

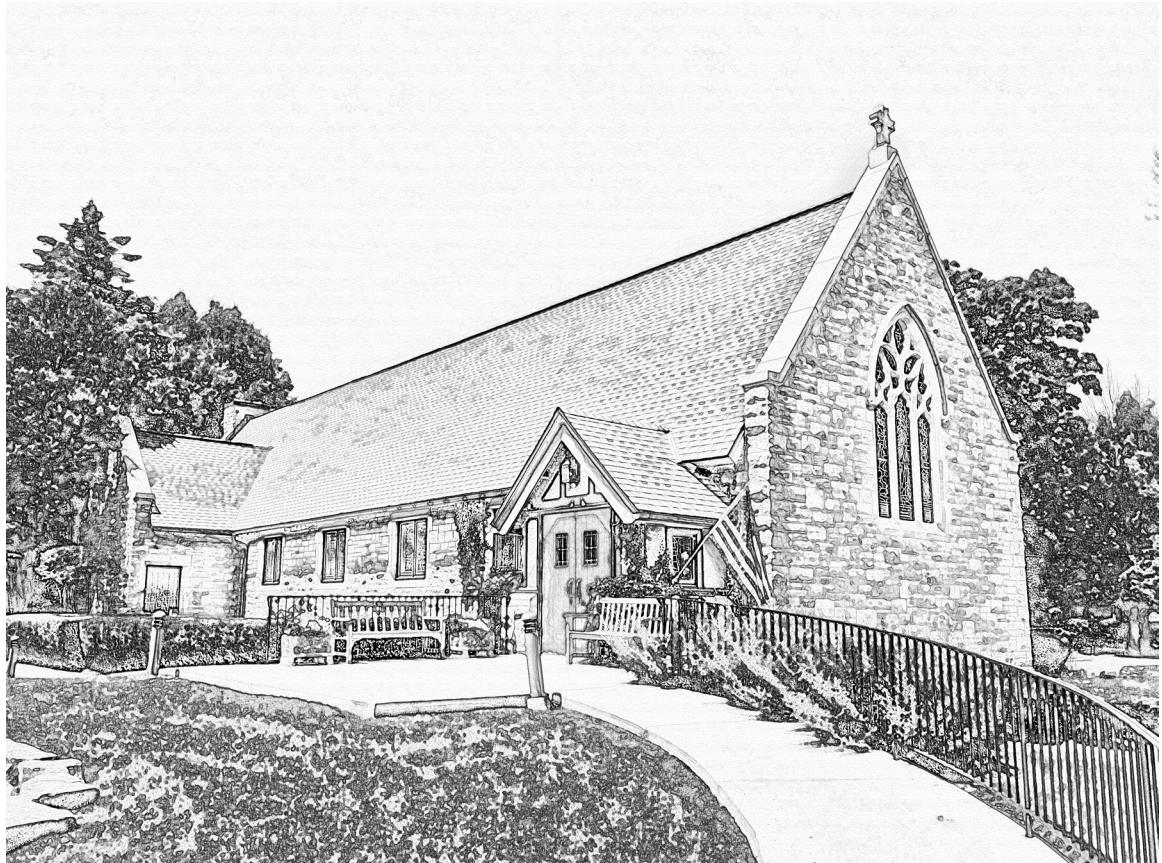
ST. ELISABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Epiphany (Transferred)

January 11, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Welcome to Saint Elisabeth's. We are delighted to have you with us today.



This faith community invites all persons to all levels of participation, leadership and decision-making within the church regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, socioeconomic and marital status. We seek to establish meaningful connections with one another through work and play and worship as we strive to understand God's purpose for us in the church and in the world.

In the Church Year: Epiphany

Epiphany is a Greek word meaning “manifestation, showing forth, revelation.” This feast proclaims our faith that in Jesus, God is revealed to all people — not just to an inner circle or a chosen few, but to all people, in all places, and throughout all time. Christians believe that in the person of Jesus we see who God is, and in the words and actions of Jesus we see God at work in the world. Epiphany marks a series of occasions at which Jesus was revealed to be God’s Son.

