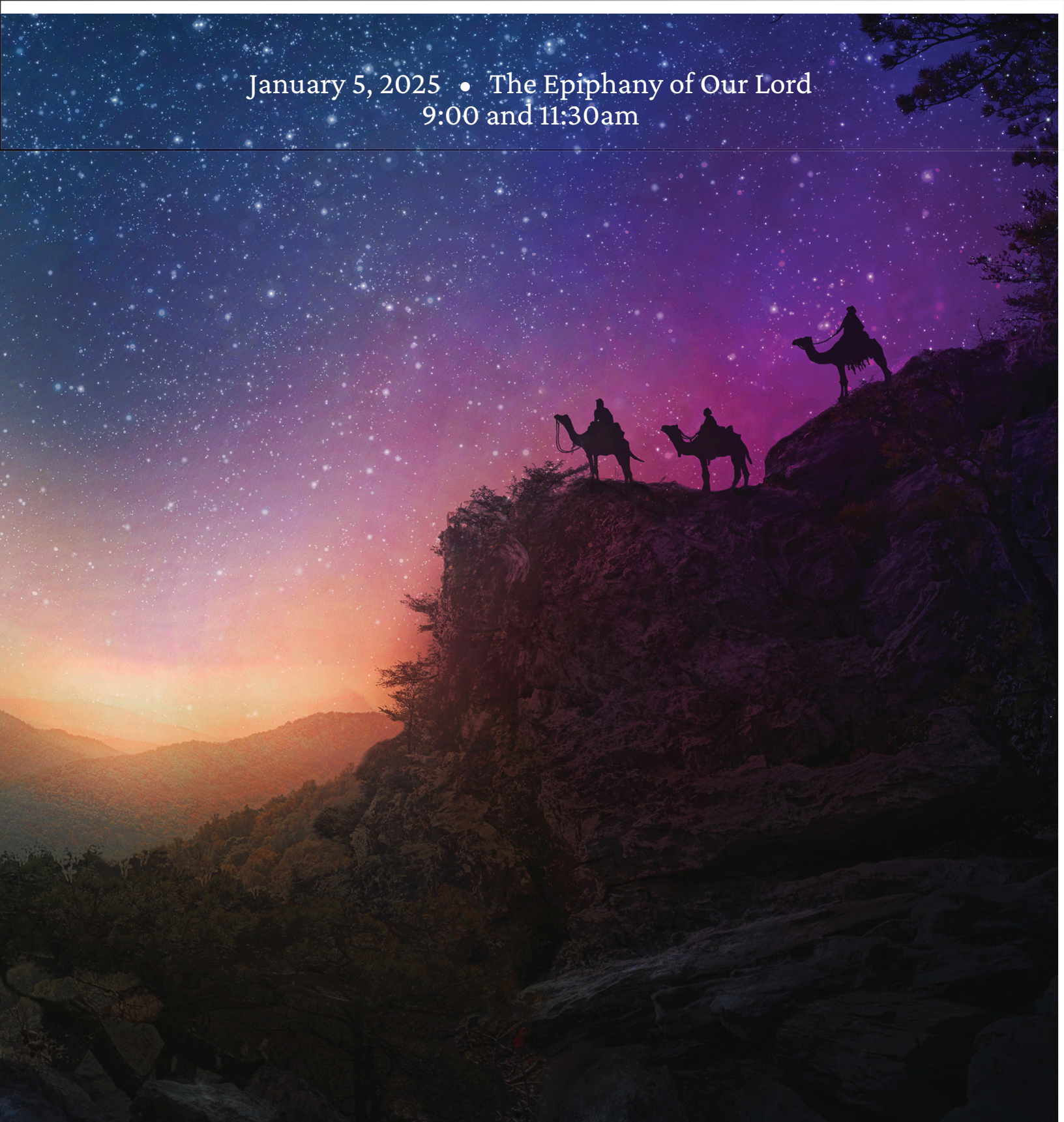


January 5, 2025 • The Epiphany of Our Lord  
9:00 and 11:30am



**Zion**  *lutheran  
church*

## WELCOME TO ZION

When we gather for worship, we're receptive to God's word and we rejoice in God's grace through song, prayer, and Holy Communion. The history of Christian worship is rich with rituals formed by generations. These traditions, prayers, and pastoral teachings help connect our lives with Christ. In our daily lives, we show God's love by serving our community, both locally and globally.

We are a group of believers seeking to respond to Christ's call to worship and serve, even as we wrestle with the big questions of life. We want you to know that you and your questions, faith, and doubts are welcome here!

## HOW WE WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace: the Word of God and the Sacraments. From the table of Holy Communion where Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and care for those in need. Our worship follows this pattern in four parts: Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending. By its very nature, Lutheran worship is participatory and the service is contained within this bulletin. Worship leaders guide us through the service and our responses are printed in **bold type**.

We welcome children in our worship services! If needed, a nursery is available down the hallway past the restrooms. The restrooms contain changing tables, as needed. The break room, on the left side of the hallway, provides a quiet space for nursing.

Throughout the service, members of Zion's music ministry offer their talents as an offering to God. Please receive their musical gifts as a time for prayer, contemplation, or praise of God rather than a performance to be applauded, so that we may worship God throughout our time here together.

## THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

The feast of Epiphany ("manifestation") concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people.

## Zion Lutheran Church

9944 Leslie Road • San Antonio, Texas 78254 • 210-688-3090 • [zion@zionsa.org](mailto:zion@zionsa.org)

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, gathers us in worship.*

PRELUDE

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*  
arranged by Phillip Keveren

Sandy Musk  
Guest Musician

WELCOME

Pastor Bill Swantner

*Please rise, as you are able.*

INVOCATION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Lord who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

**Amen.**

OPENING DIALOGUE

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in you I trust.**

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;

**for you I wait all day long.**

O Lord, remember your mercy and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

**Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,**

God is my strength and my might;

**and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

*(Based on Psalm 25, Isaiah 12, and Luke 1)*

Section End

1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
 2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;  
 3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?  
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,  
 5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,

dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.  
 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
 Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,  
 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;  
 dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.

Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
 gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
 rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,  
 Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,

guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.  
 mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.  
 myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?  
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
 guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877–1970, alt.  
 Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

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## GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SECTION TWO

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

## CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Dan Heim

*Children may come forward for the Children's Chat while the rest of the congregation is seated.*

## FIRST READING: ISAIAH 60:1-6

[Study Bible](#)

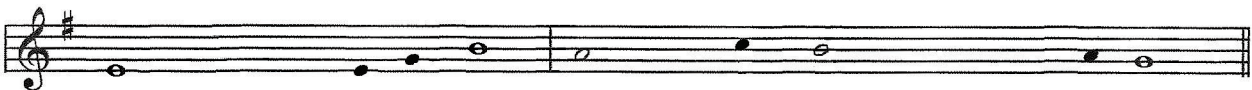
<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



*Please rise, as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Repeat Alleluia*

## GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Spark Children's Bible Story  
Wise Men, page 218*

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men 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 at its rising, 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 wise men 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 at its rising, 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, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

*Please rise, as you are able.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

The First Noel

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and



*Refrain*

night that was so deep.  
 tin-ued both day and night.  
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
 place where Je - sus lay.  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional  
 Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

SECTION END, NEXT IS APOSTLES CREED

## APOSTLES' CREED — NO PARTISM —

Let us now confess our faith using the words of 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, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

*\*catholic: universal*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.

Please respond: **Your mercy is great.**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.  
**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Additional announcements and a schedule for the week are on the back pages of this bulletin.*

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.*

## OFFERING

*We give our offerings with thanksgiving to God. These offerings support the mission and ministry of Zion, including the care of those in need. To give online, please visit [ZionSA.org](http://ZionSA.org). Children may place their offerings in the jar to the left of the Chancel (near the sacristy door). During the offering music, the pastor sets the table for Holy Communion.*

