

**EPIPHANY SUNDAY**  
**January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – 9:30 AM**

**WELCOME**



Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

✝ Preacher & Worship Leader – Liz Griswold  
✝ Officiant – Pr. Rudy Schneider

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God, **we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you. ✝ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN 1: Let All Together Praise our God (ELW 287)**

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|---|--|
| 1 Let all together praise our God<br>before the highest throne;<br>today God opens heav'n again<br>and sends the only Son,<br>and sends the only Son. | 3 O tender Child, you veil in flesh<br>the splendor of your might;<br>a servant's garb now wraps the one<br>who clothed the sky with light,<br>who clothed the sky with light. |
| 2 From God's right hand the Son descends,<br>is born an infant small,<br>and lies in poverty, his bed<br>a manger in a stall,<br>a manger in a stall. | 4 Unlock the door again today<br>that leads to paradise;<br>the angel bars the way no more.<br>To God let praises rise,<br>to God let praises rise!                            |

## **OPENING HYMN 2: Lord, I lift Your name on High (ELW 857)**

Lord, I lift your name on high;  
Lord, I love to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life,  
I'm so glad you came to save us.  
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,  
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay,  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;  
Lord I lift your name on high.

**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.**

### **GOD'S HOLY WORD**

#### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:1 – 5, 9 – 14**

<sup>1</sup> At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

<sup>2</sup> Thus says the LORD: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, <sup>3</sup> the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued my faithfulness to you. <sup>4</sup> Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again, you shall adorn yourself with your tambourines and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. <sup>5</sup> Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit. <sup>6</sup> For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God."

<sup>7</sup> For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." <sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock." <sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God!**



## Psalm 147: 1 - 11

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God, for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.**

<sup>3</sup> He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup> **He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.**

<sup>5</sup> Great is our Lord and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

<sup>6</sup> **The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.**

<sup>7</sup> Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

<sup>8</sup> **He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.**

<sup>9</sup> He gives to the animals their food and to the young ravens when they cry.

<sup>10</sup> **His delight is not in the strength of the horse nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

<sup>11</sup> but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,

**in those who hope in his steadfast love.**



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.  
Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Matthew 2: 1 - 12; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

<sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> '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.' "

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

<sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## **SERMON – We Three Kings** **Liz Griswold**

### **OFFERING HYMN: In the Secret**

In the secret, in the quiet place,  
in my deepest heart I know  
In the stillness, in the quiet hour I wait only for You  
'Cause I want to know You more

#### **Chorus**

I am reaching for the highest goal, that I might receive the prize  
Pressing onward, pushing every hindrance aside, out of my way  
'Cause I want to know You more

#### **Chorus**

#### **Chorus:**

I want to know You,  
I want to hear Your voice  
I want to know You more  
I want to touch You,  
I want to see Your face  
I want to know You more

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## **OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER**

Loving God, we follow the Magi in giving you gifts, praying that as you receive our acts of offering, you would shine the light of Christ in our hearts to lead us in lives which serve you more deeply. **Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

✠ We recognize those joining us via Facebook Live and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests submitted for our worship.

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day. Grace those from our families and community that we now name silently in our hearts, or out loud, with our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud)*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

And we continue to give you thanks, Father, through Jesus the Christ, who was born a man, who lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light.

Who In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Make us one with him and with one another that we may live for others as he lived for us.

Until that day when we shall feast with him in glory and hear us as we pray the prayer he taught us to pray:

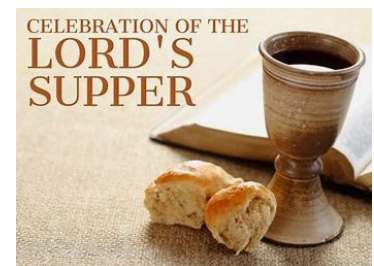
**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Invitation to Communion** – There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

## OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

### COMMUNION HYMN 1: Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
His name is called Emmanuel;  
God with us, revealed in us;  
His name is called Emmanuel.



## COMMUNION HYMN 2: There is a Redeemer

1. There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

### **Chorus**

2. Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain.

### **Chorus**

3. When I stand in glory, I will see His face,  
And there I'll serve my King forever in that holy place.

### **Chorus**

### **Chorus**

Thank you oh my Father,  
for giving us your Son,  
And leaving your Spirit 'til,  
The work on earth is done.

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**Closing Prayer** - 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.**

## CLOSING HYMN: ELW#303 – Brightest and Best of the Stars

### **Song of Blessing**

May God's blessing surround you each day,  
As you trust God and walk in God's way.  
May God's presence within guard and keep you from sin,  
Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

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**Blessing** - The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ✝ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

**Dismissal:** Glory to God in the highest! **And peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Notes:**

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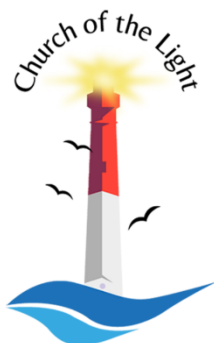
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Zion Lutheran Church LBI

18th Street & Central Ave

PO Box 152

Barnegat Light, NJ 08006

(609) 494-8676

ZionChurchLBI@gmail.com

www.ZionLBI.com