



EPIPHANY SUNDAY

JANUARY 5, 2025

10:00 A.M.

**OAK GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
7045 LYNDAL AVE. SOUTH, RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA**

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT OAK GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission Statement

*To Put the Love of Jesus Into Action,
As We Welcome, Serve and Love All People.*

PRELUDE

As With Gladness Men of Old

WELCOME

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to this place—
each of us on our own path.

The path is winding,
and the path is not always clear,
and the path changes,
but we are here.

God is walking us home.

What a gift it is to not walk alone. Let us worship Holy God.

+ GATHERING HYMN

Angels from the Realms of Glory
vss. 1, 3 & 4

ELW 275

+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

+ *Please stand as you are able.*

God-with-us,
we confess that we have turned away
those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.
Too often, we have valued violence
instead of your peace.
Turn us from our ways to your ways.
Grant us the grace to begin again.
Free us from all that keeps us bound,
and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.
Amen.

Hear the good news and rejoice!
You are God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved,
✠ forgiven in Christ,
and freed to respond in joy.
Amen.

+ HYMN OF PRAISE

Holy God, We Praise Your Name
vss. 1 & 4

ELW 414

1 Holy God, we praise your name;
Lord of all, we bow before you.
All on earth your scepter claim,
all in heav'n above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain,
everlasting is your reign.

4 Holy Father, holy Son,
Holy Spirit, three we name you,
though in essence only one;
undivided God we claim you
and, adoring, bend the knee
while we own the mystery.a

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.**

PSALM Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Read responsively.

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills,
in righteousness.

**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the
needy, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout
all generations.

**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water
the earth.**

In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is
no more.

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the
kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.**

May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

**For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have
no helper.**

He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

**From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their
blood in his sight.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 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. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 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. 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. 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

+ ALLELUIA

ELW p. 205



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

+ GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Home by Another Way

+ HYMN OF THE DAY

As With Gladness Men of Old

ELW 302

vss. 1, 3 & 4

+ CONFESSION OF FAITH

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

+ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition concludes with:

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

+ SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

+ OFFERING PRAYER

God of heaven and earth,

**from the beginning, you have called forth life,
in which you take delight.**

The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.

**Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of your salvation from day to day.**

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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:

+ SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW p. 207



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

+ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+ LORD'S PRAYER

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.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW p. 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

DISTRIBUTION

Love Has Come

ELW 292

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God,
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness,
send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of great joy.

Amen.

+ BENEDICTION

The God of love,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

Amen.

+ SENDING FORTH HYMN

Shine, Jesus, Shine

ELW 671

+ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Oak Grove Core Values Statement

Love one another with compassion and care, just as Christ loves us.

Welcome all people into fellowship with hospitality.

Accept others as they are, treating each person with respect and dignity.

Worship God through music and ministry, reflecting our Lutheran heritage while embracing new ways of worship.

Grow in faith rooted in the Gospel, both as individuals and as a faith community.

Serve the Lord by generously sharing our faith, time, talents, and resources with the community and the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Funeral for Lillian Knafla

We will gather to remember and give thanks for the life of Lillian Knafla on Thursday, January 9. Visitation at 10:00 am followed by the funeral at 11:00 am.

Reception for Scott Olson

Appreciation Reception Sunday, January 12, 8:30 am to 9:50 am for Scott Olson in the Fellowship Hall. Scott is retiring after many years of excellent service as Oak Grove's Building Maintenance Engineer. Please come and share your appreciation for Scott and his faithful ministry to the congregation!

Congregational Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, January 26, at 11:00 am – after the regular worship service in the Sanctuary.

Congregation Devotion Book for Lent

Wouldn't it be meaningful to have a devotional booklet for the season of Lent that has been written by members of Oak Grove Lutheran Church? Pastor Lee is inviting 40 members to write a devotion that will be placed in a booklet for parishioners to use during the Lenten season.

Your devotion can be about anything related to the faith that is meaningful to you, and you feel will encourage others in their Lenten journey. You can base it on a bible verse, hymn verse, personal story, etc. (If you feel that you would rather not compose something yourself, you can share someone else's thoughts and include why this is meaningful to you!) If you want to include a closing prayer, that would be good but not necessary. Please keep your devotion to about 150-250 words.

If you are willing to share a devotion, please let Pastor Lee know very soon. Then submit your devotion to him by February 23 so he can compile them into a booklet. His church email is: pastorlee@oakgrovelutheran.org. Thanks for serving God in this way and for being a blessing to others at Oak Grove!

2025 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2025 are available for pick-up in the narthex. The envelope numbers remain unchanged from last year and the packets are labeled. If you wish to start using envelopes, but have not used them previously, please sign-up on the pad next to the envelopes and a packet will be available for you next week.

