



Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

www.old-swedes.org

215-389-1513

*February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*

Ministry Assistants Today

Lector: *Christine Pickup*

Intercessor: *Candace Roberts*

Usher: *Mark Roberts*

Altar Guild: *Rachel Armstrong*

Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Organist: *Adam Haines*

Ministry Assistants February 8

Lector: *Susan Steele*

Intercessor: *Carol Jenkins*

Usher: *Bob Jenkins*

Altar Guild: *Cathy Ufheil*

Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Organist: *Adam Haines*

Welcome to the Epiphany at Gloria Dei Episcopal Church!

The Feast of the Epiphany, held on January 6, marks the official end of the Christmas season. However, Epiphany is much more than just a capstone to the beauty and pageantry of Christmas.

The word “Epiphany” comes from a Greek verb meaning “to appear,” and the Feast of the Epiphany focuses on the appearance of the star that guided the Magi – the three wise men – to baby Jesus (you can read all about this in chapter 2 of Matthew’s Gospel). The appearance of this great light will shape our worship for the next several weeks, so that we celebrate the Epiphany from now until the beginning of Lent.

Please join us throughout this season, as we ponder what it means for Jesus to appear in our lives, and as we seek to faithfully reflect God’s light and love into the dark places of our world.

Prelude

Opening Hymn # 550

Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

Hymnal 1982

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth:**
Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever. Amen. *(Congregation is invited to sit for the readings.)*

First Reading

Micah 6:1-8

Christine Pickup

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does he LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 15

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *

 who may abide upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *

 who speaks the truth from his heart.

There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend; *

 he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

(Continued...)

In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the LORD.
He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.
He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Hymn # 440

Blessed Jesus, At Thy Word

Hymnal 1982

Gospel Reading

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew (5:1-12)**
All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.”

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.”

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The sermon is an opportunity to reflect on and interpret the readings in light of the whole of Scripture and Christian tradition. You are always free to disagree with Rev. Chris, and you are more than welcome to reach out for further discussion of the readings and the ideas presented in the sermon.

The 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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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. With the Father and the Son he is
worshiped and glorified.
He 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 the People *(the intercessor and the people pray responsively)*

Candace Roberts

Celebrant: In this season of Epiphany, let us pray for God's light to shine in the darkness, using the words of Psalm 72. We begin with a few moments of silence. (*Long silence.*)

Intercessor: God of light, give to the people your justice; we pray especially for your church throughout the world, for our bishops, Sarah, Sean, and Daniel, for our priest, Chris, for our postulant, Rachel, and for this congregation.

People: **Rule your people righteously, and the poor with justice.** (*Long pause for silent prayer*)

Intercessor: God of light, you promise to defend the needy in our midst; care especially for immigrants, for refugees, and for all who feel afraid.

People: **Rescue the poor, and stop the oppressor.** (*Long Pause for Silent Prayer*)

Intercessor: God of light, your mercy lasts as long as the sun and moon endure, so we pray for our planet and for all those affected by climate change.

People: **May mercy come down like rain upon mown fields, and like showers that water the earth.** (*Long Pause for Silent Prayer*)

Intercessor: God of light, we remember the places of turmoil in our world, especially Ukraine, Venezuela, and Sudan, and we pray for a time when the righteous shall flourish.

People: **May there be an abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.** (*Long Pause for Silent Prayer*)

Intercessor: God of light, we pray for those in authority, in our church, in our city, in our nation, and around the world, that they might recognize your authority over all creation.

People: **May the rulers bow down, and all the nations do service to God.** (*Long Pause for Silent Prayer*)

Intercessor: God of light, we long for the deliverance of the poor and oppressed in their distress, and for your pity to be known among the lowly and needy. Today, we pray especially for:

People: **Elia, Eulogio, Emily, Harry, Monica, Amy, Alan, William, Betty, Angel, Dakota, Dina, Anthony, Rebecca, Beth, Seamus, Thomassina, Gregory, Julie, Denise, Jason, the Juline Family, Laurie, Jerry, Peggy, Joanna, Mark, Margie, Bonnie, Keith, Connie, and Jack.**

(Long Pause for Further Names)

Intercessor: God of light, you redeem the lives of your people, and hold their blood dear in your sight. We pray for all who have died, especially **Jerry Buescher**.

People: *(Long Pause for Further Names)*

Celebrant: Blessed be the LORD GOD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous deeds. May our eyes be open to God's light, and may we be faithful in God's service, that all the earth may be filled with God's glory.

People: Amen.

Confession & Absolution

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God. *(Please kneel as you are able; a brief silence may be kept.)*

All **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.** *(Please share the peace by greeting your siblings in Christ.)*

Pre-Offertory Hymn # 593

Lord, Make us Servants of Your Peace

Hymnal 1982

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant God has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? *-Micah 6:8*

Collecting an offering is a way for us to remember that all we have is a gift from God, and that we are responsible to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us. Guests should feel no obligation to give.

Electronic giving is possible using the QR code found on the back of the bulletin. After the collection, the offering is brought forward as we stand to sing together the following song of thanksgiving.

Flowingly, in 1

Unknown

Details about our practice of communion are found after the Eucharist Prayer (below).

The Holy Communion – Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 1

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Flowingly



Paul Fejko

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of Po - wer and might, Heav'n and Earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - sa - nna in the high - est. Ble - ssed is he who comes,
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - sa - nna in the high - est, ho - sa - nna in the high - est.

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Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah and Hagar you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Celebrant Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Celebrant Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

People *(In a loud voice!) AMEN!*

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All **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,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Fraction & Invitation

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Celebrant This is the table not of the church but of our Lord Jesus. It is made ready for those who love him and those who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is Jesus who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

All those interested in receiving communion should make their way forward to the rail, while the elements are prepared for distribution to the congregation.

*Episcopal theology recognizes baptism as the formal entry into the Christian community, and baptism is normally a prerequisite to receiving communion. However, we also recognize that God meets us wherever we are on our journey of faith. Moreover, Jesus regularly welcomed and ate with people from outside of his normal community. **Therefore, all are welcome at this table - including children!***

Kneel or stand at the rail, as you are comfortable. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available – just hold up one finger to receive either of these alternative elements. The priest will distribute wafers, which you receive in your outstretched hands. If you wish to receive the cup, you may drink from the chalice or dip your wafer; it is also okay to receive the wafer only – we believe that Jesus is fully present in each of the elements of communion.

If you prefer not to receive, you are still warmly invited to come forward and cross your arms to receive a blessing.

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Celebrant Let us stand and pray together the post communion prayer.
All **God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Blessing Rev. Chris Micklewright

Announcements *Please pick up a sheet of announcements and upcoming events from the table in the back of the church. Some of the upcoming events will be highlighted here.*

Closing Hymn #398 *I Sing the Almighty Power of God* Hymnal 1982

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*All are invited to listen to the postlude,
and then to join us for a time of fellowship in Riverside Hall.*

Gloria Dei Clergy and Staff

Rev. Dr. Chris Micklewright, Rector
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Jim and Paula Minacci, Sextons

Adam Haines, Organist and Music Director

Gloria Dei Vestry

*Gabrielle Barbour, Ann Brilliant, Angel Guido, Re Henning, Carol Jenkins (Rector's Warden),
Christine Pickup, Candace Roberts (Accounting Warden), Cathy Ufheil (Secretary), Jeanette Woehr*

Online Giving Available

It is possible to give to Gloria Dei on our website,
www.old-swedes.org/give, or using the QR code:

