

Epiphany of Our Lord

THE POWER OF

YES

January 4, 2026

“Epiphany of our Lord”
“Wise Ones say Yes!”
Sunday, January 4, 2026
(indicates the assembly stands)*

Gathering

Prelude	<i>“I Wonder as I Wander”</i>	M. Corl
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Confession and Forgiveness (see page 4)		
*Hymn 300		<i>“The First Noel”</i>
*Greeting		
*Glory to God		p. 213
Prayer of the Day		
Duet	<i>“Sonata No. 1, Op. 3 in G major: Allegro”</i>	J.M. Leclair

Word

First Reading		Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14 (see page 4)		<i>(sung responsively)</i>
Second Reading		Ephesians 3:1-12
*Gospel Acclamation	<i>“Alleluia”</i>	p. 124
*Gospel Reading		Matthew 2:1-12
Sermon		
*Hymn of the Day 303		<i>“Brightest and Best of the Stars”</i>
*Nicene Creed		p. 104
*Prayers of Intercession		A: Have mercy, O God.
*Peace		

Meal

*Offering Hymn 302 v. 1, 5	<i>“As with Gladness Men of Old”</i>
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*Offering Prayer	
*Great Thanksgiving	p. 190
*Holy, Holy, Holy	p. 190
*Thanksgiving at the Table	
*Lord's Prayer (<i>Our Father in heaven...</i>)	p. 134
Lamb of God	p. 191
Communion Hymn 815	<i>"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"</i>
Table Blessing	
Prayer after Communion	
Sending	
General Announcements	
*Blessing	
*Hymn 646 WOV	<i>"We Three Kings"</i>
*Dismissal	A: Thanks be to God.
Postlude	<i>"Finale from Pastorale"</i> J. S. Bach

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The story of the wise ones, or Magi, presents Jesus once again entering the world under perilous circumstances. This time, the danger comes from a tyrant ruler, Herod the Great. Matthew emphasizes the Magi's homage. They kneel before the child and present gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The Magi say yes to God's guidance rather than to the directions of a tyrant, and in doing so they further participate in the unfolding of God's plan.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be

Reconciling God,

**A: 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.**

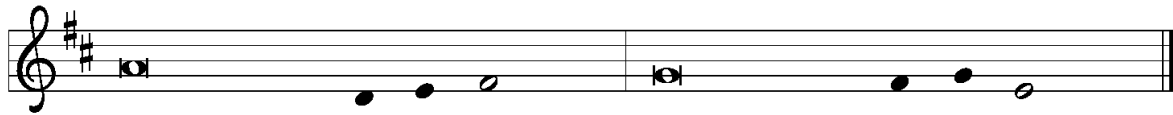
**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.**

**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.

Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14



¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;

²that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;

³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.

⁴Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.

⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

⁶Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.

⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.

¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.

¹¹May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.

¹²For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.

¹³He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.

¹⁴From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight.

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Assisting Minister: Linda McLellan

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Violins: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer and Lana Moses

Communion Server: Sue Laking

Broadcast: Andrew Weber

Building Monitor: Ron Roeder (519-895-6833)

Worship Notes

In our prayers, Edith Strathearn, Marjorie, Kevin, Betty, Anneke, Judy, Yvonne, Jeanette, Meaghan, Henry, Maureen, and John.

Information for today's worship

- **Offering:** Please place your offering in one of the offering plates in the Narthex (entranceway) upon entering. The offering plates will be presented at the High Altar during the service.
- **Please join us for Fellowship Time** after worship in the Community Hall. Use any of the staircases (Narthex, west stair tower, parking lot tower) to go down.
- **Downstairs Washrooms** can be accessed via any of the staircases. There is one wheelchair accessible washroom, and the rest are all-gender washrooms. A further all-gender washroom is also available via the west stair tower door (front left of the Sanctuary) on the same level. Turn right at the hallway.

General Announcements

Special Congregational Meeting January 18, 2026. Following worship on Sunday, January 18th, we will have a congregational meeting to vote on a motion regarding the sale of the 14 Church Street property. All voting members are encouraged to attend!

Church Fire Plan - For everyone's awareness, a copy of the Church Fire Plan for safe exit from the Sanctuary appears in the back of the worship books. Please take a moment to review for your own safety. The AED and a first aid kit are in the hallway by the office.

Contact Information

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The St. Matthews Centre, our community hub, has a website which links all upcoming events, especially concerts of the KW Symphony and the Grand Philharmonic Choir.

Scroll down to "Upcoming Events" at <https://www.stmatthewscentre.ca>.
The St. Matthews Centre also has a Facebook page, which you can "follow" to get updates.



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

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