Rebirth of the Property Commission

As you know, our beloved engineer Scott is retiring in January. We have been looking at ways to get the things at Oak Grove done that Scott has been doing. We will hire a part-time cleaning service but there are many other things Scott does that we think a Property Commission could help with. Some things would only occasionally need to be done (small paint jobs, change lightbulbs, test AED and replace batteries as needed...). Others would be on a more regular basis (mow the lawn, shovel the sidewalks...). And there would be other things as needed. If you are interested, please contact Julie Tvette (612-750-2589) or at church on Sunday.

We need your help!

We have been thinking of things that need doing after Scott retires in January. Do any of these things sound of interest to you or are there things that need doing that you think you could help with? Here are just a few:

- Change paraments and banners according to the liturgical calendar
- Wash laundry from the kitchen (there is a washer at church)
- Set up seasonal decorations
- Kill weeds on sidewalk and in the parking lots
- Weed flower gardens
- Trim bushes and shrubs
- And many other jobs as well, of course

If any of this sounds of interest or if you need more information, please contact Julie Tvette (612-750-2589) or at church on Sundays. Your help with this will greatly help Oak Grove!

Stewardship

There is still time to return your Statement of Intent to Oak Grove Lutheran. Pledge cards may be placed in the offering basket or dropped off in the office. If you're interested in the Vanco Simply Giving program, an automatic electronic way to give, please pick up an enrollment form in the office.

Building Key Inventory Project

Do you have your own key(s) for Oak Grove? Many keys are out there in circulation, and we need to get a more accurate idea of who has access to the building. In January, we will begin taking an inventory of all building keys that have been issued, compiling a list of key holders, and adding a reference number to each. Please check your key rings and locate any keys you may have at home. Starting on January 6, keys may be brought to Amy in the office for numbering and recording on a key card. If you know of others who have keys and are not using them, please help to get the word out – those keys should be turned in. Working together, we can make Oak Grove a more secure building!

Wise women also came.
The fire burned
in their wombs
long before they saw
the flaming star
in the sky.
They walked in shadows,
trusting the path
would open
under the light of the moon.

Wise women also came,
seeking no directions,
no permission
from any king.
They came
by their own authority,
their own desire,
their own longing.
They came in quiet,
spreading no rumours,
sparking no fears
to lead
to innocents' slaughter,
to their sister Rachel's
inconsolable lamentations.

Wise women also came,
and they brought
useful gifts:
water for labour's washing,
fire for warm illumination,
a blanket for swaddling.

Wise women also came,
at least three of them,
holding Mary in the labour,
crying out with her
in the birth pangs,
breathing ancient blessings
into her ear.

Wise women also came,
and they went,
as wise women always do,
home a different way.

By Jan L. Richardson from Night Visions: Searching for Shadows of Advent and Christmas, 1998: United Church Press. JanRichardson.com

OAK GROVE EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 5

- 9:00 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 11:00 am Sunday School, South lawn, SS Rooms

Monday, January 6

Tuesday, January 7

- 9:30 am Staff Meeting, Library
- 10:00 am Care Club, Fellowship Hall
- 1:00 pm Bible Study, Fireside Room
- 6:30 pm Lydia-Ruth Circle Meeting, Fireside Room

Wednesday, January 8

- 9:30 am Bible Study, Fireside Room
- 6:30 pm Confirmation, SS Rooms
- 7:00 pm Chorale, Sanctuary

Thursday, January 9

Funeral for Lillian Knafla

- 10:00 am** Visitation
- 11:00 am** Funeral

Friday, January 10

Offices Closed

- 4:00 pm Crafters Group, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, January 11

- 8:00 am Men's Bible Study, Library
- 9:00 am Joy Bells Practice, Sanctuary

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Tuesday, January 14** Council Meeting, 7 pm
- Monday, January 20** MLK Holiday—Offices Closed
- Tuesday, January 21** Esther Circle Meeting, 7 pm
- Sunday, January 26** Congregational Annual Meeting, 11 am

Worship Leaders for Sunday, January 5

Assisting Minister: –

Scripture Reader: Ben Little

Communion Servers: Caren and Phil Olson

Worship Leaders for next Sunday, January 12

Assisting Minister: Michelle Myroniuk

Scripture Reader: Lolita Driscoll

Communion Servers: Carol Swenson and Michelle Myroniuk

Media - Facebook Live: Les & Becky Hanson, Julie, Curt and Elisa Tvette,
Pam Krause, and Kathie Curry

*Oak Grove Lutheran Church sits on traditional lands of the Dakota people.
We acknowledge, with gratitude, the many blessings we receive from this land.*

*Children are always welcome in worship. Activity bags are available
in the library or ask an usher for help in locating them.*

Restrooms: *Located downstairs near the fellowship lounge.*

Hearing devices: *Personal hearing devices are available through the ushers.*



If you're done with this bulletin, please leave it in the pew. It will be recycled.

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Wise Women Also Came: Jan L. Richardson from *Night Visions: Searching for Shadows of Advent
and Christmas*, 1998: United Church Press. JanRichardson.com

Oak Grove Lutheran Church

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