OFFERING MUSIC	<i>Wie Schön Leuchtet der Morgenstern</i> setting by A.W. Leupold	Sandy Musk
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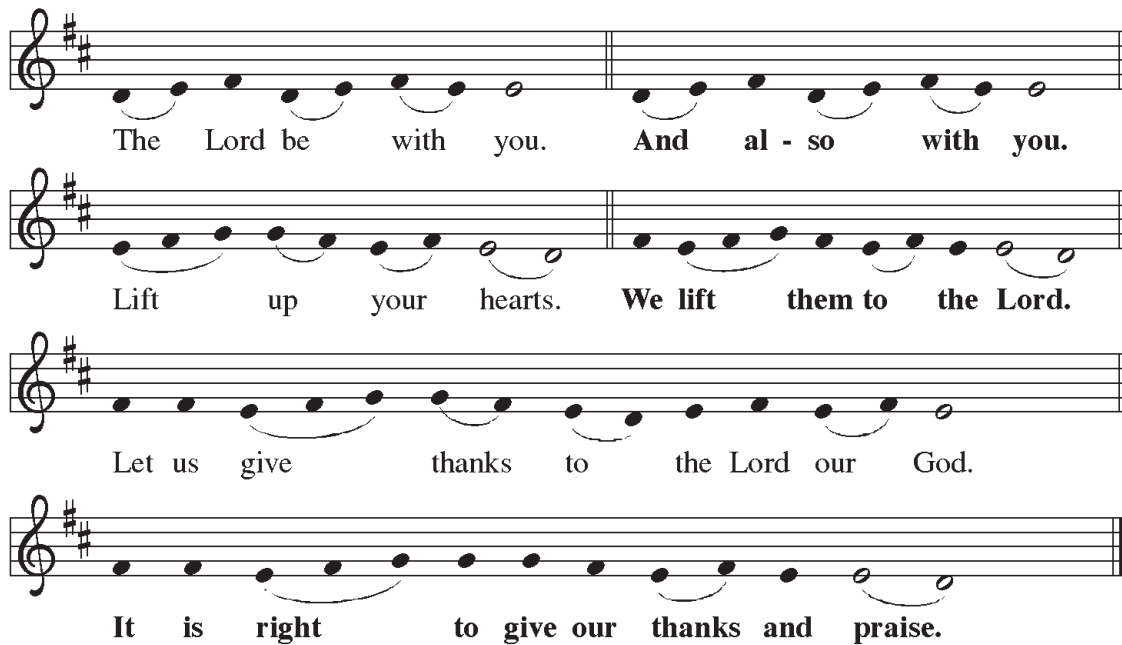
*Please rise, as you are able. The ushers bring the offering forward for the Offering Prayer.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God,  
**your Son born to us shows us your great love.**  
As we offer ourselves and these gifts,  
**prepare us to receive the grace you offer at this table**  
**and renew in us the song of your salvation,**  
**through Jesus Christ our Savior.**  
**Amen.**

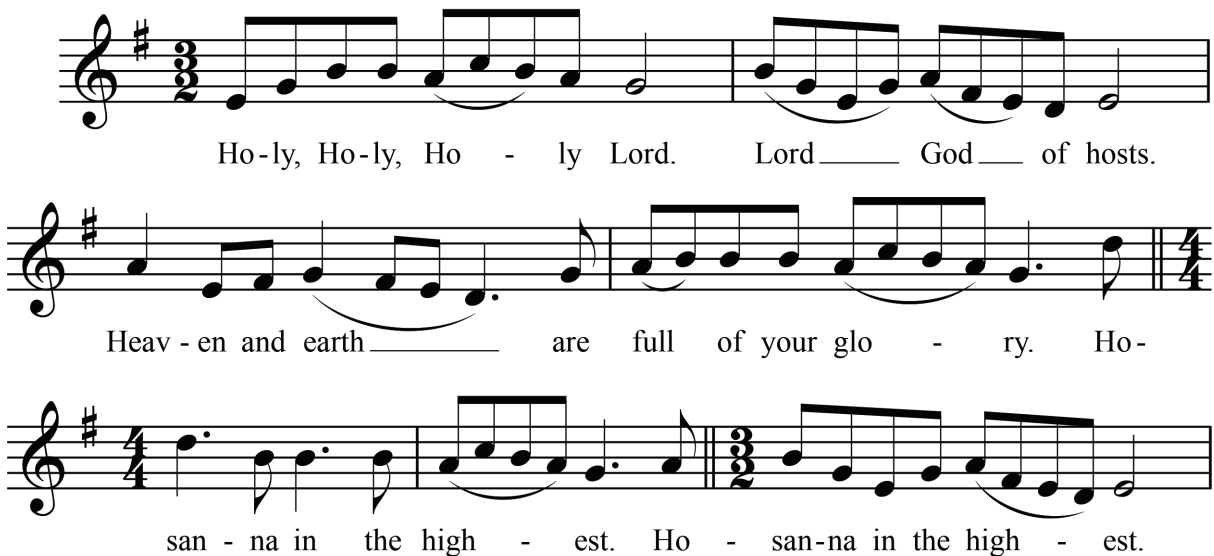
[Next page](#)

# GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord. Lord God of hosts.  
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

Bles - sed is he who comes in the\_\_ name of\_\_ the\_\_ Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus has taught us:

**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

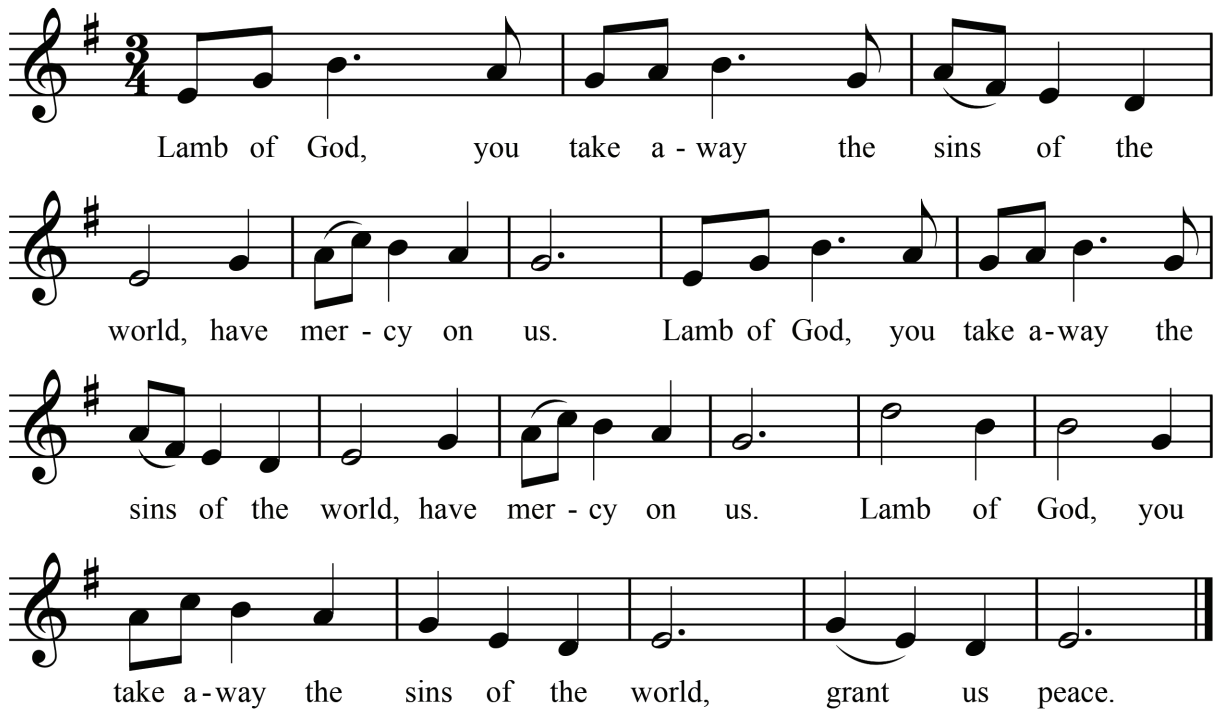
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

*Please be seated.*

## COMMUNION

*Because this is the Lord's table, we welcome all to receive Holy Communion. If you'd like to receive a blessing instead, simply come forward and cross your arms over your chest. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and we will bring the sacrament to you. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask the person serving bread. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray for those unable to drink wine. After receiving Communion, please return to your seat for singing and prayer.*

# LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the  
world, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sins of the world, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898  
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.



