

*January 4, 2026 – The Epiphany of Our Lord
10:00 am Livestream Liturgy*



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

11900 Darnestown Road

Gaithersburg, MD 20878-2210

(301) 869-3666 (Voice) / (301) 869-8702 (Fax)

www.poplutheran.org / office@poplutheran.org

The Rev. Steven A. Buechler, Senior Pastor
Danielle Drobny, Pianist & Music Coordinator
Martha Rogers, Administrative Secretary

+++ THE GATHERING +++

Prelude: *We Three Kings* - arr. Bethany K. Smith

Greetings & Announcements

Opening Hymn: *"The First Noel"*



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north-west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

- P) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C) **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
 Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
 Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra_a-que-llos que_a-ma_el Se - ñor.
 And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.



Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra_a-que-llos que_a-ma_el Se - ñor.
 And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.

- P) 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.
- C) **Amen.**

+++ THE LITURGY OF THE WORD +++

First 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.

R) *The Word of the Lord.*

C) **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (Read responsively by whole verse)

Give the king your justice, O God,

and your righteousness to the king's son;

that he may rule your people righteously

and the poor with justice;

that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,

and the hills, in righteousness.

Let him defend the needy among the people,

rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,

from one generation to another.

Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,

like showers that water the earth.

In his time may the righteous flourish;

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,

and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

May all kings bow down before him,

and all the nations do him service.

For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,

the oppressed, and those who have no helper.

He has compassion on the lowly and poor,

and preserves the lives of the needy.

From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,

and precious is their blood in his sight.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 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: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 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. 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, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 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. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

R) *The Word of the Lord.*

C) **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

a - le - lu - ya! A - le - lu - ya!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

P) *The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the 2nd Chapter.*

C) **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 Lord.*

C) **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon
Sermon

Hymn: "We Three Kings"



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
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!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.

Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

Nicene Creed

C) 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.

THE PRAYERS

- P) Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Each petition concludes:

- P) Lord, in your mercy,

C) **Hear our prayer.**

- P) Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C) **Amen.**

- P) As God's beloved children, let us call to mind our sin and our need for reconciliation with God and one another

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P) Strong and faithful God,

C) **we confess that we have not lived as your holy people in the world.**

We have closed our hearts to your love.

We have resisted your light.

We have failed to proclaim your mercy.

Forgive what we have done and what we have left undone,

heal us with your abundant grace,

and help us walk as children of the light.

Amen.

- P) In the mercy of God, Jesus came into the world to save and forgive us. Therefore, as a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C) **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace

- P) The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C) **And also with you.**

The Offering

We encourage everyone to support our ministry together here at Prince of Peace! If possible, [please give electronically](#) or through online banking. If you are worshipping live with us, you may also place your offering in the plate or scan this QR code to give electronically. Thank you for your continuing support of our ministry!



The Offertory

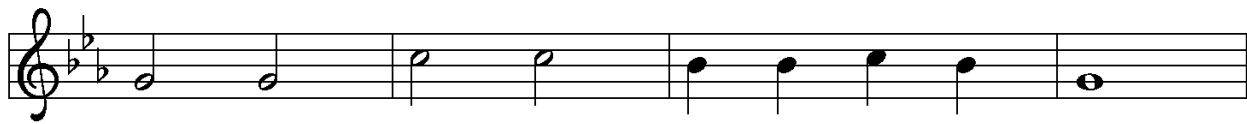
The First Noel - arr. Craig Curry

Offertory Prayer

- P) Let us pray... Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C) **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

- P) The Lord be with you.
 - C) **And also with you.**
 - P) Lift up your hearts.
 - C) **We lift them to the Lord.**
 - P) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 - C) **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**
-
- P) It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



San - to, san - to, san - to_es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God,



Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to_es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to_es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God,



Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to_es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on



tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el
earth. Blest is he who comes in the



nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth.



di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

The Eucharistic Prayer for Epiphany

P) Blessed are you, Gracious heavenly Father:
you are the Life and Light of all.
By your powerful Word you created all things.
Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.
Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.
He is your Light, shining in our darkness
and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his preaching and healing,
his dying and rising,
and his promise to come again,
we await that day when all the universe
will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.
By your Spirit bless us and these gifts of bread and wine,
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,
we may be light for the world,
revealing the brilliance of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

C) Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P) Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C) 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



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



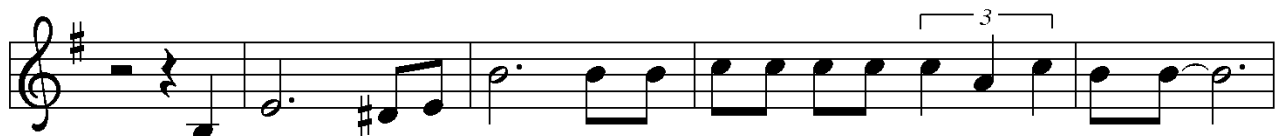
ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

Communion

Communion will be distributed by individual glass (red wine; white grape juice) if you are worshipping in person. Gluten free wafers are also available.

