

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
December 24, 2025—4:00 pm

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

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Rector
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Merry Christmas!

We are so glad you are with us this evening!

We are celebrating the ancient 'Feast of the Nativity' which came to be known as 'Christ's Mass' or Christmas. It is an opportunity not only to be with family and sing carols, but a time to remember Christ's coming among us in great humility as a baby 'wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger,' as Luke's gospel reminds us. In Christmas, God became man to save us from our sins and to bring us into relationship with himself.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion at the Lord's Table. If you prefer not to receive, but wish to come forward for a blessing, please do so, crossing your arms against your chest.

We hope that your time with us will be encouraging and that you visit us again. Our Sunday services are at 8am and 10:30.

Blessings in Jesus!
Fr. Stace+

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 24, 2025

Holy Eucharist - Rite II - 4:00 pm

*A time of quiet reflection or personal prayer is requested prior to the service.
Please silence your phone.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hymn 87

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

GLORIA

Angels We Have Heard On High

Hymn 96

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lector
People

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 96

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- ² Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴ For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

- ⁶ Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- ⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- ¹⁰ Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.”
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- ¹² Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
- ¹³ He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

All **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

THE EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Hymn 89

Lector
All

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Lector
All

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY

Fr. Stace Tafoya

Celebrant
People

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

NICENE CREED

All

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.

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

Hymn 380 (v.3)

All Sing

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *The people remain standing.*

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 him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All Sing

Hymn S-125

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Baptist, the Holy Magi, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

Hymn S-146

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 Anthem

Belmont

All Sing **Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us,
 therefore let us keep the feast;
Blood of Christ, shed for us,
 take in remembrance of Him, in remembrance of Him.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION *All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion at the Lord's table. Please follow the ushers' directions.*

If you prefer not to receive, but wish to come forward for a blessing, please do so, crossing your arms against your chest.

COMMUNION MUSIC *Once in Royal David's City* Hymn 102

In the Bleak Midwinter Hymn 112

CANDLE LIGHTING *Night of Silence* (Kantor)

¹ Cold are the people, winter of life,
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night,
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,
Flowers that will echo the sunrise,
Fire of hope is our only warmth,
Weary, its flame will be dying soon.

² Voice in the distance, call in the night,
On wind you enfold us you speak of the light,
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly,
Rumors of a dawn so embracing,
Breathless love awaits darkened souls,
Soon will we know of the morning.

³ Spirit among us, Shine like the star,
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar,
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,
Rising in the warmth of your Son's love,
Star unknowing of night and day,
Spirit we wait for your loving Son.

Silent Night

Hymn 111

- ¹ Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.
- ² Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
- ³ Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

All

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL

Joy to the World

Hymn 100

Celebrant
People

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

*We are a community of discipleship, healing and worship.
We are committed to God, one another and
the transformation of the world in Jesus Christ.*

NEWS

Epiphany Celebration—Join us in January! We will celebrate our church's feast day on January 11th with our traditional pig roast.

Year-End Giving—Please note: According to IRS rules, contributions are effective when delivered. This means that a check deposited in the offering in January cannot be deducted in the previous year even if it is backdated. The one exception is for checks that are postmarked in 2025 even if it is not received by the church until 2026.

Digital Giving—If you use the Zelle app with your bank you may give to Epiphany using our donation e-mail address: give@epiphanydenver.org

Epiphany Celebration—Everyone is invited to the celebration of our church's festival day. We'll observe Epiphany on January 11th with our annual pig roast feast after the 10:30 service.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
Sunday 10:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Morning Prayer via Zoom
Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday Morning Eucharist in the chapel 10:30 a.m.

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