

SOLEMN LITURGY OF HOLY EUCHARIST

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

January 6, 2025

C – Celebrant D - Deacon A - Assistant L – Lector R – Response

We are a community of the Triune God, nourished by Word and Sacrament, sent forth by the Holy Spirit into the Grantville community and beyond to share the life-changing news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*GATHERING HYMN “Bright and Glorious Is the Sky” GREEN #75

*INVOCATION

We make the sign of the cross in remembrance of our Baptism.

C: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

R: Amen.

*APOSTOLIC GREETING

C: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R: And also with you.

*PENITENTIAL RITE

C: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

C: Most merciful God,

R: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

C: God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

We make the sign of the cross as God forgives us this day.

R: Amen.

***LORD, HAVE MERCY**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

***GLORY TO GOD**



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to ^{his} God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

C: Let us pray. Lord God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

R: Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

L: A reading from Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. 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. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 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. 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. 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14 (*sung responsively*)

Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,*

and your righteousness to | the king's son;

that he may rule your | people righteously*

and the | poor with justice;

that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,*

and the little | hills bring righteousness.

He shall defend the needy a- | mong the people;*

he shall rescue the poor and crush | the oppressor.

He shall live as long as the sun and | moon endure,*

from one generation | to another.

He shall come down like rain upon | the mown field,*

like showers that wa- | ter the earth.

In his time shall the | righteous flourish;*

there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles | shall pay tribute,*

and the kings of Arabia and Saba | offer gifts.

All kings shall bow | down before him,*

and all the nations | do him service.

For he shall deliver the poor who cries out | in distress,*

and the oppressed who | has no helper.

He shall have pity on the low-ly and poor;*
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
**He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,*
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

L: A reading from Ephesians.

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 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: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 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. 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, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 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. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

R: 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.

D: The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

D: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

R: Glory to you, O Lord.

We make the sign of the cross with our right thumb on our forehead, lips, and heart to symbolize the gospel being present in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

***GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: '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.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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." 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

***CHALK BLESSING**

C: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R: Who made heaven and earth.

C: The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

C: Bless, O Lord God, this creature chalk to render it helpful to your people. Grant that they who use it in faith and with it inscribe upon the entrance of their homes the names of your saints, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, may through their example and intercession enjoy health of body and protection of soul. Through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

20+C+M+B+24

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

"When Christ's Appearing Was Made Known"

GREEN #85

***NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven**

We bow our heads in honor of the mystery of the Incarnation.

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit
of the Virgin Mary and was made man;**

Our heads are raised.

**and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day he rose again
according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and Giver of Life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

C: Gathered here, we share a living tradition, a glorious promise, for the light of Christ continues to shine for all peoples. Let us pray for men and women of all languages, races and cultures.

A brief silence.

A: For the holy Church, that she may welcome all who seek peace and truth in her fold, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For the nations of a world in darkness, that their leaders may be drawn to the dawning brightness of Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For those engaged in the Catechumenate Process here at Shells - Jordan, Lexi, Emma, Evelyn, Julia and Nora, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For our law enforcement officers, first responders, and service women and men, especially Matt, Nikolas, Crist, Sam, John, Dominic, Blake, Keegan, Michael, Stephen, Chris, and John, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For a universal charity, that all bigotry, narrowness and racism may be driven from our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For a spirit of humble worship in our lives, that we may adore Jesus in the Eucharist with devotion of the Magi who brought gifts, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For those who are seeking Christ, that they may find a faith community centered around Word and Sacrament, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For the outpouring of the Spirit of peace, that all people may know the forgiveness of their sins. We pray especially for our missionaries - Richard, Emily, Ben & Courtney, Stephen & Jodi, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For those who suffer in any way, especially – Linda D., Betty E., Don E., Mim F., Ed F., Herb F., Al G., Angie G., Alfred H., Doug H., Nancy I., Keira K., Iva R., Lucas S., Larry S., Sandy M., Tom K., Terry K., Don W., Bev U. and Jack U., our homebound members and those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts (*a brief silence*), let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

A: For the souls of the faithful departed, especially, Barbara, Dorothy, Mildred, Helen, Ray, Edith, Thelma, Charlie, Ethel, and Phyllis, that eternal light may shine on them, especially, let us pray to the Lord.

R: O God, hear us.

C: Almighty God and Father, your Son is “light from light”, your glowing sign to all nations. As we pray for the peoples of your world, help us to strengthen the bonds of unity, through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

Please be seated while the bread and wine are brought forward for consecration and the offering is collected for the ministry of Christ's Church.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Please stand as you are able.

***PRESENTATION HYMN**

“We Three Kings”

INSERT

***OFFERING PRAYER**

C: Pray brothers and sisters that my sacrifice of praise and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

R: May the Lord accept our sacrifice of praise for the glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

C: Lord, accept the offerings of your Church, not gold, frankincense, and myrrh, but our thanks and praise. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

***DIALOGUE**


The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

***PREFACE**



It is indeed right and sal - u - tary that we should at all times and in all
plac - es of - fer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through
Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived a-mong us to re - veal your
glo - ry and love, that our darkness should give way to his own bril - liant
light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second and third staves contain the second line, and the fourth staff contains the third line. The music concludes with a double bar line.

