

ORDER OF WORSHIP: MORNING PRAISE

*[Based on pp. 109–119 in the black
hymnal— the Evangelical Lutheran
Hymnary (ELH)]*

Call to Worship • *Epiphany*

[Malachi 3:1 alt.; 1 Chronicles 29:12 alt. (EHV)]

PASTOR: *Today we pray to the God who shines brightly as the Savior of all people around the world. May He who created all nations and is zealous to redeem them, fill us with the same zeal for sharing the light of His Gospel with our neighbors here and abroad.*

“Look! The LORD is coming. He is ruling over everything.

CONGREGATION: **In his hand are power and strength.”**

Hymn • *“As With Gladness Men of Old”*

[ELH168]

1. As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee, whom heav’n and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin’s alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heav’nly King.

-Stand-

Confession of Sin and Declaration of Forgiveness

☞ *Let us confess our sin to God and pray.*

☑ **Almighty God, heavenly Father: I have sinned against You through my own fault, in thought, word, and deed. For the sake of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, forgive me all my sin, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

☞ *Lift up your hearts! For the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, God has had mercy on you, forgiven you all your sin, and He will bring those who believe in Him to everlasting life at the end.*

Peace ☩ be with you.

Prayers from the Psalms

[Ps 51:15, Ps 70:1]

☞ *Let us pray to the Lord, using His Word to ask for His blessings.*

O Lord, we pray to You because You have purged away our sin by Your holy life, innocent death, and victorious resurrection. You alone have given us this new song of praise, and we ask You to strengthen us to sing it every day of our lives:



☑ **O LORD, o - pen my lips, and my mouth will de - clare your praise.**

☞ *Gracious Father, as You have been our help in times past, we pray that You continue to stay with us in this life. Hear our prayers, and always give us Your loving answers.*



☑ **Hurry, God! Res - cue me! LORD, hurry to help me!"**

☞ *We pray this confident that You will hear and answer us, because You are the one, true and living God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

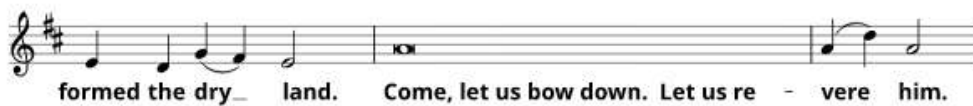


☑ **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;**



Song of Praise · *Venite Exaltamus*

[Ps 95:1-7, (EHV)]





Prayer of the Day • Epiphany

☞ *Lord God, heavenly Father, You have given us the light of Your holy Word as the guiding star that leads us to the Christ-child. We ask You to send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts. Give us a fearless faith like the wise men, who were not afraid because of any hardship or peril when they were following Your star. Help us to trust in You so that we devote our earthly wealth to the advancement of Your kingdom and serve You in all things.*

☞ **We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our living Lord, who reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.**

-Be seated-

First Lesson • Isaiah 60:1–6



God prophesied the appearance of Christ's Light in the Old Testament. Jesus shines because He is the Savior of all nations. Therefore He receives praise from all nations.

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.
²Look, darkness covers the earth,
and deep darkness covers the peoples,
but the LORD will dawn upon you,
and his glory will be seen over you.
³Nations will walk to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴Look up. Look all around and see!
All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you.
Your sons will come from far away,
and people will carry your daughters on their side.
⁵Then you will look and be radiant.

Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.
 For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you.
 The wealth of the nations will come to you.
⁶Caravans of camels will cover your land,
 young camels from Midian and Ephah.
 All those from Sheba will come.
 They will carry gold and incense,
 and they will announce the good news of the praise of the LORD. (EHV)

☞ *This is the Word of our Lord.*


📌 **Thanks be to God.**

Response Hymn • “*Brightest and Best*”

[ELH169]

1. **Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
 Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.
 Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
 Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**
2. **Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,
 Fragrance of Edom and offerings divine,
 Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
 Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?**

Second Lesson • *Ephesians 3:8–12*

 Though God worked His salvation history out through one specific group of people—the Israelites—He now offers salvation to everyone including non-Israelites (Gentiles).

To me—even though I am the very least of all the saints—was given this grace: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ ⁹and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This

was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

¹²In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him. (EHV)

📖 *This is the Word of our Lord.*

📌 **Thanks be to God.**


-Stand-

Gospel Acclamation • Psalm 72:10 (EHV)

📖 *Alleluia, alleluia. The kings of Tarshish and of the sea coasts will bring tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba will offer him gifts.*

📌 **Alleluia!**

Gospel • Matthew 2:1–12

📖  The visit of the three Wise Men show that Jesus is the king of every nation around the world. Let us offer our own gifts to Him as our Savior from sin!

