



**Arlington Hills Lutheran Church  
Sunday, January 5, 2025  
Epiphany Sunday**

# Sunday, January 5, 2025

## Epiphany Sunday

### Introduction

*The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.*

### Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“The Three Kings”

arr. Wilbur Held

### GATHERING

Greeting

**Matt. 2:2**

P: Alleluia. We have observed his star at its rising and have come to worship him.

**All: Alleluia.**

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**All: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

P: Gracious God,

**All:** have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**P:** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore 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.

**All:** Amen.

*Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Gathering Hymn*



Verses 1, 2, 3 and 5 - Large print words found on page 22



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
 2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;  
 3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?

5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.  
 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
 Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,

dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
 gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,

Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.  
 mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.  
 myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?

guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.  
 Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All:** **And also, with you.**

*Please be seated*

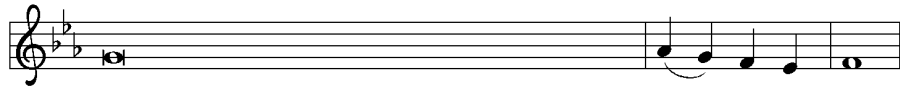
# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



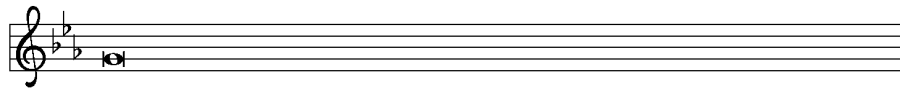
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



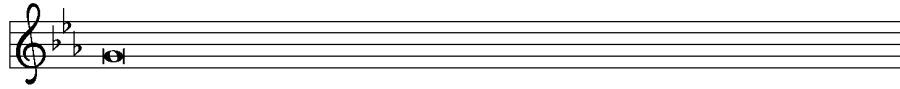
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.




Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

# This is the Feast


*Refrain*




This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



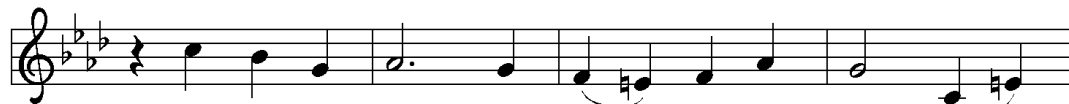
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and




blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:




Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

*Refrain*




hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

*Refrain*



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

All: **Amen.**

## WORD

### First Reading:

### Isaiah 60:1-6

### Assisting Minister

*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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.

AM: Word of God, Word of Life

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*All kings shall bow down before him. (Ps. 72:11)*

AM: <sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

**All: <sup>2</sup> that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

AM: <sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity<sup>l</sup> to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

**All: <sup>4</sup> Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

AM: <sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation<sup>l</sup> to another.

**All: <sup>6</sup> Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**

AM: <sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**All: <sup>10</sup> May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

AM: <sup>11</sup> May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

**All: <sup>12</sup> For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

AM: <sup>13</sup> He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.

**All: <sup>14</sup> From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.**

**Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14**

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and



blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

AM: Word of God, Word of Life

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Gospel reading*

## Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew 2:1-12 chapter.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord**

## Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> '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.' "

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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.” <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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,

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

**Home by Another Way**

**Pastor Mitch**

*Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Hymn of the Day*



Verses 1-5 – Large print words found on page 23



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.



*Refrain*  
 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

## **Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Please be seated for the Prayers of Intercession*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

**AM:** With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creations.

**AM:** *Each prayer will end with:* God of grace,

**All:** **Receive our prayer.**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All:** **And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## **MEAL**

**Offering Music**


**"I Wonder As I Wander"**

**arr. Lynette Maynard**

*Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Offering Song.*

## Offering Song

### Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## Offertory Prayer

P: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

All: **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Invitation to Communion

P: A child has been born for us, A Son Given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

## Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Words of Institution

P: 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, they 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.**

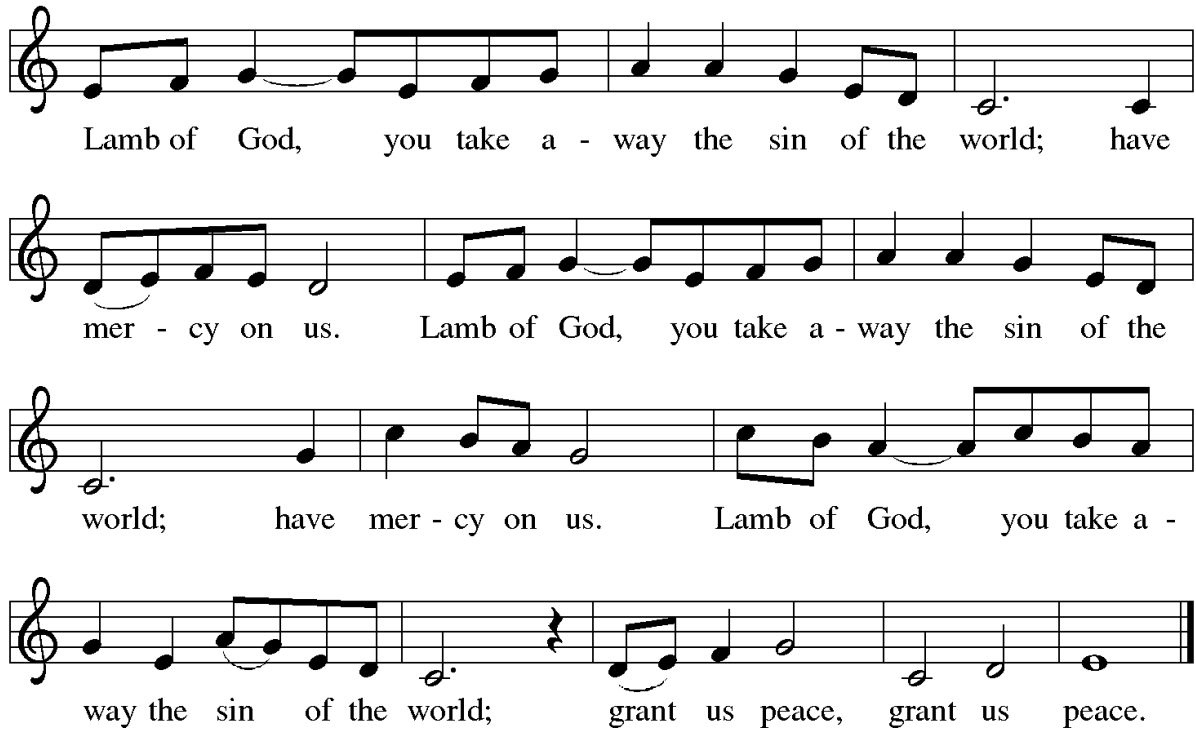
**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