The feast of Epiphany and the weeks that follow are a time when we reflect on several “manifestations” of Jesus, as he was recognized as the Messiah (or Christ) by many different people. We hear about Jesus’ baptism in the river Jordan by John the Baptist and the visit of the magi, or wise men, who followed the star to Bethlehem at Jesus’ birth. We share the amazement of the guests at the wedding party at Cana as Jesus performs his first miracle by turning water into fine wine. And at the end of the season we see Jesus’ glory shown to three of his disciples on the mountain as he is transfigured before them in a blaze of light. – *Daily Prayer for All Seasons*

Today at St. Elisabeth’s

8:00 a.m. – Spoken Eucharist

9:00 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m. – Sung Eucharist

11:00 a.m. – Coffee Hour, Sunday Forum, Children’s Sunday School

Sunday Forum: The 2026 Budget

You are warmly invited to join the wardens and members of the St. Elisabeth's vestry in the Guild Room at our usual Sunday forum time (after the 10am service) today, for a discussion of the draft parish budget for 2026. Bring your questions and thoughts!

For more information, talk with our wardens Robert Fischer and Carrie Miller-Mygatt.

Children’s Sunday School

Children of all ages are invited to participate in an Epiphany event – **Search for Baby Jesus.** Two levels of clues will be available. Follow the clue, or the riddle of the clue, to find the next clue, until you find the Baby Jesus! He will be in the building somewhere. Meet at the coffee hour, and we will start from there!

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week

Jim Newcomb – January 14

Entering In

The following thought and image are intended to reflect something in today's service. The Practice is intended to offer one practical way of living these reflections.

Author and spiritual guide Evelyn Waugh, who came to his religious faith later in life, reflects on the journey of the Magi following the star to the birth of Jesus. He writes, "Like me, you were late in coming... You are my special patrons and patrons of all late-comers, of all who have a tedious journey to make to the truth."

Practice: For many, the New Year offers a chance to make a new start and resolve to do some things better other things differently. Whatever your choices, note that each is led by a "star"—a hope, a love, a passion. What star(s) are we as a parish following? What star(s) are you as a person following?



Journey of the Magi – James Tissot (1836-1902)

The Holy Eucharist – Rite II

The Word of God

The Prelude

Please stand at the ringing of the bell.

The Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer, Expansive Language

Presider Blessed be God: Most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.
Assembly **And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.**

Presider Christ our true and only Light: receive our morning prayers, and illumine the secrets of our hearts with your healing goodness, that no evil desires may possess us who are made new in the light of your heavenly grace.

Enriching Our Worship/Gelasian Sacramentary

Assembly **Amen.**

The Hymn

“The First Nowell”

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star
 3 And by the light of that same star
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west, three
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men

 1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
 3 three wise men came from coun - try far;
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
 5 full rev - erent ly up on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,
 4 and there it did both stop and stay
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,
 born is the King of Is - ra - el.

6 Then let us all with one accord
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

The Hymnal 1982 #109, Text and Music: English Carol, 17th Century

The Collect of the Day

Vanderbilt Divinity Library

Presider God be with you.

Assembly **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Radiant Morning Star, you are both guidance and mystery, Visit our rest with disturbing dreams, and our journeys with strange companions. Grace us with the hospitality to open our hearts and homes to visitors filled with unfamiliar wisdom bearing profound and unusual gifts.

Assembly **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Lessons

The Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain seated for the psalm.

The Psalm

Psalm 72

A

B

A musical score for two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef, a B-flat key signature, and common time. The bottom staff uses a bass clef, a B-flat key signature, and common time. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines, with a repeat sign and a double bar line indicating a return to the previous section. The notes are represented by solid black dots of varying sizes on the five-line staff system.

Assembly

- A Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- B That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- A That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- B He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- A He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- B He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- A In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more.
- B The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

- A All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.
- B For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- A He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- B He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
- A Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
- B as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

Sequence Hymn

“In the bleak midwinter”

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and se - ra-phim throng - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow on snow, snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

the in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

The Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Assembly **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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:

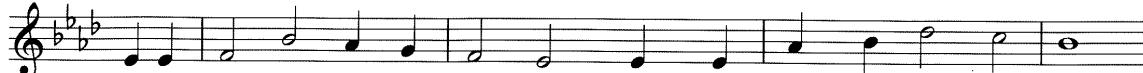
`And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
 are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
 for from you shall come a ruler
 who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

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.