*After communion, we rise and share in blessing and prayer.*

## BLESSING

May the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in God's grace.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER

Let us pray. We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, present in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us out in peace.*

## BENEDICTION

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through ✠ Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.  
**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *on next page*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.  
**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE	<i>Festive Voluntary on "Regent Square"</i> by Daniel Burton	Sandy Musk
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### Available for Prayer

*Immediately following each service, Stephen Ministers are often available to pray with you at the altar rail. All prayers and conversations are confidential.*

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## THIS WEEK AT ZION

Scan QR code for this month's calendar



### Sunday, January 5

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Intergenerational Epiphany Event	10:15	Fellowship Hall
Worship in person and YouTube@ZionSanAntonio	11:30	Sanctuary & online

### Monday, January 6

Game Group	12:30	Fellowship Hall
LMM Planning Mtg	6:30	Fellowship Hall

### Tuesday, January 7

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Staff Meeting	11am	Break Room
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2

### Wednesday, January 8

High School/Elementary Mentoring	7:15am	Nichols Elementary
Crafty Bunch	9:00	Ed Bldg Craft Rm
Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Midweek Worship	1:00 and 6:30pm	Church 1
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	FH
AA - Alcoholics Anonymous	7pm	Church 2
Chancel Choir	7:15	Sanctuary

### Thursday, January 9

Study of Ruth with Pr Eileen	9:30	MC Room 1
Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Fiesta Flutes Rehearsal	7pm	Church 2
Stephen Ministry Supervision	7pm	MC-5 and 6

### Saturday, January 11

Weight Watchers Meeting	7:30am	Church 2
Funeral Service for Bill Walsh	2pm	Church 1

### Sunday, January 12

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour for all ages	10:15	Details next page
The Lutheran & Not-So-Lutheran Theology of <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i>	10:15	Fellowship Hall
Worship in person and YouTube@ZionSanAntonio	11:30	Sanctuary & online

## WORSHIP SUPPORT

### January Altar Guild

Alyssa Brodbeck, Ruth Dunn  
Madison Harris, Suzi Lockamy  
Randalyn Nickel, Karen Umlang

### Lay Reader

9:00 Rachel Williams  
11:30 Chris Jones

### Cantor

Bud Halstead

### Communion Servers

9:00 Mary Jo Goldenbaum  
Carolyn Pfeiffer  
11:30 Max Knoll  
Suzie Wyatt

### Livestream

David Umlang

### Sound

Scott Van Doren

### Ushers

9:00 Doris & Dave Newman  
Suzanne & Russell Warren  
Karen & James Sturdivant  
LeShea Clabough & Kevin M<sup>c</sup>Gee  
11:30 Pam Gammage

## Two Midweek Services Wednesdays at 1pm and 6:30pm in Church 1

Simple communion worship services  
in Zion's historic chapel.

---

## The Lutheran and Not-So-Lutheran Theology found in the Musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Next Sunday, January 12 at 10:15

Join music director Rob Mikulski on January 12 for a fun discussion of various theologies found within the lyrics of “Jesus Christ Superstar”. This class will meet in the Fellowship Hall during the Faith Formation hour.

---

## Faith Formation for Children and Youth Resumes January 12

10:15 in Ministry Center Rooms

<i>Age or Grade</i>	<i>Room</i>
Two Years–Kinder	MC-3
Grades 1–5	MC-4
Grades 6–9	MC-7
High School Grades 10–12	MC-8

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## Game Group

Monday, January 6 and 20 at 12:30pm

Come for table games and daytime fellowship for all ages. Meet in the Fellowship Hall on the first and third Mondays. Contact Algine Perry through the church office if you have questions.

