

January 05, 2025

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
38801 Blacow Road
Fremont, CA 94536
Church: (510) 793-6285

January 05, 2025
9:30 AM Service – Epiphany Sunday
Ministers: The People of HTLC
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

If you're looking for a community that seeks to follow God's star, there is a place for you here. Trust that the mystery of God has brought you this far on your journey and will guide your future steps. All of who you are is welcome here.

Our worship services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel and website. If you do not wish to be filmed, please do not sit in the first four pews or the last pew. Children's Time and communion distribution are not filmed.

All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

WELCOME TO THE STORY

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, 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.

A Story that Invites Us

SINGING BOWL

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: May we share signs of peace and love to sustain us in the new year. The peace of Christ be with you.

All And also with you.

Please safely share the peace with each other.



Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We gather wondering, ‘Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?’

All: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of elders.

L: We gather asking, ‘Where will we find the Child of Christmas?’

All: We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.

L: We gather wanting to know, ‘Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?’

All: We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Christ Jesus, we yearn for your grace to fill our lives.

All: We yearn to accept your love so fully that our hearts might overflow with love for your world.

P: Gift us, not just with your mercy and grace, but with an openness and confidence to receive your gifts.

All: Shine through our hearts, our lives, and our actions, that others may find in us generous friends of grace and love.

P: May our prayers and our actions bring your light and love to the world.

Time of silent reflection

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

P: In Christ's grace, we can boldly embrace God's love.

All: In Christ's mercy, we can confidently proclaim that God's love is enough.

GATHERING HYMN: "Bright and Glorious Is the Sky" vs. 1,3



1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness
3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this



heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,
won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions



All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to
all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous
and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the



heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.
star drew nigh, as the won - drous star drew nigh.
new - born king, to the child, the new - born king.

GREETING

P: God of Advent, of waiting and hoping,

All: keep our hearts expectant, ready for your coming among us.

P: God of Christmas, of celebration and rejoicing,

All: make our hearts glad with the joy nothing can take from us.

P: God of Epiphany, of hiding and making known,

All: fill our hearts with wonder at the revelation of your glory that we have seen in Christ, our Savior. Amen.

LITANY FOR EPIPHANY

L: Christmas is over, the presents unwrapped. The darkness of our nights threatens to take over our lives.

All: Light of the world, shine in our hearts.

L: Into the quiet of a tiny country, ruled by a faraway emperor, Magi came from another place to encounter God.

All: Light of the world, shine in our hearts.

L: You have greater gifts yet to share with us; reveal more of your great love for us this day.

All: Light of the world, shine in our hearts.

L: Remind us that, like the Magi, we have seen you and we have gifts from you to open for the world.

All: Light of the world, shine in our hearts, that the world may know your glory and love.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O Star-flinging God, whose light dances across eternity, dazzle us into your presence this new year.

All: Open our hearts to the mystery of your love.

L: Awaken us to your presence, knit to the ordinary.

All: Reveal to us what is possible, but not yet present.

L: Heal us, that we might be healers.

All: Reconcile us to you and to ourselves, that our living might be reconciling.

L: Stop us often, we pray, with news that is good, with hope that holds, with truth that transforms, with a Word tailored to this trail we're on.

All: May the word of your grace guide our steps like the sun by day and the north star by night, as we travel into the gift of a new year. Amen.

Be Seated

The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

R: Open our hearts and minds to the light of your word, read and preached.

All: We rejoice in the mystery made plain through the good news of the babe of Bethlehem. May this good news transform us and guide us, as we seek to follow the star of love and light.

R: A reading from Isaiah, chapter sixty, beginning with the first verse.

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 60:1-6*

“Arise, shine, for your light has come!
the glory of Yahweh is rising upon you!

Though darkness still covers the earth
and dense clouds enshroud the peoples,
upon you Yahweh now dawns,
and God’s glory will be seen among you!