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.
Assembly **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Adam Spencer

*A period of silence follows the Sermon, beginning and ending with a chime.**Please stand as you are able for the Creed and the Prayers.***The Creed****“I Believe”**

I be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that be,
 I be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci - fied;
 I be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with - in



Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of the sky and sea.
 tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied True Life there had tru - ly died.
 one church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees from sin;



I be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus, now for us both Lord and Christ
 I be - lieve that on the third day Christ was raised up from the grave,
 in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion, for the break - ing of death's chain



of the Spir - it and of Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life.
 then as - cend - ed to God's right hand. He will come to judge and save.
 gives the life that's ev - er - last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

Aldrich/Spencer; Text: Apostles Creed paraphrased, Music: Racquel

The Prayers of the People*written by the Rev. Adam Spencer*

Intercessor God be with you,
Assembly **And also with you.**

Intercessor Let us pray.

Giver of All Good Gifts, a star of wonder led sages to seek and to find you. We thank you today for all that thrills and rejoices our hearts - all that brings brightness and refreshment to our days. Your grace comes down into our ordinary lives like rain upon a mown field. You pour upon us your Spirit as showers water the earth. As we begin a new year, we pause to thank you for all the blessings of our lives, large and small.

(Silence for people to offer their thanksgivings)

As those wise men of old offered their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to you, O Holy One, so too do we offer you our grateful hearts today.

Intercessor
Assembly

God in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Intercessor
Assembly

King of kings, leaders from afar came to your crib to pay you homage with kingly gold while King Herod trembled in fear at the threat you represented to his earthly throne. We bring to your might and to your mercy today all those who live in places of unrest and uncertainty around the world - particularly in Iran, Minnesota, Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela. Give their leaders and ours your justice, O God, and your righteousness, that they may rule your people righteously, serve the poor, and defend the needy.

Intercessor
Assembly

God in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Intercessor God Most High, we gladly raise as spiritual incense our prayers and praises to worship you today. Shepherd your people gathered in your Church particularly in this community of St. Elisabeth's, in the Diocese of Chicago, and, in the Evanston Deanery, the people of St. Giles Church in Northbrook and Court, their rector. Through our worship, our song, our service, our fellowship in you, lift our eyes to perceive your inextinguishable light which shines above and beyond the darkness of these days.

Intercessor God in your mercy,
Assembly **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Holy Child of Bethlehem, yours was a life of gathering gloom. You suffered, sighed, bled, and died to lead us out of death into abundant life. You became human that we might become divine. You know our pain, our grief, our struggles, our falling yet ever striving to rise. You are no stranger to the bitterness of our world and the difficulties of our daily lives. We bring to your compassionate heart all those who are sick, who struggle, who mourn, all those for whom we pray today...

Sally Graver

Sherry Schellenbach

Aidan Thomson

Ben Whipple, son of Larry & Susan Whipple

Sam Weisbard, friend of Fred & Annette Johnston

Lexi Valasek, mother of a Montessori student

Charlotte Margolis, baby sister of a Montessori student

James Green, sibling of a Montessori student

Chuck Southwick & family, friend of Susan & Larry Whipple

Cheryl, friend of Adrienne Zimmerman

Griffin, friend of Adrienne Zimmerman

Are there others?

Enfold them in your loving arms which were stretched out upon the hard wood of the Cross. Restore and renew them with your healing, wounded hands.

Lord God incarnate, we pray to you for those who have died, especially those we now name silently or aloud. (*Silence*) Rest eternal grant unto them and may light perpetual shine upon them.

Intercessor God in your mercy,
Assembly **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor King and God and Sacrifice, Bright Morning Star, you come to us today in word, sacrament and song seeking to lead us by a different road than those offered from the rulers of this world. If we let you, you will guide us to salvation, healing and wholeness. Open our hearts to seek, find, praise and enthrone you in all of the hopes, loves, and actions of our lives.

Intercessor God in your mercy,
Assembly **Hear our prayer.**

Silence

Presider O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Book of Common Prayer

Assembly **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

Book of Common Prayer, Expansive Language

Presider Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence

All **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Assembly **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

Assembly **And also with you.**

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the peace of God.

Holy Communion

The Offertory Sentence

Presider Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

If you are financially able to support the mission of St. Elisabeth's, please put your offering in the collection plate as it is passed or use the QR code to donate online.



