

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE
JANUARY 4, 2025
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
ZION LUTHERAN, TAMAQUA, PA

Note: Pastor White will ask for prayer requests at the start of this evening's service. Worshipers are also invited to add their own prayers during Prayers of the People. We will also be using our cell phones for the Sharing of the Peace. You may wish to select someone ahead of time to send your message of peace and love.

GATHERING

Video: "Three Kings"

Opening song: "We Three Kings" – Reawaken Hymns

Gathering Words

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

Arise, shine! Your light has come.

The glory of the Lord shines like the sun.

Behold, the nations have come to witness God's light.

Kings have come to behold Christ's brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look around.

The glory of the Lord is all around.

Arise, shine! Your light has come.

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

And also with you.

Let us pray together: **Gracious God, we come into your presence with joy and praise, grateful for the gift of Christ Jesus in our lives. As we celebrate this gift in our service of worship, fill our hearts with Christmas joy and our spirits with the gift of your Holy Spirit. With joy and gratitude, we pray. Amen.**

Greetings

Sharing of Peace

May peace prosper among us until the moon is no more. May we share signs of peace and love to sustain us in this New Year.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Sharing by text

We invite you to take out your cell phone now and send a text message of joy and love to someone who isn't in worship this evening.

Godsightings:

Where have you seen God at work in your life?

THE WORD (Matthew 2:1-12)

Gospel reading – Please remain seated

Holy God, may we taste and see the good things you are doing in our lives.

May the words we hear inspire us to be your faithful followers.

Amen.

A reading from Matthew: **2** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’^[b]” ⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to

the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Gospel of Our Lord

Praise to you, O Christ!

Today's message – Pastor Cindy White

Praise & Prayer

The Offering Moment

“Doxology” – The Vagle Brothers

Let us pray: **Generous God, thank you for the gift of Jesus. Thank you for the gifts of Christmas. Thank you for inviting us to bring gifts to your world. Bless the gifts we bring, that they may become vessels of Christ's light and love in the world. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

God calls us to be a praying people. Let us join in prayer, offering our praise, thanksgiving, and concerns to God ...

Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

The Lord's Prayer – Spoken

The sending

Announcements

Benediction

And all God's people say

Thanks be to God.

Sending song: “The Angels Cried” – Alan Jackson and Alison Krauss

Postlude

Thank you for worshiping with us this evening.