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

C: We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,
whom you sent in this end of the ages
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.
He is your Word, inseparable from you.
Through him you created all things,
and in him you take delight.
He is your Word,
sent from heaven to a Virgin's womb.
He there took on our nature and our lot
and was shown forth as your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.
It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will
and won for you a holy people;
he stretched out his hands in suffering
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,
to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:
Take and eat; this is my body, which will be given up for you.

When supper was ended, he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks and praise,
gave the cup to his disciples, and said:
Take this, all of you, and drink from it: this is the cup of my blood,
the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.
It will be shed for you and for many so that sins may be
forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



C: Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,
we lift this bread and cup before you,
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill † us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
We make the sign of the cross asking God to fill us with the Holy Spirit.
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is
yours, almighty Father, forever and ever.



***LORD'S PRAYER**

C: Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

**R: 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.**

***PEACE**

C: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R: And also with you.

D: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Please remain standing after sharing the Peace.

***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.

***INVITATION**

C: This the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

R: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

Please be seated.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER *(for those viewing via live-stream)*

A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*All baptized Christians who acknowledge the Real Presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Bread and Wine are welcome to receive the Sacrament. If you would prefer a blessing come forward and cross your arms over your chest. Beginning with the front pews, form one line and make your way down the center aisle. Please pick up a communion glass from the tray on your right. Receive our Lord Jesus Body from the Celebrant and, according to where you are seated, receive his Precious Blood from the Assistant and consume both elements. Upon receiving our Lord's Body and Blood, respond **Amen**. Please place your used communion glass in the tray on the table and return to your seat by the side aisle. Taste and see that the Lord is good!*

COMMUNION HYMN

"O Chief of Cities, Bethlehem"

GREEN #81

Please stand at the direction of the Celebrant.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

C: Let us pray. Father, guide us with your light. Help us to recognize Christ in this eucharist and welcome him with love, for he is Lord forever and ever.

R: Amen.

SENDING

***BLESSING**

C: The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

We make the sign of the cross as God blesses us this day.

C: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

"Brightest and Best"

GREEN #84

***DISMISSAL**

D: The Worship is ended, go in peace.

R: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

THOSE SERVING TODAY:

Celebrant	The Rev. W. L. Barnes, III, <i>STS</i>
Deacon/Homilist	Deacon Kristen Barnes
Assistants	Karlene Jaggan & Karen Gussler
Lector	Steve Espenshade
Communion Assistant	Louise Murphy
Thurifer	Douglass Howard
Acolyte	Jordan Frye
Torchbearers	Lexi & Ellie Frye
Organist	Barbara Dupler
Greeters/Ushers	Rick & Linda Blair

STEWARDSHIP/GIVING (*November 30, 2024*)

2024 Approved Budget \$277, 995

Income: \$250,607.93	Love of Family Contributions: \$5,565
Expenses: \$245,212.66	Local Food Pantry Contributions: \$4,140.81
Capital Improvement Contributions: \$28,850	Abiding Memorial Fund: \$1,405
Adult Forum: \$401.51	Emily Lingle, Friends in Action: \$1,195
Richard Sarker, Missionary: \$1,050	Lutheran Campus Ministry at WVU: \$5,122
	CROP Walk \$1,062
World Vision (VBS): \$1,050	ELCA World Hunger: \$896.01
Anonymous Donation: \$1,000	Lutheran Disaster Response: \$22,390

This month's special offering will go to benefit the Abiding Memorial Fund. Please pick up an envelope in the narthex.

With thanksgiving, we remember the lives of those who have gone before us in the faith. This month we remember *Barbara DeMay, Dorothy Espenshade, Mildred Gussler, Edith Lingle, Helen & Ray Lingle, Ethel Lingle Ketner, Thelma Price, Charlie Reddinger, Phyllis Vogler.*

The 2025 Altar Flower chart is in the Narthex. There are several dates still available.

Epiphany House Blessings will be offered for the months of January and February. Please contact Father Barnes to set up a time to have your home blessed.

Bible Study resumes on January 13 at 6:30pm at Shells. We are studying the Book of Leviticus.

If any un-baptized adult or child would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, please reach out to Father Barnes. We will receive candidates on the First Sunday of Lent to prepare for Baptism at the Easter Vigil (April 19 at 7pm) or during the Easter Season.

This week at Shells:

January 6 at 6:30pm - Liturgy of Holy Eucharist

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

January 7 at 6pm – Cub Scouts

January 8 at 6pm – Girl Scouts

January 9 at 6pm – Cub Scouts

January 9 at 7pm – Choir Rehearsal

January 12 at 9am - Liturgy of Holy Eucharist

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

9am - Children/Youth Sunday School & Confirmation

Food and Fellowship after Worship

10:45am - Adult Forum

Lunch at Manada Hill Diner

6pm - Boy Scouts

SHELLS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

“We are a community of the Triune God, nourished by Word and Sacrament, sent forth by the Holy Spirit into the Grantville community and beyond to share the life-changing news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.”

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Email: shellsadmin@shellschurch.org

Charles Schreiber, Treasurer

Email: charlieschreiber514@gmail.com

Parish Council: Sandy Mader (P), Brenda Frye (VP), Christina Frye (S), Sherry Ulsh (T),
Colin Blair, Tom Terry, Steve Espenshade, Mark Stremmel

Visit us on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram and “like/subscribe” our church page!

We have WiFi!

Network Name: **ShellsLutheran**

Password: **GodIsAwesome** (*case-sensitive*)