The Offertory Hymn

“Lully, lullay”

Lul - ly, lul - lay, thou lit - tle tin - y child, bye - bye, lul -

ly lul - lay. 1 O sis - ters, too, how may we do
 2 He - rod the King, in his rag - ing
 3 That woe is me, poor child for thee!

for to pre - serve this day this poor young - ling for
 charg - ed he hath this day his men of might, in
 And ev - ery morn and day, for thy part - ing nor

whom we sing bye - bye, lul - ly lul - lay?
 his own sight, all young chil - dren to slay.
 say nor sing bye - bye, lul - ly lul - lay?

Please stand as you are able.

The Doxology

To God, all glorious heav - enly light; To Christ, re - vealed in earth - ly night;
 To God, the Spir - it now we raise; Our joy - ful songs of thank - ful praise.

Music: *Old 100th*

The Great Thanksgiving

Book of Common Prayer, Prayer A, Expansive Language

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Savior.

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:

Music score for a hymn, likely for a two-part choir or organ. The score consists of four systems of music, each with a treble clef and a bass clef, and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music is in common time. The lyrics are as follows:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and
might, _____
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might, _____
heaven and earth are
full, _____
full of your glo - ry. Ho -

The score includes several musical markings: fermatas over the words "Lord" and "glo - ry", a dynamic of ff (fortissimo) over the first "full", and a dynamic of p (pianissimo) over the second "full". There are also several grace notes and slurs.

san - na in the high - est. 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.

The Hymnal 1982 S130, *Franz Schubert/arr. Richard Proulx*

You are invited to remain standing or to kneel.

Presider

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker and of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior 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 Jesus 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All

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

Presider

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ’s death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

Assembly

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Presider 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

Assembly **We who are many are one body, for we all share the one
bread.**

The Invitation to Communion

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome to come forward to receive Communion or a blessing. Please stand or kneel at the altar rail as the choir does. Assist the minister to guide the chalice to your lips. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. Gluten-free host available upon request.

The Communion Hymn

“What Child is this?”

Unison or harmony

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
2 Why lies he in such mean estate
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh,
on where come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds
guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to
bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

The Hymnal 1982 #115, Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898), Music: Greensleeves, English melody

Please stand as you are able.

The Post Communion Prayer

Book of Common Prayer, Expansive Language

Presider Let us pray.

All **Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of 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 Savior. Amen.**

Please be seated for the announcements.

Announcements

Blessings for Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Travelers

Those traveling and those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries are invited to come forward for a blessing.

The Blessing

Book of Occasional Services

Please stand as you are able.

Presider God be with you.

Assembly **And also with you.**

Presider May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

Assembly **Amen.**

The Closing 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:
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,
 3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -



1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.
 4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain

O star of wonder, star of night,
 star with royal beauty bright;
 westward leading, still proceeding,
 guide us to thy perfect light!

The Hymnal 1982 #128, Text and Music: John Henry Hopkins Jr (1820-1891)

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude

This Week at St. Elisabeth's

Monday, January 12

8:00 p.m. – AA Meeting

Tuesday, January 13

1:00 p.m. – Book Group

7:00 p.m. – Vestry Meeting

Thursday, January 15

1:30 p.m. – Bible Study

7:30 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, January 17

8:00 a.m. – Women's Al-Anon Meeting

5:00 p.m. – AA Meeting

Sunday, January 18

8:00 a.m. – Spoken Eucharist

9:00 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m. – Sung Eucharist

11:00 a.m. – Coffee Hour, Forum,
Children's Sunday School

4:30 p.m. – Sunday Supper & Family
Worship

Coming Up at St. Elisabeth's

What Constitutes the Good?

St'E's Book Group will wrestle with Simone Weil's understanding of the Sacred, and the Good, in her essay "*Human Personality*" at 1:00 pm on **Tuesday, January 13**, in the parish meeting room at the top of the stairs. Often defined as a religious and social philosopher, Weil continually asks the question, "Why am I being hurt?" and considers the importance of truth, justice, and love when seeking an answer. Her essay, published after her death in 1943, can be found in *Great Conversations 5* or by downloading the on-line pdf. Drop-ins are always welcome. Questions? Contact Joyce Newcomb at joyceRnewcomb@gmail.com

Sunday Forum: The Gospel of Matthew

We've spent 2025 reading the Gospel of Luke who spreads the good news of Jesus to the whole world and now turn to Matthew who looks like circling the wagons of Jews for Jesus.