---

## Music Rehearsals Resume

Chancel Choir (Adult)	Wednesday Jan 8	7:15	Sanctuary
Handbells	Tuesday Jan 21	6:30	Sanctuary Balcony
Children’s Choir (Gr 2-5)	Tuesday Jan 21	7-7:45	MC 1
Youth Choir (Gr 6-12)	Tuesday Jan 21	7-8pm	Music Apse

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## Crafty Bunch Resumes January 8 Wednesdays at 9:00

The Crafty Bunch meets in the Education Building on the west side of Leslie Road. Enter at the double doors, behind Churches 1 and 2. The craft room is the first room on the left. Bring your own project to work on.

---

## Midweek Services Resume January 8 Wednesdays at 1pm and 6:30pm in Church 1

Simple communion worship services in Zion’s historic chapel.

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## Weekday Bible Study Series: Book of Ruth Thursday, January 9 in MC Room 1

Led by Pastor Eileen Spehr. Come to Ministry Center Room 1 at 9:30am on the second and fourth Thursdays, through March 27.

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## Zion Zippers 50+ Fellowship

Monday, January 13 at 6:00pm

Zion Zippers meet on the second Monday of each month for a potluck dinner, beginning at 6pm. If you're fifty years or older, you're invited. Please bring a dish or two to share with your Zipper friends. Bring your own plate and utensils if you can, and invite a friend, too!

After dinner, we'll set out the dice for Bunco - come join the fun! Contact Kathy Newman through the church office if you have a question or suggestion for a guest speaker or activity.

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## Women of Zion Events in January

### • WOZ Bible Study & More

Second Tuesday January 14 at 10:00am

Join in activities and fellowship with other women in the congregation. Fellowship, service projects with a Bible study on the second Tuesday at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited! Scan the QR code to get on the mailing list, or send an e-mail to [WOZ@zionsa.org](mailto:WOZ@zionsa.org).



[WOZ@zionsa.org](mailto:WOZ@zionsa.org)

### • Women of Zion's General Meeting

will be held Thursday, January 16 at 12pm in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served. All women are invited. Your attendance and input are very important in planning events for the year. For more information, contact Diane Stewart through the church office.

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## STAFF CONTACT

Pastor Kathi Johnson	<i>Day Off</i>
Senior Pastor	<i>Monday</i>
<a href="mailto:kjohnson@ZionSA.org">kjohnson@ZionSA.org</a>	

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Pastor Dan Heim	<i>Friday</i>
Pastor, Youth & Family	
<a href="mailto:dheim@ZionSA.org">dheim@ZionSA.org</a>	

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Pastor Eileen Spehr	
Visitation Pastor	
<a href="mailto:visitation@ZionSA.org">visitation@ZionSA.org</a>	

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Suzie Wyatt	<i>Thursday</i>
Administrator	<i>afternoon</i>
<a href="mailto:swyatt@ZionSA.org">swyatt@ZionSA.org</a>	

---

Rob Mikulski	<i>Monday</i>
Music Director	
<a href="mailto:rmikulski@ZionSA.org">rmikulski@ZionSA.org</a>	

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Sammy Mikulski	<i>Monday</i>
Theatre Director	
<a href="mailto:theatre@ZionSA.org">theatre@ZionSA.org</a>	

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## 2025 COUNCIL

Bud Halstead	President
Karen Umlang	Treasurer
Chris Jones	
Erica Macha	
Rachel Williams	
Shiloh Love	
Matt Iwanicki	
Pr. Kathi Johnson	Senior Pastor
Pr. Dan Heim	Pastor

## OFFICE CONTACT



Mon-Thur 8:30am-5:00pm  
Friday close at 3:00pm



210-688-3090



Zion@ZionSA.org



Website ZionSA.org



Facebook ZionSA



Instagram @ZionSATX



9944 Leslie Road, 78254

## SUBSCRIBE TO

- Weekly Z-Mail
- Prayer Chain

For secure subscription info, send an e-mail to Karen at Zion@ZionSA.org

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**Zion is a  
Stephen Ministry Church!**  
**Stephen Ministers Are Care-Givers,  
God Is the Cure-Giver.**

The role of a Stephen Minister is to give care. They listen, empathize, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual

support on a weekly basis to hurting people for as long as the need persists. God works in and through them to bring hope and healing. If you are feeling lonely, experiencing a crisis, struggling through a difficult time, or simply find yourself stressed by everyday life, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders to learn more about Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, talk with LeShea Clabough, our Stephen Ministry Leader. Get her contact information from the church office, 210-688-3090, or email her directly using this QR.