If you are worshipping at home, please commune yourself or one another with the words:
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Music During Communion

He Shall Reign Forevermore - arr. Larry Shackley

- P) The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C) **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

- P) Let us pray... God of light, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this supper we have feasted on your grace. Send us forth into the world to be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C) **Amen.**

The Benediction

- P) God the Father, light-creator; God the Son, Light from Light; God the Holy Spirit, light-revealer, bless you and + give you peace.
- C) **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
2 Come, heav'n - ly Bride - groom, light di - vine, and deep with - in
3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there falls
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us, when



own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's race, King Da - vid's Son, our Lord and mas -
In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch -
Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls
Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him



ter, you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly!
es of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing.
with heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure!
here and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion.



Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich in
Now, though dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and dis -
Let your mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! for you
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life for -



bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

Dismissal

- P) Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C) Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Please also join us on:

Saturday, January 10

Worship @ 5 pm (in-person only)

Sunday, January 11

Worship @ 10:00 am

(in-person & [live stream on Facebook](#))

Sunday School @ 11:00 am

Euchre/Game Night - There will be a Euchre/Game Night held in the Fellowship Hall **on Saturday, January 10th from 6:00-9:00 pm**. Join the Euchre competition or bring your own game to enjoy. (Other board games will also be available.) Pizza will be provided - please bring a side or dessert to share. Contact [Ric](#) or [Sherry](#) Kienzle with questions.

Sunday School resumes on Sunday, January 11! Adults are also invited join Coffee and Conversation hour at 11am, after Sunday services, in the sanctuary. To view the schedule, or to sign up to lead a Bible study session this fall, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/PoPAdultEd2025> We look forward to having you!

COAT/JACKET DRIVE - The Coat/Jacket Drive is coming to an end **on Sunday, January 11**. Thank you to all who so generously donated!

Honduras Mission 2026 We are already planning for the next Honduras Mission Trip scheduled for June 18-28, 2026! The mission team is growing and we hope to add even more team members before the commitment deadline of **January 12, 2026**. Please contact [Ric](#) or [Sherry](#) Kienzle if you are interested or would like more information.

Men's Book Club will meet at 7:00 pm on Thursday, January 22. Dick Moore will host at his house. We will discuss the book *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown.

2026 Prince of Peace Youth Ski Trip! Current 6th-12th graders are invited to join a Prince of Peace youth ski trip to Wisp resort in Western Maryland **on January 24-25, 2026**. We'll carpool from PoP on Saturday morning, enjoy an afternoon and evening of fellowship at the

Dillon's ski house (including a visit to the rock maze), and return to PoP on Sunday evening after skiing at Wisp earlier in the day. Chaperones (including drivers) are also needed. Find additional information and sign up [here](#).

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 1 at 11:15 am (immediately following the worship service). At this meeting, we'll hear about plans for 2026, adopt the budget and elect new Council members. Members are encouraged to attend in-person, but may also join by Zoom. **If you are contributing anything for the Annual Report, please have it in to the office by Monday, January 12.**

Haven Universe “Saturday Night Alive!” These events are hosted for individuals with special needs and their families and friends, many of whom are adults that attend with their caregivers. **“Saturday Night Alive” events will occur on the following dates from 3:00-5:00pm at Lakelands Park Middle School: Jan. 17, Feb. 7, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, May 16.** Positions for potential volunteers include front desk check-in, AV tech setup/takedown, craft table, merchandise sales, or just mingling with participants. (High school students can also earn SSL hours by volunteering.) Contact [Ric](#) or [Sherry](#) Kienzle for questions.

On Tuesday, December 16, The Giving Tree gifts were delivered to Brown Station Elementary School. The Counselors were so grateful that Prince of Peace is able to provide these gifts to help out some of the BSES families. The need is great. All of the children on the Sign-Up Genius will be receiving gifts! A huge thank you to all of the church members that participated.

Thank you! The Social Justice Ministry would like to Thank everyone who helped donate and assemble items for the Village at Rockville Christmas Drive this year. We delivered 40 bags of candies and 20 bags containing several pair of wooly socks with hankies and chapsticks too. No resident at TVAR will be left without gifts for the holiday. Our Thanks go out to you.

Food for Thought: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 *Corinthians* 5:17)

Prince of Peace welcomes people as they are and embraces all the dimensions of diversity in which God has made us: race, gender identity, sexual orientation, family structure, physical ability, and cultural and religious backgrounds, among others. We are all loved by God.

Next Sunday's Readings

[Isaiah 42:1-9](#); [Psalms 29](#); [Acts 10:34-43](#); [Matthew 3:13-17](#)

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