



MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship - Minneapolis Campus

January 4, 2026 - Epiphany Sunday

Liturgists: 9am Pastor Cieslik, 10 and 11am Pastor Grangaard

The Prelude

He is Born

Jeff Perks

(please stand when invited)

The Processional Hymn

As with Gladness Men of Old

302:1, 4, 5

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by thee.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing alleluias to our king.

The Invocation

**Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.**

Congregation: Amen. (please sing)

The Confession of Sins and Assurance of Forgiveness

**Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all
desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of
your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and
worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ
our Lord.**

Congregation: Amen. (please sing)

**Pastor: St. John writes, “If we say we have no sin, we
deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we
confess our sin, God who is faithful and just
will forgive our sin and cleanse us from all
unrighteousness” (1 John 1:8-9). And so we gather to
confess our sin, not because we fear God thinks us
unworthy, but because we trust God’s promise to receive
us always in mercy and grace. Let us therefore pray
together with confidence...**

Congregation: Most merciful God, 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. (please sing)

Pastor: Almighty God, in mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, God gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. All this is promised in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen. (please sing)

The Salutation and Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you. (please sing)

Pastor and Congregation: Dear God, as you sent the Magi to bring gifts to the baby Jesus, so send us into the world to give to others the love we have experienced in him. In Jesus' name, Amen. (please sing)

(please be seated)

The Hymn of Praise and Procession of the Magi

We Three Kings of Orient Are

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
rings through the earth and skies. Refrain**

The Scripture Reading

The Arrival of the Magi

Matthew 2:1-12

Glory to you, O Lord. (please stand as you are able and sing)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, 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.” 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 magi 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 in the east, 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.

Praise to you, O Christ. (please sing)

The Gradual Hymn

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

301:5, 6

**Guided by the star, they found
him whose praise the ages sound.**

**We too have a star to guide us,
which forever will provide us
with the light to find our Lord,
with the light to find our Lord.**

**And this star, as bright as day,
that will never lead astray
with its message so appealing,
is the word of God, revealing
Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
Christ, the way, the truth, the life**

The Profession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(please be seated)

The Welcome

Pastor Dixon

The Prayers of Remembrance

The Offertory Anthem

The Angel's Song

John Leavitt

Cathedral Choir - 9 and 10am

The Three Kings

Healey Willan

Sanctuary Choir - 11am

(please stand as you are able)

The Offertory Prayer

What Child Is This

296:3

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;

come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings;

let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high,

the virgin sings her lullaby;

joy, joy, for Christ is born,

the babe, the son of Mary!

(please be seated)

The Pulpit Hymn

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

310:1, 4

**Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
manifested by the star to the sages from afar,
branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.**

**Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
present in thy holy word;
grace to imitate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we might become like thee at thy great epiphany,
and may praise thee, ever blest,
God in flesh made manifest.**

The Sermon

Pastor Dixon

The Arrival of the Magi

The Baptismal Service (held during the 11am service)

The following will be named a child of God and receive the promise of forgiveness, life, and salvation in Christ through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Maddox Keelan Frend, son of Kristan and Andrew

(please stand as you are able)

The Closing Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

288:2

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Sending Prayer

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Benediction and Threefold Amen

(please pause for a moment of silent prayer)

The Postlude

We Three Kings

Page C. Long

January Altar Flower Dedications

**In memory of Marian Danielson on her anniversary month,
by her loving family**

**In memory of Bertil Johnson on his birthday January 21st,
by Dee and Courtney Henderson**

In loving memory of Evelyn Wert, by Launa and Gary

**In honor of Courtney Henderson on her birthday
January 24th, by Dee Henderson**

In celebration of Cedar's birthday, by Grandma and Papaha

**In celebration of Maren Kind's January birthday,
by Steve and Deb Kind**

**If you would like to donate to the Mount Olivet Flower Fund
please contact Jody Barbee at jbarbee@mtolivet.org or
952.767.1501.**

Pastors

David J. Lose, Senior Pastor

Kurt P. Kalland, Monica M. Hammersten,

Mark J. Dixon, Rebecca W. Freeman, Benjamin M. Cieslik,

Jeni F. Grangaard, Jenna L. Olson Popp

Worship and Music Staff

**Beverly Claflin, Director of Worship and Music and
Director of Cathedral Choir**

Jordan Buchholtz, Principal Organist

Brian Ohnsorg, Assistant Director of Sanctuary Choir

Shelley Ohnsorg, Cathedral Choir Accompanist

The Three Magi

Mike Gonsior, Paul Nelson, Mark Stevenson

Mount Olivet General Fund

**Thank you for your generous gift to support the many
ministries of Mount Olivet.**



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