



**JANUARY 6, 2026
EPIPHANY OF
OUR LORD**



God's light shines through Jesus.

EPIPHANY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Epiphany observances.

Tuesday	Isaiah 60:1-6	The glory of God shines on the people
	Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14	All shall bow down
	Ephesians 3:1-12	The gospel's promise for all
	Matthew 2:1-12	The wise men worship Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EPIPHANY

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. Isaiah 60:1 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Epiphany:

Dear God, in Jesus you show your glory to the nations. Come, Holy Spirit, bless all the nations of the world with peace, joy, and love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, as the star shone over Bethlehem to reveal the presence of your Son, may this meal remind us that this food is a gift of your love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the light of Christ bring you peace and joy.



JANUARY 6, 2026

HYMN FOR EPIPHANY

*I Want to Walk as a
Child of the Light*

EPIPHANY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When is a time you were with someone from a different culture or religion? Tell about it.
- God used a star to lead the wise men to find Jesus, the Light of the World. What or who has God used to lead you to Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 2:1-12.

People from another religion and another part of the ancient world used astrology to guide them to Jesus, and it worked. God wants the world to be blessed by the light of Christ that shines from Bethlehem to Jerusalem and on to the ends of the earth. It is God's powerful light that has entered the darkness of fear. Not only is King Herod frightened by the message that a king has been born to the Jews, but so are all the people of Jerusalem. Even the people faithful to God's reign are fearful. A new day that brings astonishing news signals a change and is feared by all. We, ourselves, fear change, even if it has come to benefit us. The moment something new happens to us, we lose a sense of control. In this reading, the change is about God's rule, God's ways, and God's love that shines brightly into a darkened world. Thanks be to God for the light that breaks into the dark corners of our world and of our lives. It is the only light and only hope that really matters.

Discuss: When is a time that change was difficult for you? Where do you feel God was in that moment?

Pray: Dear Jesus, bless us to see in you the one who takes our fears and worries and turns them into joy and gladness. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Epiphany Bible Readings and theme for this day, how can you help or support someone who is going through dark times?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Epiphany is traditionally associated with the blessing of homes as a place to welcome friends and strangers. Light a candle to symbolize Christ. Go from room to room as a group.

Pray: Lord Jesus, please bless this room and all that takes place here. Light this room and our lives with your presence. Amen.

After you have gone throughout your home, use chalk to write above your entrance door: 20+C+M+B+26 (It stands for the year 2026, the traditional names of Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar given to the wise men, and also for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which is Latin for "Christ, bless this home.")



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



JANUARY 11, 2026
BAPTISM OF
OUR LORD



Jesus is declared as God's beloved Son.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 3:13-17	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 42:1-9	The Lord's servant
Tuesday	Acts 10:34-43	Gentiles hear the good news
Wednesday	Matthew 1:1-17	Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah
Thursday	Matthew 2:13-23	Going to and return from Egypt
Friday	Acts 8:26-40	An Ethiopian is baptized
Saturday	Psalms 29	Voice of God in a storm
Sunday	John 1:29-42	Jesus, the Lamb of God

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who comes to fulfill your promise of life and salvation for all. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God bless this food. God bless this day. God keep us safe in every way. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you strength and bless you with peace. (Psalm 29:11)

JANUARY 11, 2026

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Christ, When for Us You
Were Baptized*



**taking[†]
faith
home**

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What do you know about your own baptism or recall about a baptism you have seen?
- How is God's love and approval at Jesus' baptism important to his future work?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 3:13-17.

We can quickly move from Jesus' baptism to wonder about our own. What can be missed is a focus on the importance of Jesus' baptism as a statement of who Jesus is. We are not the savior of the world, Jesus is. Jesus fulfills the righteous intent of God announced by the law and the prophets, not us. Jesus' presence announces God's ruling activity among Israel and the nations. Jesus' life fulfilled by the word of the prophets leads to his baptism and the divine voice from heaven that points to Jesus as the Christ, the anointed one. It is good to reflect on our own baptism and do so in a way that finds comfort and meaning in the identity of who Jesus is, whose own baptism stands alone to announce that God's will is fulfilled in this one and this one alone.

