

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

www.old-swedes.org

215-389-1513

*February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany*

Ministry Assistants Today

Lector: *Susan Steele*

Intercessor: *Carol Jenkins*

Usher: *Bob Jenkins*

Altar Guild: *Cathy Ufheil*

Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Organist: *Adam Haines*

Ministry Assistants February 15

Lector: *Cathy Ufheil*

Intercessor: *Gabrielle Barbour*

Usher: *Jim Ufheil*

Altar Guild: *Rachel Armstrong*

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 # 601

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

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 **Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

(Congregation is invited to sit for the readings.)

First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

Susan Steele

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

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

All **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 112:1-10

Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.

Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.

For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.

Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever; they will hold up their head with honor.

The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will perish.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

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

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew (5:13-20)**

All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon **Rev. Chris Micklewright**

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.

After the sermon, we stand together to recite our faith using the historic Nicene Creed. While this creed identifies key elements of the Christian faith, you are still welcome to have doubts and questions, and the life of faith is always a journey of growth and discovery.

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)*

Carol Jenkins

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, Sudan, and Iran, 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. (*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.*)

Offertory Sentence

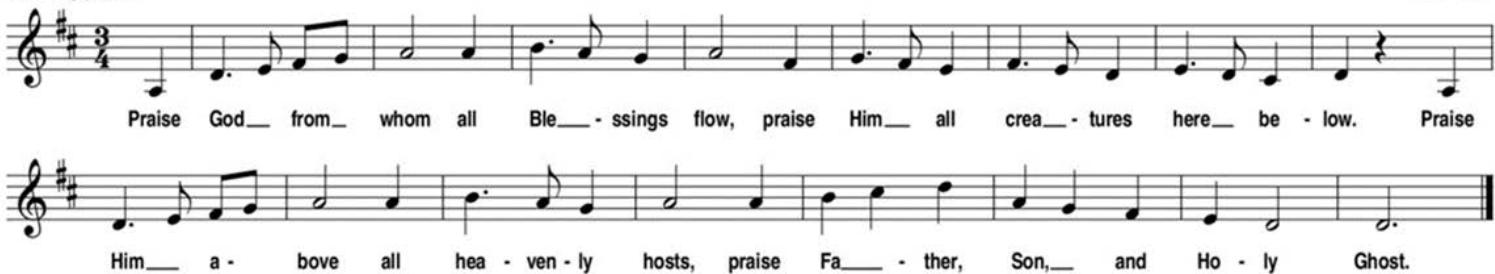
You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. *Matthew 5:14-15*

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



Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above all heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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.**

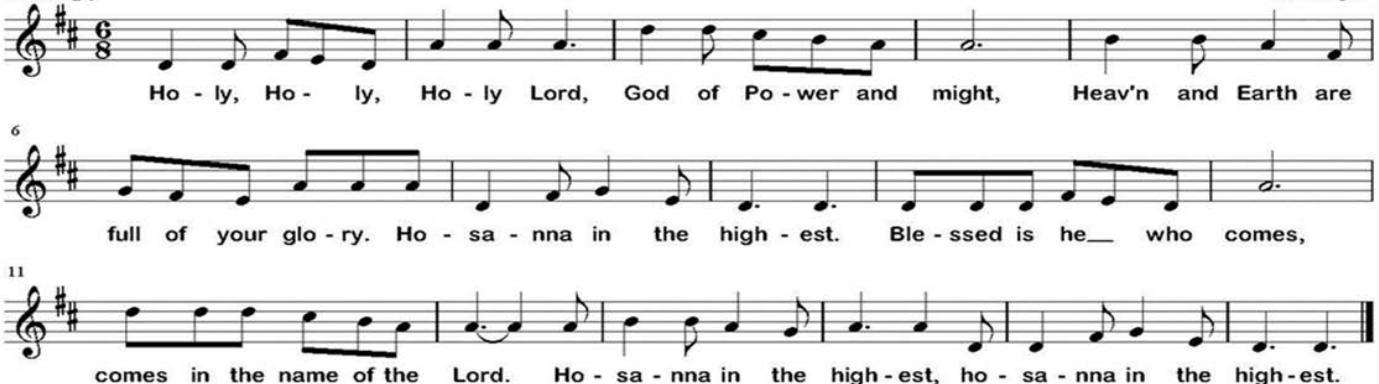
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



Paul Fejko

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and might, Heav'n and Earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Ble-sSED is he who comes, comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

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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.

Celebrant 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.

Instrumental Hymn # 610

Lord Whose Love Through Humble Service

Hymnal 1982

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 from the table in the back of the church.*

Closing Hymn #594

God of Grace and God of Glory

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
440-865-1490, rector@old-swedes.org

Christine McBride, Parish Administrator
215-389-1513, info@old-swedes.org

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:

