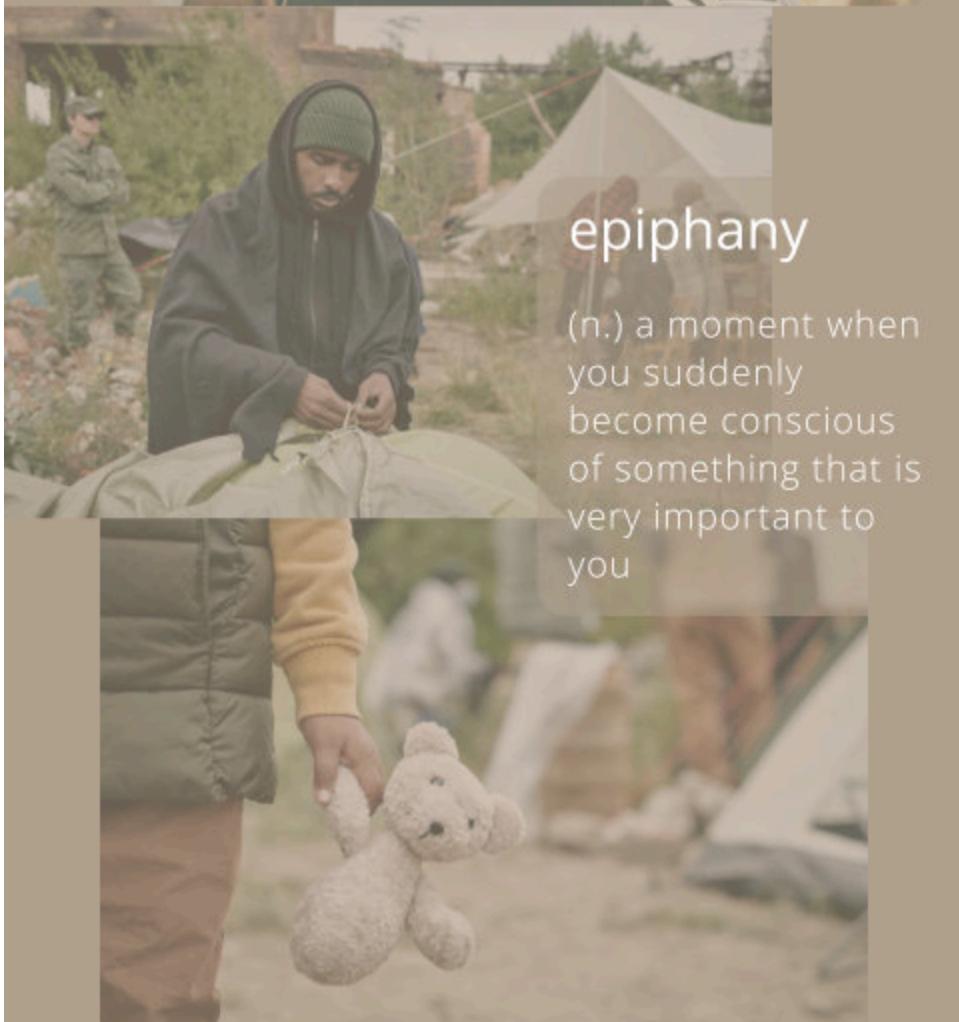
God of light, you revealed your Son to the nations,
yet we confess we often prefer the shadows.

Christ is made known to us,
but we fail to recognize him
in the stranger,
in the poor,
in the unexpected.

The light shines in the darkness,
yet we cling to fear, pride, and familiar paths

Forgive us for dimming your light.
Turn us again toward your truth,
that we may follow Christ
wherever he leads.

Amen.



CONFESSİONAL HYMN:

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright! (ELW 308)

♩ = 140



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with -
2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a glow with grace and mer - cy!
in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



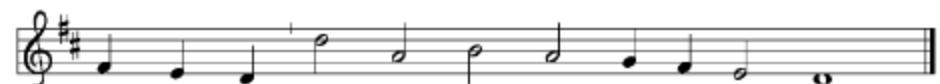
Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with
Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your
and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

LITANY FOR EPIPHANY

Based on the Reading from Isaiah.

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**The brightness of God's light
shines upon all the nations.**

All are welcomed to the brightness of God's dawn.

God gathers us from far away and carries us.
With radiant eyes, with rejoicing hearts,
we receive the abundance God gives.

We respond in praise.

**With our gifts, with our very selves,
we worship God.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray together.

**God of light and truth,
you led the magi by a star
and still guide your people by grace.**

**Draw us toward Christ when we lose our way,
help us recognize him in unexpected places,
and send us out bearing gifts of love, justice, and joy,
for the sake of the one made known to the world,
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ 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 proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

² **that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

¹¹ May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.

¹² **For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

¹³ He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

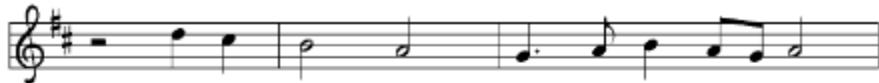
¹ This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
 are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
 for from you shall come a ruler
 who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (ELW 815)

♩ = 150

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

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, 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.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the boldness and confidence of God's children, let us pray.

As the reader closes each petition:

Gracious God, Lord of Light,

The people respond:

hear our prayer.