Discuss: What does it mean to you that God calls Jesus, "My Son, the Beloved"?

Pray: Almighty and living God, we give thanks for Jesus' baptism that announces that he is the one who comes as your Son and enters the world as our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what does it mean to serve others in Jesus' name?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



When we describe someone as beloved, it means we love that person dearly. God named Jesus as beloved at his baptism. When we are baptized, we too, become a beloved member of God's family. Share in a ritual of baptismal remembrance. Place a bowl of water in the center of your table. Dip a finger in the water and make the sign of the cross on your own forehead or that of another person.

Say: You are a beloved child of God marked with the cross of Christ forever.



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**JANUARY 18, 2026
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY**



Faith is formed through trusted relationships.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 1:29-42	Jesus, the Lamb of God
Monday	Isaiah 49:1-7	The servant's mission
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	Greetings to the Corinthians
Wednesday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathaniel
Thursday	Psalms 46	God is our mighty fortress
Friday	John 9:1-34	The man born blind receives his sight
Saturday	Psalms 40:1-11	Happy are they who trust the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 4:12-23	Jesus calls his first disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*He [Jesus] said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. **John 1:39 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help me and all people to see Jesus the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, let me see in this meal a gift of love, part of your wondrous deeds that are so many they cannot be counted. Amen. (Psalm 40:5)

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with peace.



JANUARY 18, 2026

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Will You Come and
Follow Me*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What words would you use to describe someone with whom you have a trusted relationship?
- John the Baptist, Andrew, and Philip helped others see Jesus. How can trusted relationships help others see Jesus?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 1:29-46.

Having a relationship with Jesus often involves a trusted relationship with others. John the Baptist twice tells people that Jesus is the Lamb of God. After the second announcement, two of John's disciples follow Jesus. They want a relationship to Jesus so they ask where he is staying. Jesus immediately invites them to where he is dwelling. The result is that Andrew (one of the two disciples of John) goes and gets his brother Simon (Cephas or Peter). Then Philip is brought into the inner circle of disciples. Interestingly, he is from the same hometown as Andrew and Peter. These were likely neighborhood boys who knew each other growing up and had a trusted relationship. Then Philip goes and gets his friend Nathaniel. Philip's invitation includes the same words Jesus used earlier: "Come and see" (vv. 39 and 46).

Discuss: We often see Jesus through others with whom we have a trusted relationship. Who has helped you see Jesus?

Pray: Dear Jesus, may we help others to see you through our invitation, our care, and our living faith. Amen.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you invite someone to come and see Jesus?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



When John the Baptist saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" While we cannot physically see Jesus, there are signs of his life all around us. Cut out the shape of a lamb from a large sheet of white paper. Talk or think about ways you have seen or experienced the presence of Jesus during the day. Write your thoughts on your lamb. Take a moment to read through them.

Pray: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace. Amen.



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**JANUARY 25, 2026
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY**



Jesus lights our way, calling us to follow him.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 4:12-23	Jesus calls his first disciples
Monday	Isaiah 9:1-4	A new day is coming
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Divisions in the church
Wednesday	Isaiah 42:1-9	A light to the nations
Thursday	2 Corinthians 4:1-12	Treasure in clay jars
Friday	John 8:12-20	Jesus is the light of the world
Saturday	Psalms 27:1, 4-9	Trust in God
Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	Sermon on the Mount

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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.

Isaiah 9:2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you who reject sin and death, bring light and life to your world through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

May this gift of food remind us of your light that shines in the world. We pray for all those in need of food today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the light of Christ shine on you.



JANUARY 25, 2026

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Christ, Be Our Light



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What does the word “hope” mean to you? What gives you hope?
- In what ways does Jesus give his followers hope?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 4:12-23.