## Prayer Chain and Z-Mail

Prayer Chain requests are sent out by e-mail as needed, no more than once a day. When requesting prayers for others by name, please confirm with that person first.

Z-Mail is Zion's weekly e-mail with event reminders, links to Sunday YouTube video worship, digital bulletins, and other notifications.

To request prayers, join the Prayer Chain, or subscribe to Z-Mail, phone the church office or send an e-mail to Karen at Zion@ZionSA.org.

# MomCo, a Community for All Moms Wednesday, January 15 in MC Room 1

Zion MomCo\* supports moms by building community for growth in faith and as parents.

Meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month in Zion's Ministry Center from 9:30-noon. They also are in need of adult volunteers to provide child care those Wednesdays.

MomCo Registration



Scan the QR to register or volunteer, or contact Nicole Stender (mops@zionsa.org) to get more info!

## Quilting for Lutheran World Relief January 16 and 30

Even if you don't sew, consider learning some basics with LWR Quilters! Come on out at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall, on the first, third and fifth Thursdays. Contact Diane Stewart through the church office if you need more details.

*The LWR Quilters are always in need of new and gently used twin size and larger flat sheets for quilt backing. Sheets can be dropped off at the Fellowship Hall during any quilting time.*

## Zion Bunco Group 4th Monday, January 27 at 1:00pm

Zion Bunco Group will meet on the fourth Monday for a rousing game of Bunco and fellowship. Meet at 1:00, the Fellowship Hall. For info contact Shirley Homeier-McBrayer through the church office.

*Your  
generosity  
empowers  
Zion's ministry*

From Sunday morning worship to feeding families for the holidays, collecting clothing for local charity or relief supplies shipped hundreds of miles, to friendships fostered worldwide with simple hand stitches.

Because you kindly share your time, lend your skills, and support your ministry financially, Zion's impact reaches far beyond the four walls of our sanctuary. On behalf of everyone we're able to help, thank you for your contribution.

For more ways to support Zion's mission, scan this QR code.



<https://secure.myvanco.com/YJYN/campaign/C-YTT8>  
General Fund, updated 6/18/24



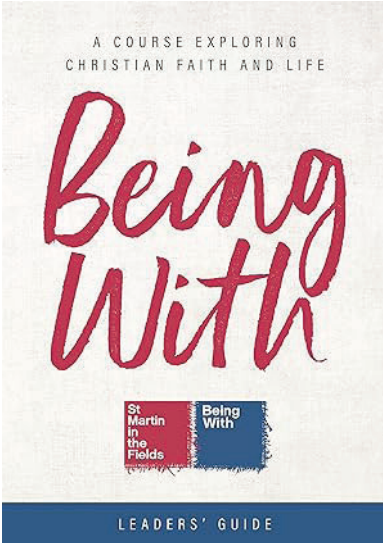
## New Series: *Being With*

Starting January 26, the ten-week “Being With” course is an introduction to Christianity with a difference.

At its heart is the idea that God’s greatest desire is to be with us in Jesus. Grounded in the conviction that we already have a wealth of

understanding of truth, beauty and goodness that signify God’s presence in our lives and everyday experiences, it aims to enable participants to discover dimensions of this presence and to live abundantly with God, with one another and with creation.

The sessions focus on the themes of Meaning; Essence; Jesus; Church; Bible; Mission; Cross; Prayer; Suffering and Resurrection. Drawing on the practices of Godly Play, the course uses storytelling, wondering and reflection to encourage and welcome the insights that each person brings.