Beginning the First Sunday of Advent – November 30 – we began a year of readings from the Gospel of St. Matthew. Matthew's church is under pressure to solidify their identity as Jewish followers of Jesus. It is a seeming losing battle against many Jewish sects – Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes and the like.

The Jesus that Matthew tells us about is a new Moses. He is a prophet and teacher. His most notable teachings occur in what we call the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew alone tells this story. The Jesus that Matthew portrays is the real Jewish Messiah, the heir to the throne of David. He comes not to replace the Law, but to fulfill it – to take it another step forward for

the sake of God's reign – the Kingdom of Heaven. He says we are to love our neighbor and our enemy!

Join us for a forum on **Sunday, January 18**, after the 10:00 am service to begin to explore the Gospel of Matthew and what that might mean in seeing Jesus with another set of eyes.
— Larry Handwerk

Sunday Supper & Family Worship

Our first Sunday evening worship and potluck of 2026 are coming up on **Sunday, January 18**. We will open the church doors at 4:00, and worship begins at 4:30. After that, we will enjoy some great food. The meal commences after worship. We will have sign up sheets on the board in the hall, and on the Signup Genius website. We hope you can attend --it's a fun way to pray and we always have lots of food.

Annual Parish Meeting

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Parish will take place on **Sunday, January 25**, following the 10:00 am service. At the meeting we will hear reports about the state of the parish and its ministries, elect new vestry members and adopt the 2025 budget. More information on the meeting and how to participate will be available later in the month.

Bach on the Fox presents: A Renaissance Revelry

Dear St. Elisabeth's Family,

I'm excited to share with you a project that a close colleague of mine and I have been working on this past year! We had the idea to create a local early music ensemble, that focuses on promoting high-quality chamber music written in the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque Musical eras, and aims to present this music in an environment closer to how it would have been envisioned in the time it was written; not as a formal concert, but as a celebratory and informal gathering in community. Our long-term goal is to develop a local early music festival that each summer would bring artists from all over to share in passing on this incredible musical tradition, and to that end we've started a close-knit, 5-voice chamber ensemble to begin presenting events around the Chicago area — to build interest and audience, and to raise funds for future projects.

The group is made primarily of singers from The Crossing, the chamber ensemble from Philadelphia with whom I recently won a Grammy, and we are very excited to share what we've been working on. We'll be presenting one of our first concerts on **Sunday, January 25**, at 5:30pm, right here in the St. Elisabeth's building – it'll be around an hour of music, spanning from Medieval to Baroque, secular and sacred, presented casually and informally with drinks and refreshments for the audience.

Even though this is not specifically a St. Elisabeth's sponsored "church event," I wanted to share it with all of you in case you might be interested in attending! We'd love your support in the audience, and if you have any friends who love early music we hope you'll invite them.

Tickets will be available online (best, QR code to the right) or at the door – and please talk to me if you have any questions!



Best, Walter

Assisting Today

<i>Reading</i>	Kay Rossiter
<i>Prayers</i>	Pete Rossiter
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Polly Baur
<i>Usher</i>	Robert Fischer
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	Mark Tilton

The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, *Bishop*

Saint Elisabeth's Episcopal Church

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Adam Spencer	<i>Rector</i>
The Rev. Larry Handwerk	<i>Priest Associate</i>
Walter Aldrich	<i>Director of Music</i>
Caryl Medsker	<i>Director of Administration</i>
Abigail Pribble	<i>Director of Children's Formation</i>
Elizabeth Clemmitt	<i>Associate for Spiritual Wellness</i>

2025 Vestry

Robert Fischer, *Warden*
Fred Johnston
Jamie Kim

Carrie Miller-Mygatt
Warden

Kara Superfine
Mark Tilton, *Treasurer*
John Tuohy, *Asst. Treasurer*

Sunday Schedule



- 8:00 a.m. Spoken Eucharist: Rite I
- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Sung Eucharist: Rite II
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Forum, and Sunday School

Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday – 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

*We at St. Elisabeth's share an adventurous spirit and a commitment
to radiate God's love within and beyond our red doors.*