The nations will come to your light
and the leaders to your bright dawn!
Lift up your eyes, and look around:
they’re all gathering and coming to you—
your daughters and your sons
journey from afar, escorted in safety;

you'll see them and beam with joy,
your heart will swell with pride.
The riches of the sea will flow to you,
and the wealth of the nations will come to you—

camel caravans will cover your roads,
the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of Yahweh.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

R: Give us justice, O God,

All: that we may be justice-bringers to your world.

R: Give us righteousness, O God,

All: that we may live righteousness in love and compassion.

R: Give us light, O God,

**All: that we bring light to the shadows and hope to the
hopeless.**

R: Give us peace, O God,

**All: that we may be peacemakers in all that we do and in
all that we say. Amen.**

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: tune – *“Angels We Have
Heard on High”*

**All: Lord, to whom else shall we go
Words of deathless life to know?
Not by bread alone we live,
But by ev'ry word You give.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**



P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew the second chapter.

All: Glory to you, O God.

GOSPEL: *Matthew 2:1-12*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘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.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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.” 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P: The Gospel of the Word Incarnate.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "We Three Kings of Orient Are" vs. 1,5



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Be Seated

MESSAGE: Pastor Tim

A Story that Feeds Us

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: Come into Christ's light with your gifts. They need not be gold or precious oil.

All: Gifts of love and compassion are the greatest treasures of all.

THANKFUL OFFERING

Please Stand

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: “*In the Bleak Midwinter*” vs. 3

All: What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

OFFERING PRAYER

L: Glorious God, bring glory to these gifts and to the offerings we share with you and your church.

All: Bring the light of your justice and righteousness to the dark corners of our world.

L: Bring the glory of your love and compassion to heal our broken communities.

All: Bring the hope of generosity and gratitude to places in need of transformation. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people. Your glory fills the earth. Bless the work of all who engage in dialogue with people of other traditions and faiths. Bridge our differences with a shared mission of revealing your boundless love to the world. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Give the rulers your justice and reveal your righteousness to those who govern. Frustrate the plans of tyrants and oppressors. Encourage the work of community organizers and activists who speak out against injustice. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Help those who have no helper. Draw near to those who have no one to advocate for them or those who feel forgotten. Deliver those who call to you. Precious are they in your sight. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Liberate this congregation from a yearning for the past that forgets the future. Fuel in us a passion for discovery. Give us the boldness to dream and to imagine our ministries in new and different ways. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Here now the prayers of our heart said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

L: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All: Amen.

A CAROL SETTING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

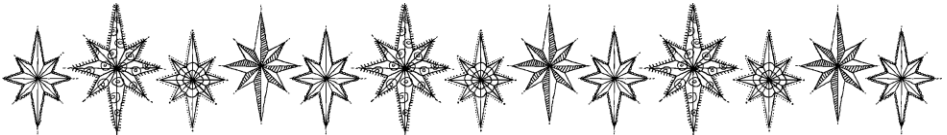
L: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to our Redeemer.

L: Let us give thanks to our Creator.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: By the leading of a star Christ 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 the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THE SANCTUS: tune – “*From Heaven Above*”

All: As light breaks forth, we sing Your praise
To you, Redeemer of our days,
For we have found in Jesus’ birth
Good news of peace and human worth.

THE EUCHARIST

P: God of wisdom, with gratitude and love.

All: we remember your mighty acts.

P: You created a world that was good.

All: You gave us this earth to enjoy.

P: You trusted us to share with you in caring for it.

All: And when we sinned, you still did not abandon us but made covenant with our ancestors.

*P: 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:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: 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.

All: Come, Word Incarnate.

*P: 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.*

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

*P: Praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of
God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now
and forever.*

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus
taught us, using the language or translation of our hearts.*

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your
kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in
heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our
sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us
from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the
kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and
forever. Amen.**

FRACTION RITE

P: Follow the star to the table of grace.

All: Here we find gifts beyond price.

P: Follow the star to the table of blessing.

All: Here we find strength for the journey.

P: Follow the star to the table of peace.

All: Here we find rest and refreshment.