**LMM**  
LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION  
SOUTH TEXAS SYNOD

## Men’s Fellowship Dinner Third Monday, January 20 at 6:30pm

All men are invited to meet at El Chaparral Restaurant, 15103 Bandera Rd in Helotes, for food, thoughtful study, camaraderie, and all YOUR ideas for Men’s Ministry! Contact David Umlang at [Imm@zionsa.org](mailto:Imm@zionsa.org) if you need more details.

## One Year to Live Men’s Retreat February 21-23, 2025

A weekend to reflect and prioritize. First time in Texas since 2022. Sponsored by SW Texas Synod Lutheran Men in Mission. At Camp Chrysalis in Kerrville. For info and registration, scan this QR or pick up a registration brochure from the narthex.



## Tickets on Sale for January 17 - 19 and 24 - 26 Performances

- Online theatre seating ticket sales are now open via this QR or [ZTG.Booktix.net](https://ZTG.Booktix.net).
- Dinner seating reservations may



[ZTG.Booktix.net](https://ZTG.Booktix.net)

- be made by email to [Theatre@ZionSA.org](mailto:Theatre@ZionSA.org)
- In-person sales and ticket pickup is in the gazebo on Sundays.

**JANUARY 6, 2025  
EPIPHANY OF  
OUR LORD**



*The power and glory of God shines for all the world.*

## **EPIPHANY BIBLE READINGS**

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Epiphany observances.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Isaiah 60:1-6</b>	<b>Arise, shine, for your light has come</b>
	<b>Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14</b>	<b>Prayer for a righteous king</b>
	<b>Ephesians 3:1-12</b>	<b>Paul's ministry to the Gentiles</b>
	<b>Matthew 2:1-12</b>	<b>The visit of the wise men</b>

## **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EPIPHANY**

*Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. Isaiah 60:1 (NRSV)*

## **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

### **A Prayer for Epiphany:**

Almighty God, may your glory shine brightly and bring justice and peace for all the world to see through Christ Jesus, born in Bethlehem, the City of David. Amen.

### **Mealttime Prayer:**

Be present at our table, Lord, be here and everywhere adored; these mercies bless and grant that we may strengthen for thy service be. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May you live with boldness through faith in Christ. (Ephesians 3:12)



**JANUARY 6, 2025**

**HYMN FOR EPIPHANY**

*Bright and Glorious  
Is the Sky*



**EPIPHANY MILESTONES**



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When you think of powerful, what comes to mind?
- How would you describe the power of God?

**DEVOTIONS**



*Read:* Isaiah 60:1-6.

Epiphany is the season that displays the glory of God in Christ. The “you” often repeated in this reading is not about us. It’s about Jerusalem. Isaiah announced that God’s light would shine on Jerusalem and the nations would come to the light. How is it that nations that had destroyed Jerusalem and the whole of Israel would now come and bow down to this city? What a bold claim Isaiah made! We believe that the light that shines for all the world centers on Jesus. He is a person born to a poor and otherwise unknown couple and someone who would die at the hands of powerful political and religious leaders. This also seems to be a bold claim. For the church, Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection is the ultimate power in the world. This Jesus who comes to teach, heal, and save the world takes on all earthly powers and conquers. That is the glory of God that shines on Jesus and now on us as those who look to Jesus to change the world and give it hope.

*Discuss:* What powers do you see that need to be reminded that God’s glory shines on Jesus?

*Pray:* **God of the nations, give us the confidence to confess Jesus as the light that shines for all the world to know as Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**SERVICE**



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Epiphany Bible Readings and theme for this day, how can you help someone find hope when going through tough times?

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**



The wise men were guided by a star in their search for Jesus, the newborn king. As Christians, we are “stars” that God uses to point other people to Jesus. Think or talk about how your life can be a light that shines for Jesus. Cut out star shapes. Write words to describe different ways you can “shine” for Jesus in your relationships with others on the stars. Place them in a visible space in your home as a reminder of Jesus’ light in your life.

*Pray:* **Dear God, just as you guided the wise men with a star and led others to help people see the “boundless riches of Christ”, may we be your messengers of the good news of Christ for the world. Amen.** (Ephesians 3:8-9)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