Gracious God,
because you have called us your children,
we are bold to ask for what we need,
confident in your goodness
through faith in our Lord and brother, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Please place offering in one of the Bulletin Stand offering plates at the end of worship as you leave the church.

OFFERTORY:

As with Gladness Men of Old (ELW 302)

$\text{♩} = 120$



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,



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



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.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

God is our deliverer,

helping those who call to God for justice.

As people of God,

**we participate in God's care for creation
and for all who are in need.**

We bring to God our offerings

with glad and generous hearts. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

COMMUNION

All are welcome to join in the gift of Holy Communion.

*White grape juice is available and all altar bread is gluten-free.
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

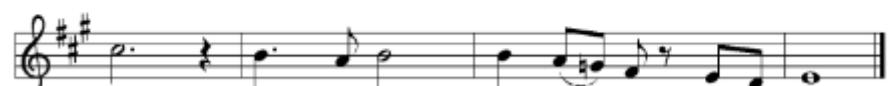
Amen.

LAMB OF GOD


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have


mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the


world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the


world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky (ELW 301)
The First Noel (ELW 300)

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may the body and blood of our lord and savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.
May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence.
Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.

BLESSING

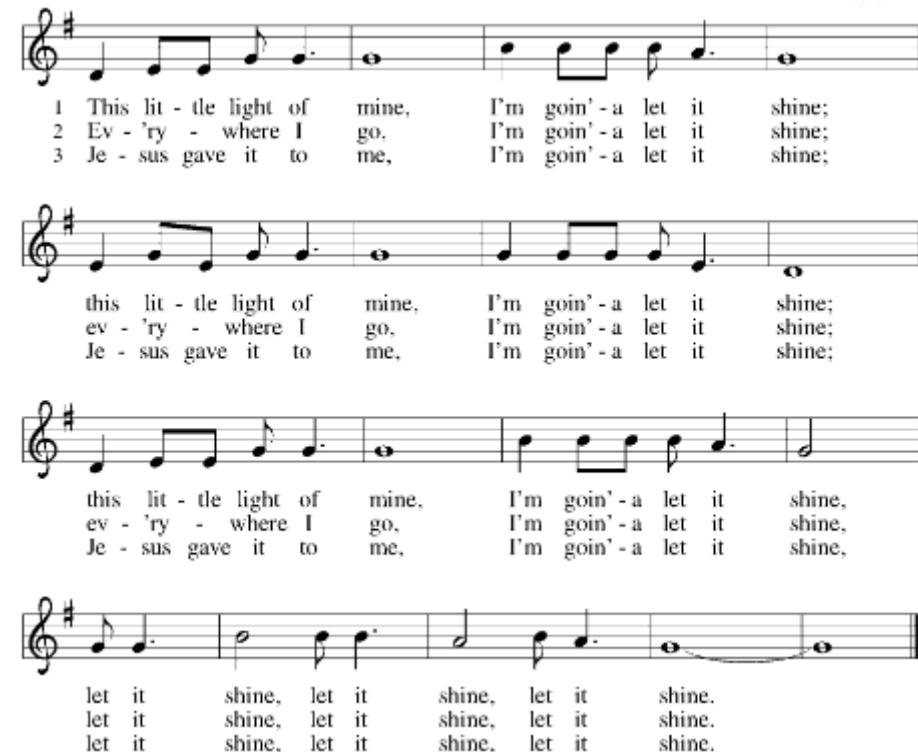
Now let us go forth into the world, proclaiming the good news of Christ, receiving the inheritance of God's promise, and living in the light of the gospel.

And may God, ruler of heaven and earth, dismiss you in peace;  Jesus Christ, light of the world, uphold you in love; and the Holy Spirit, revealer of God's mystery, lead you in truth.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN:

This Little Light of Mine (ELW 677)

♩ = 140



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Serving in Worship

TODAY — Jan 4, 2026

Reader: **Martha Leonard**
Assistant: **OPEN**
Fellowship: **Martha Leonard**

Next Sunday — Jan 11, 2026

Reader: **OPEN**
Assistant: **OPEN**
Fellowship: **Denise Greller**

Trinity Happenings:

Sun, Jan 4:	9:00am 10:15am 10:30am	Epiphany Worship Fellowship in Gruver Rm Does the Bible say... ...abortion is murder?
Mon, Jan 5:	9:00am	Becoming in Gruver Rm
Tue, Jan 6:	5:30pm	TheologyPUB @ Front Street Tavern
Wed, Jan 7:	10:00am	Women's Study in Gruver Rm
Sun, Jan 11:	9:00am 10:15am 10:30am	Band Baptism of Our Lord Worship Fellowship in Gruver Rm Confirmation behind Gruver Rm
Mon, Jan 12:	9:00am	Becoming in Gruver Rm
Tue, Jan 13:	6:00pm	Church Council in Gruver Rm
Wed, Jan 14:	10:00am	Women's Study in Gruver Rm
Sun, Jan 18:	9:00am 10:15am	Worship Service Fellowship in Gruver Rm



Mon, Jan 19:	9:00am	NO Becoming
Tue, Jan 20:	5:30pm	TheologyPUB @ Front Street Tavern
Wed, Jan 21:	10:00am	Women's Study in Gruver Rm
Sun, Jan 25:	9:00am 10:15am 10:30am	Worship Service Fellowship in Gruver Rm Does the Bible say... ...Satan is God's enemy?

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Office: (307) 745-4222  telcoofficemanager@gmail.com