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ²“Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴He gathered together all the people’s chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

“You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.”
(Micah 5:2)

⁷Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹²Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route. (EHV)

📖 *This is the Gospel of our Lord.*

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

-Be seated-

Hymn • “How Lovely Shines the Morning Star”

[CW 79]

1. **How lovely shines the Morning Star!**
 The nations see and hail afar
 The light in Judah shining.
 O David's Son of Jacob's race,
 My Bridegroom and my King of grace,
 For You my heart is pining. Lowly, Holy,
 Great and glorious, O victorious
 Prince of graces, Filling all the heav'nly places.
2. **O highest joy by mortals won,**
 True Son of God and Mary's Son,
 The high-born King of ages!
 In Your blest body let me be,
 E'en as the branch is in the tree,
 Your life, my life supplying. Sighing, Crying
 For the savor Of Your favor
 Resting never, Till I rest in You forever.
3. **Lift up the voice and strike the string,**
 Let all glad sounds of music ring
 In God's high praises blended.
 Christ will be with me all the way,
 Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day
 Till trav'ling days are ended. Sing out, Ring out
 Triumph glorious, O victorious
 Chosen nation; Praise the God of Your salvation.

Sermon • Isaiah 60: 1-6

The Light of Christ Shines in Every Nation

-Stand-

Apostles' Creed

☞ *Having heard the Word of God, we confess our holy faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:*

☒ **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

-Be seated-

Bringing of Offerings ~ *We offer our treasures to Christ for the work of His Kingdom*



You Can Donate Here

Offering Prayer**Prayer of the Church**

[CW p 127, alt.]

☞ *O Lord, our God, You are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day You open Your hand and provide for the needs of Your children on earth.*

☒ **We praise You for every grace and blessing.**

☞ *Strengthen Your Church in all the world. Let Your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.*

☒ **Use our ministries and offerings to extend Your healing and Your hope.**

☞ *We bring You our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.*

☞ **Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.**

☞ *Grant prosperity to our business and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.*

☞ **Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.**

☞ *Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of Your created order.*

☞ **Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.**

☞ *Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as Your representatives.*

☞ **Lead us to love one another as You have loved us.**

☞ *[Special petitions]*

☞ *Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that You will hear and with the faith that You will respond for our welfare.*

☞ **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise • “O God of God, O Light of Light”

[CW 85]

1. **O God of God, of Light of Light,
Thou Prince of Peace, Thou King of kings!
To Thee where angels know no night
The song of praise forever rings.
To Him who sits upon the throne,
The Lamb once slain for sinful men,
Be honor, might, all by Him won,
Glory and praise! Amen, Amen.**

2. Nations afar, in ign'rance deep,
 Isles of the sea, where darkness lay,
 These hear His voice, they wake from sleep,
 And throng with joy the upward way.
 They cry with us, "Send forth Thy light,
 O Lamb, once slain for sinful men!
 Burst Satan's bonds, O God of might;
 Set all men free!" Amen, Amen.

-Stand-

Prayer for God's Continued Mercy ~ Kyrie Eleison

[Mk 10:47]

☞ *Let us pray to the Lord:*

We thank You, loving Father, that You have created us and still preserve us. Your greatest act of mercy was in giving Your only-begotten Son to be our substitute, so that we may not die, but live with You forever. For this we pray to You, Lord God the Father:



☞ Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

☞ *We thank You, O Christ, that You carried all our sins on Your sacred shoulders, and by Your blood have blotted away all our transgressions. Now You rule all things in heaven and earth for the good of Your Church. For this we pray to You, Lord Jesus Christ:*



☞ Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

☞ *We thank You, gracious Comforter, that You have given us Your holy Word and blessed Sacraments. Through them You have created true faith in our hearts, that we know of nothing*

to trust for our salvation except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. For this we pray to You, Lord the Holy Spirit:



G Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

P O Triune God, grant us Your grace so that we perfectly believe that all our sins are forgiven for the sake of the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Enlighten us by Your Holy Spirit so that, empowered by our Redeemer's death, we may turn away from sin every day, and never forsake Him until we see Him face to face in life eternal. For this we pray to You, O Holy Trinity:



G Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord's Prayer

[Mt 6:9-13]

P Hear us as we pray, O Lord:

A 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, forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer

[ELH p 118]

P Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with Your mighty power so that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity. In all we do, direct us to live as Your dear children, showing Your righteousness in all we do.

G We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Final Blessing ~ Apostolic Blessing

[ELH p 119; 2 Cor 13:14]

☞ *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...be with you all.*

☞ **Amen.**

Closing Hymn • “O God of God, O Light of Light”

[CW 85]

5. **Sing to the Lord a glorious song;
Sing to His name, His love forthtell!
Sing on, heav'n's host, His praise prolong,
Sing, ye who now on earth do dwell!
Worthy the Lamb for sinners slain!
From angels praise and thanks from men!
Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign,
Glory and pow'r! Amen, Amen.**

Worship Notes

- Preacher: Pastor Hartwig
- Organist: Thursday - Donna Moll Sunday – Kris Karnopp
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- January Altar Committee: Kathy Minzlaff 262-224-7113

Announcements