The Epiphany season continues with a focus on the reign of God made complete in Jesus. His reign challenges every power and authority on earth. Jesus begins his public ministry when hearing of the arrest of John the Baptist by the governing powers. He moves from Nazareth to Capernaum which is located in Zebulun and Naphtali. The land had been dominated by foreign powers from the time of the Assyrians down to the Greeks and then the Romans. Now, through Jesus, *“the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light”* (v. 16). Jesus’ reign brings life, not death, light, not darkness. In Jesus the work and will of God shines brightly. He gathers disciples and leads people into God’s reign of life and hope: *“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people”* (v. 23).

Discuss: Where do you experience the light of Christ in your life today?

Pray: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you give hope to someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Epiphany is a season that emphasizes the light of Christ in the world so that we may follow Jesus without fear. Make a list of things that can make you afraid. Light a candle and name these fears aloud.

After each fear is named say: “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1).

At the end, pray: As we face our fears remind us that you are with us through the Lord Jesus Christ, the one who calls us to live free of our fears and anxieties. Amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

**FEBRUARY 1, 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY**



Do justice and love kindness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	Sermon on the Mount
Monday	Micah 6:1-8	True obedience
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Message of the cross
Wednesday	Proverbs 21:12-15	When justice is done
Thursday	Romans 12:9-13	Marks of a Christian
Friday	Isaiah 1:11-17	Rescue the oppressed
Saturday	Psalms 15	Life of the blameless
Sunday	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and light

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? **Micah 6:8 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, bless us with contentment to a life lived pursuing justice, kindness, and humility.
Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

We thank you for the gift of each day and the food that nourishes us. Help us to show our thanks with compassion for others. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you find peace and comfort in God.



FEBRUARY 1, 2026

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*What Does the Lord
Require of You?*



taking faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How has someone shown you kindness recently?
- Where have you seen God's mercy and kindness in action?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Micah 6:1-8 and Matthew 5:1-12.

In the reading from Micah, God is pleading a court case against Israel. The people have turned from God, but God wonders how this could be. The guilt of the people is on themselves because God has done marvelous things for the people by bringing them out of Egypt and slavery and giving them leaders like Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. Their enemies were conquered. With their guilt before them, the people wonder what the appropriate penance is. Is it thousands of sacrifices? Is it endless amounts of holy oils? Sacrifice one's own child? Nothing will do but *"to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God"* (Micah 6.8). In the Beatitudes of Matthew 5:1-12, Jesus offers a similar path for faithful followers: poverty of spirit, humility, and mercy. The larger Gospel of Matthew cannot be understood without the content of the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount. This is the path for us to be satisfied and blessed, the path of living as a disciple with purpose.

Discuss: How easy or difficult is it to live as a disciple?

Pray: Dear God, give us the simple joy of trust in you by living a life of purpose that seeks justice, kindness, and humility with you and all people, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you bless someone with a spirit of humility?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Matthew 5:3-11 speaks of blessings. A wonderful ritual to practice regularly in your home is that of blessing one another. When we bless another, we are calling upon God to show goodness and kindness to them, as well as demonstrating our own care and concern for them. There are three basic elements to a personal blessing— God's name, words, and touch (e.g. a hand on a shoulder, or making the sign of the cross on their forehead or palm). Consider blessing one another at mealtimes, bedtimes, and at daily farewells with family and friends.

Say: May God bless you with kindness and mercy.



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**FEBRUARY 8, 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY**



The power of knowing Christ crucified.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and light
Monday	Isaiah 58:1-12	False and true worship
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	True wisdom of God
Wednesday	Galatians 2:15-21	Everyone is saved by faith
Thursday	1 Peter 2:18-25	Example of Christ's suffering
Friday	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Christ is God's power and wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 112:1-10	Blessings of the righteous
Sunday	Matthew 17:1-9	Transfiguration of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

1 Corinthians 2:1-2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, help us to see that through the cross of Christ we are made your people and to be the salt of the earth to share your saving work with others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may the gift of this food remind us of your generosity and your desire for us to provide food for the needy. Amen. (Isaiah 58:7)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you with trust in God.



