

Epiphany of our Lord

January 5th, 2025



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Virginia, MN

Pastor Liz Cheney



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

The First Noel

ELW 300

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us,
**we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.
Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace.
Turn us from our ways to your ways.
Grant us the grace to begin again.
Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice!
You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
† forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289

PRAYER OF THE DAY Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word.
By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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 on 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: 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 to God 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. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12. The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men 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 at its rising, 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 wise men 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 at its rising, 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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Liz Cheney

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815

APOSTLES' CREED

pg. # 105

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people. *Please respond to "God of grace," after each petition with "receive our prayer."*

SHARING THE PEACE The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.** Please share a sign of God's peace with one another.

OFFERING

Thank you for your continued financial support of OSLC! Whether you join us in person or online, the ministry and missions of Our Savior's depend on faithful giving.

- + online links can be found by accessing our website at <https://www.oslcmn.com/>
- + Using the QR code found here:
- + Contacting the church office to set up regular automatic giving
- + Dropping off or mailing in your offering



OFFERING PRAYER God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

pg. 191

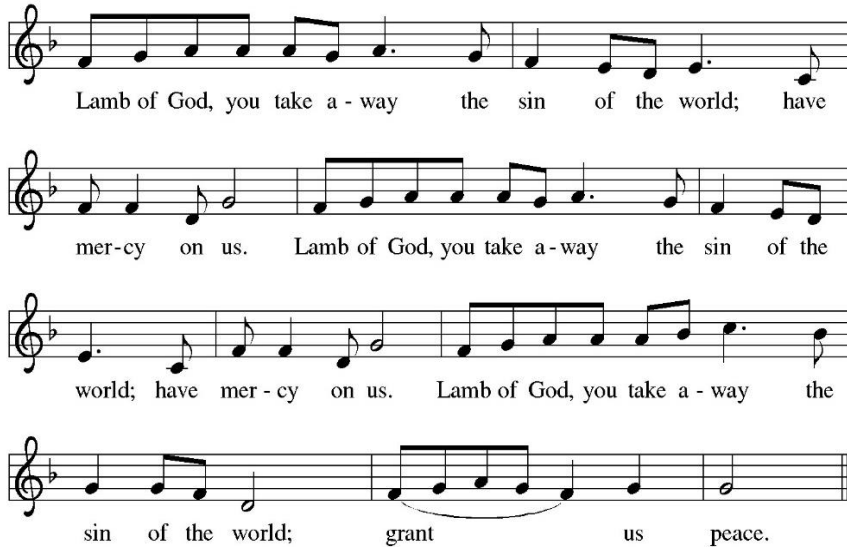
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

ELW 301

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.

BLESSING The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Song of Thankfulness and Praise

ELW 310

DISMISSAL Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Kristen Weikum, Organist

WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS

Please pray for people in need of comfort, hope, healing, or safe transition: Bob D, Mark O., Ada-praise, is now home, John W., Ross-(needs transplant of kidneys & pancreas), Joy T., Deb, Cliff, Margaret, Shannon P., Amanda, Jan, Nicole, Deb, Luddy, Bruce & family, Andrew T., Sharon P., Sue, Gerilyn, Andrew, Alexandria, Courtney, Jill & husband, Amelia, Archer, Jarie, Phyllis, Wally, Deb, Adeline, Tedd, Ed & Karen, Ralph, Chuck, Sue. Call Ginny Ahrlin @ 218-749-0056, for prayer needs

If you are in need of any pastoral care or if you or someone you know would like a visit, please call Pastor Liz Cheney at 218-780-8907 or the church office at 218-741-6207.

CONTACT US

OSLC, 1111 8th St. South, Virginia, MN Church Office: 218-741-6207

Email: office@oslcmn.com

Online: www.oslcmn.com

www.facebook.com/oslcmn

YouTube Page "Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia MN Office"

OFFICE HOURS

Office Admin hours are 9am - 5pm, Tuesday - Friday.

There will be times we're away from the office doing errands, for this reason, please call ahead if you plan on coming to the church or need assistance!

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Liz will be here Tues. - Thurs. & off Fridays.

Call @ 218-780-8907

or email at lizcheney44@gmail.com

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Liz Cheney

Secretary: Colleen Brown Jacobson

Bookkeeper: Carole Rutka

Custodian: Steve Gagnon

Musicians: Kristen Weikum, Mark Ongalo, and Ginny Ahrlin



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ANNUAL REPORTS If you are a leader of a committee, you will need to email a word document of your report so the office can finish the Annual Report **ASAP**. If able, please send it to the office email in the Word Document format you wrote it in (not PDF) so it can be formatted properly in the completed report. Thank you! office@oslcmn.com.

LIFT CONFIRMATION Lift will resume in January and meet on **Jan 15^t, & 29th 6-8pm**, at Messiah Lutheran.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST Jan 11th

KITCHEN WORK DAY We could use a few volunteers, and those good at organizing, **Jan. 17-18th**

ALL CHURCH TOGETHER EVENT! Join us **Wed., Jan. 22nd 5-7pm** for **Pizza & Bingo** in the Fellowship Hall – with prizes! It will be a fun way to bring in the New Year~

ANNUAL MEETING Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place **Sunday, January 26th**. If you are a member, please commit yourself to coming. It will take place after the Worship Service.

NEW CONSTITUTION There are copies of the new Constitution in the office if you would like to look it over before the Annual Meeting.

TASK FORCE TEAM We are building a team to look into the **sanctuary windows** and take the next steps for a springtime project. Quotes will be requested from three different local contractors. Please see Pastor Liz or Mark Ongalo if you are interested in serving on this Task Force team.

EVENTS & MEETINGS THIS WEEK

1/05 WORSHIP

1/08 FINANCE TEAM MTG 10AM

1/09 COUNCIL MTG 11AM

1/11 Community Breakfast