P: Follow the star to the table of Christ.

All: Here we find light and love.

Be Seated

The ushers will invite you to the Lord's Table
after the Lamb of God is sung.

LAMB OF GOD: tune – *“’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”*

All: O Lamb of God who takes away our sins, have mercy.
O Lamb of God who takes away our sins, have mercy.
O Lamb of God who takes away
the sins of all the earth, we pray:
Jesus, grant us your peace, grant us your peace.
Glory be to God on high.

Holy Communion is open to all.

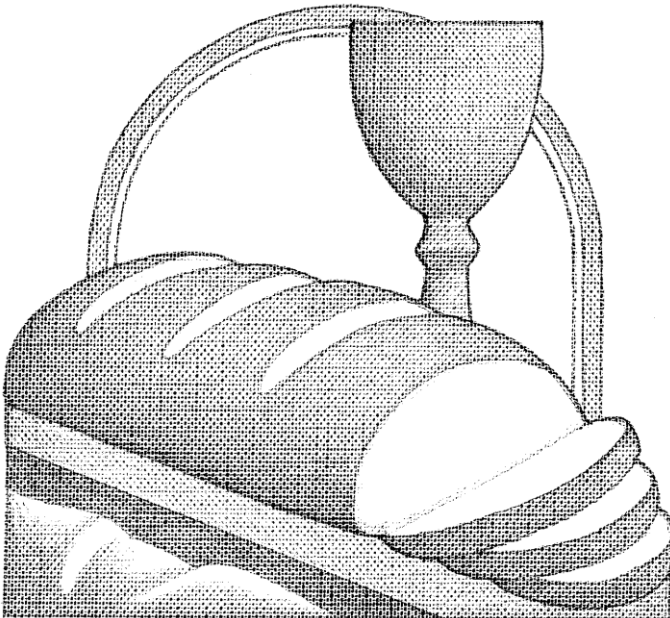
Wine is red, grape juice is yellow, water is in the center of the tray.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Let an usher know if you need communion brought to you.

For communion at the altar rail:

When directed by the ushers, you may come up the center aisle to the altar rail, stand or kneel, and hold out your hand for the pastor to drop the host into. Eat. Then take a cup of wine (red), grape juice (light yellow), or water (clear) from the assistant. Drink. Then place your empty cup in the tray that follows. Rise and return to your seat via the side aisles.



COMMUNION HYMN: "Brightest and Best of the Stars"



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.



COMMUNION HYMN: "As with Gladness Men of Old"



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey.

All: As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ.

All: As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

Be Seated

A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S TIME: Pastor Tim

Please Stand

CANDLE LIGHTING

The pastor lights candle from the center candle.
Ushers light their candles from the pastor's candle,
then light the candle of the worshiper next to the aisle.

The lit candles should NOT be tipped –
tip the *unlit* candle when lighting from a neighbor's candle.



WORDS FOR THE JOURNEY

L: Jesus said to go into all the world.

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

P: Into the big cities and small towns

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

L: Jesus said, "Feed the hungry"

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

P: Shelter the homeless

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

L: Heal the sick

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

P: Visit the imprisoned.

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

L: And ask for nothing in return.

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

P: Expect nothing in return.

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

L: Love without expectation.

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

P: Love without strings attached.

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

L: Jesus loved for no other reason than to love.

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

P: We will do the same.

All: We will love like Jesus loved. Amen.

LIGHTS OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE GO OUT

P: May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

All: Amen.

P: May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

All: Amen.

P: May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

All: Amen.

P: Go out as Christ's true lights, dispersing darkness, for Christ's grace, power, love and peace go with you.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: "Rise, Shine, You People!" vs. 1,3,4



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark-ness hurl - ing. To all the
Tell of the Son, who life and free-dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur-round-ed, with grace un - bound-ed.
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

DISMISSAL

L: Go forth to shine with the light of Christ's love.

All: We will go forth to shine with the justice and peace of Christ's light.

POSTLUDE