FEBRUARY 8, 2026

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Let Us Ever Walk with
Jesus*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When have you helped someone go through a sad time?
- Being forgiven can look like weakness. How is Jesus' death on the cross a powerful gift to the life of the church?

DEVOTIONS



Read: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16.

Paul contrasts the strength and wisdom of the world with the strength and wisdom of God. What is most important is knowing *"Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles"* because it is *"the power of God and the wisdom of God"* (1 Corinthians 1:23-24). The Corinthians are fixated on their spiritual gifts and special wisdom, but that only divides the community. Paul wants to unite the community as the body of Christ in the world. Spiritual gifts are all based on the work of God, not on people's own spiritual powers. Therefore, Christians are not to get caught up on who has the "better" spiritual gifts. What does matter is to know that the uniqueness of the spiritual life is to see everything through the death and resurrection of Christ, which is the true wisdom and strength that gives faith, hope, and love to a world in need.

Discuss: How does seeing the world through the cross of Christ help you as a follower of Jesus?

Pray: **God of wisdom and might, give us faith to see in the cross of Christ your healing and redeeming work in the world. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to show love and hope to those who are hungry or homeless?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Jesus calls his followers the *"salt of the earth and the light of the world"* (Matthew 5:13-14). When gathered with friends and family in your home, give a candle to each person. As a candle lighting ritual, light one another's candles in turn either by using a lighter or passing a flame from candle to candle. As each candle is lit, say: ***"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."*** (Matthew 5:16)

FEBRUARY 15, 2026
TRANSFIGURATION
OF OUR LORD



Disciples have a mountaintop experience.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 17:1-9	Transfiguration of Jesus
Monday	Exodus 24:12-18	Moses goes up to Mt. Sinai
Tuesday	2 Peter 1:16-21	Eyewitnesses of Christ's glory
Wednesday	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Giving, praying, and fasting
Thursday	Genesis 8:1-22	The Lord's promise for the earth
Friday	Genesis 22:1-19	The Lord will provide
Saturday	Psalms 2	The Lord's chosen king
Sunday	Matthew 4:1-11	Temptation of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."
And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.*
Matthew 17:7-8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and eternal God, help us to be aware of your saving presence in our lives and in our world, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let this food to us be blessed; and let there be a goodly share, on every table, everywhere. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you comfort and strength.



FEBRUARY 15, 2026

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Jesus on the Mountain
Peak*



taking 
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When is a time you felt God's presence in your life?
- When Jesus was transfigured, a voice from heaven said, "*Listen to him.*" How do you hear and listen to Jesus?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 17:1-9.

In the midst of the challenges and hurts of everyday life, it can be a gift and a source of comfort and strength to have a "God moment" experience. It happened to Peter, James, and John. It also happens to us, that sense that God is near and all is well. Our comfort is not just in any god or spiritual experience, but one that links us to Jesus, the Son of God. He is the one who came to die on another mountain, Golgotha. However, this mountain experience brings together Jesus, Moses, Elijah, and unprepared disciples. What makes this moment a valued "God moment" is that the disciples are comforted by the words, "*do not be afraid*" (v.7) and their focus becomes exclusively on Jesus alone. What a moment and a gift it is to see Jesus before us and at peace with no need to be afraid.

Discuss: When have you had a special moment that gave you a comforting sense that Jesus was with you?

Pray: Dear God, help us to see Jesus in our mountaintop highs and in our valley lows, and may that vision give us courage, comfort, and strength to be your faithful followers. Amen.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you be a good listener to someone who is in need of a listening ear?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In Exodus 24, Moses went up on a cloud-covered mountain for forty days and forty nights. We are about to enter another 40-day period of prayer and fasting as we prepare for Ash Wednesday this week. The day before is called Shrove Tuesday and is recognized around the world as a day to eat fattening foods, especially pancakes. Prepare a pancake feast on Tuesday this week to enjoy with friends and family. After feasting, say this blessing: **May God bless you through your journey this Lent.**



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