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





## Lamb of God



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

## Communion

*As pastor comes down to serve communion you may come forward.*

*Please form a single line to receive the bread from him by holding out your palms to receive the wafer. Once you receive the bread, you may go to the communion assistant on the side closest to where you were seated to receive the wine.*

*If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know, and we will bring communion to you.*

*Please feel free to say "Amen" after you receive each element if you wish.*

## Communion Anthem "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

arr. Kathleen Massoud

### **Table Blessing**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**All: Amen**

### **Prayer after Communion**

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

**All: Amen.**

### **Sending of Communion for Lay Ministers**

*(Instead of coming forward Lay Ministers please stand in your pew for the blessing of the elements. You may pick them up at the end of the service in the back of the church.)*

P: Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick world. Anoint with a servant heart these who take your word and sacrament to our sisters and brothers in their homes and in hospitals. Grant grace, mercy, healing and hope to those who receive on your body and blood and believe your words of new life. May we all recognize that we are at home in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: Amen.**

### **Sending**

*Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Sending Hymn.*

Verses 1, 2, 3 and 5 - Large printed words found on page 24



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;  
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,  
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,  
 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;  
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;  
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.  
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.  
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.  
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

**Blessing**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

All: Amen.

*Please be seated for the Postlude.*

**Postlude**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

J. S. Bach

## Dismissal

**P:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SBWA005555.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Copyright 1990 by GIA Publications, Inc.

7414 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 560638

International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved. Printed, in U.S.A.

## Leading Worship Today

**Pastor:** Dr. Rev. Mitch Kinsinger

**Organ/Piano:** Barbara Rossow

**Assisting Ministers:** Mary Kowitz and Dennis Rasmusson

**Communion Assistants:** Elaine and Charles Rorhbach

**Ushers:** Tom Brackey and David Almquist

**Hospitality:** Tom and Kathy Brackey

**Livestream Producer:** Silvester Vicic or Jim Persoon

## **PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK FOR AHLC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:**

Dean Anderson, Marjorie Anderson, Sven Anderson, Sharon Anderson, Dave Balfanz, Pamela Boldt, Carol Brockway, Linda Brockway, Carolyn Brusseau, Jerry Ekblad, Richard Edge, Jan and Wayne Frankenberg, Esther Hallgren, Adeline Hansen, Betty Hasse, Patricia James, Jim Jaszczak, Velta Krauze, John Lind, Gene Linderkamp, Marilyn Nelson, Priscilla Reeve, Betty Richter, Marnie Rose, Betty Swanson, Ken Wagner, Gary Winter, and MaryAnn Wistrom.



**Annual Meeting – February 2, 2025** following the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service approximately 10:45 a.m. In-person in the Reception Room on Zoom (link to be sent in an email.) Committee Reports due to the church office by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**January Birthdays:**

Steve Keller	January 5
Charles Baldwin	January 5
Carol Ekblad	January 8
Jim Jaszczak	January 10
Eli Christopher Peterson	January 10
R. John Blomstrand	January 10
Betty Erickson	January 23
Amy Adams-Westin	January 26
Julie Ann Anderson	January 28

**Prayer Prompts for the Week of January 5-11<sup>th</sup>.**

5. Yourself
6. Epiphany
7. Alley Shoppe
8. Idegenda Parish
9. Forgiveness
10. Nourishment
11. Church Partners

**Flowers by the altar are given by Tom Brockway in memory of his son Kevin.**

**Please feel free to take a poinsettia after the service today.**



## **Gathering Hymn**

### **Brightest and Best of the Stars**

- 1 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.  
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.
  
- 2 Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
maker and monarch and savior of all.
  
- 3 What shall we give him, in costly devotion?  
Shall we bring incense and off'rings divine,  
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?
  
- 5 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.  
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.

## Hymn of the Day

### We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder  
star.

#### *Refrain*

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

2 Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown  
him again;  
king forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. *Refrain*

3 Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most  
High. *Refrain*

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering  
gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold  
tomb. *Refrain*

5 Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;  
heav'n sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain*

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

## **Sending Hymn**

### **As with Gladness Men of Old**

- 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.
  
- 5 In the heav'nly country bright  
need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down;  
there forever may we sing  
alleluias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, att.