

SUNDAY- JANUARY 4TH, 2026 -9:00 AM

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB

*A family in faith, reaching out to share
in God's love with all people.*

WELCOMING WORD

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.



WE WELCOME ALL TO ELC!

*Everyone. Without exception. Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, faith traditions, physical or mental abilities, financial resources, family status, or personal struggles. We are committed to being an anti-racist community. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we will work to extend God’s grace, love, justice, and dignity. You belong here. Your story and your life are valuable.
In Christ’s love, we welcome you.*

MINISTERS
REVEREND

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
BRUCE ENGBRETSON



ELC@MHTC.NET - 608-437-5012

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, January 4, 2026 | Epiphany of Our Lord | 9:00 AM

(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C** = Congregation)

PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN # 273 All My Heart Again Rejoices (vs. 1,2,3)

+CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

C: Amen.

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

L: Reconciling God,

C: 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.

L: 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!

C: Amen.

GREETING

+KYRIE pg. 147

+HYMN OF PRAISE pg. 149 *"This is the feast ..."*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL SONGS Arise, Shine Jesus Messiah

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ² 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. ³ Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ 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 in their nurses' arms. ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.

Ephesians 3:1-12

¹ This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

+ACCLAMATION pg. 151

(sing) Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

+L: The Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 2.

+C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² 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." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ '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.'" ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

+L: The Gospel of the Lord.

+C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM

MESSAGE Reverend Bruce Engebretson

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #296 What Child Is This

+NICENE CREED pg. 104

+THE PRAYERS pg. 152

The leader concludes each petition with the words:

"Lord in your mercy..."

The people respond: Hear our prayer."

+SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING PRAISE TEAM *Ancient Words*

+OFFERTORY #182 *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

+OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. **Amen**

+THE GREAT THANKSGIVING pg. 152

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+THE LORD'S PRAYER pg. 154 (right hand column)

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #294 *In the Bleak Midwinter*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

COMMUNITY WORD

+BLESSING

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #289 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

+DISMISSAL

L: Glory to God in the highest!

C: And peace to God's people on earth!

L: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

"I am God's child, deserving of love and respect, and God will use me to change the world."

*If you would like more information about ELC of Mount Horeb
please fill out the visitor cards in the pew pads
which are passed during offering.*

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 4, 2026

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding:

Monday, Psalm 72, Prayer for Guidance

Tuesday, Isaiah 6:1-5, A Vision of God

Wednesday, Jeremiah 31:7-14, Return of the Exiles

Thursday, Matthew 2:1-12, Visit of the Magi

Friday, 1 Corinthians 2:1-10, Proclaiming Christ Crucified

Saturday, Ecclesiastes 3:1-15, Everything Has Its Time

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:14

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

- When in your life has your mourning turned to joy and dancing? (Jer 31:13)
- How many sources of light are necessary to overcome total darkness? How does that image give you hope? (John 1:5)
- In what ways does God dwell, take up residence, with you or with us? John 1:14

PRAY: 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.

BLESS: 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.