



**Arlington Hills Lutheran Church
Epiphany Sunday
January 4, 2026**

not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news.

Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

P: God's grace upon grace flows over you. ✝ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

All: Amen.

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

Gathering Hymn "As with Gladness Men of Old" ELW #302

All verses – Large print words found on page



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,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
 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,
 and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
 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.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

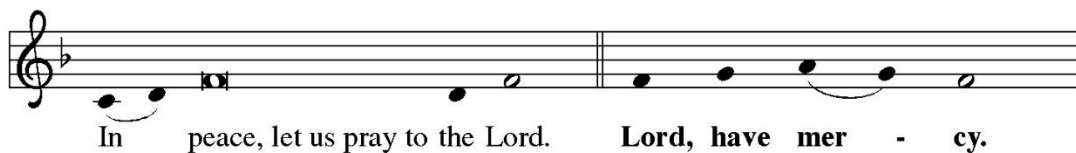
Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

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

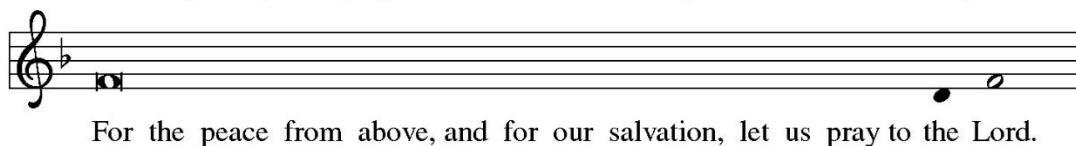
All: **And also, with you.**

Please be seated

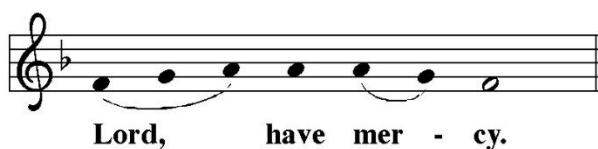
KYRIE



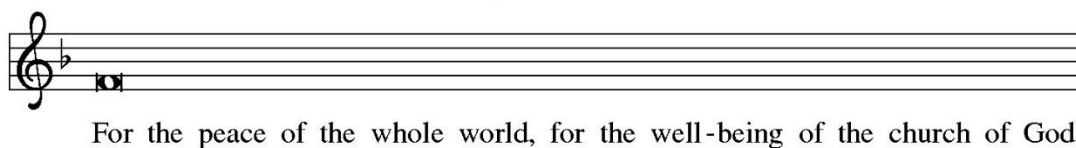
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



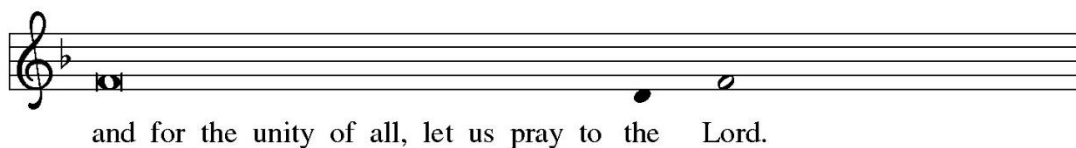
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



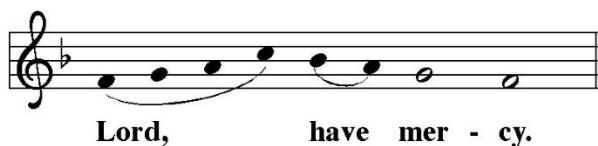
Lord, have mer - cy.



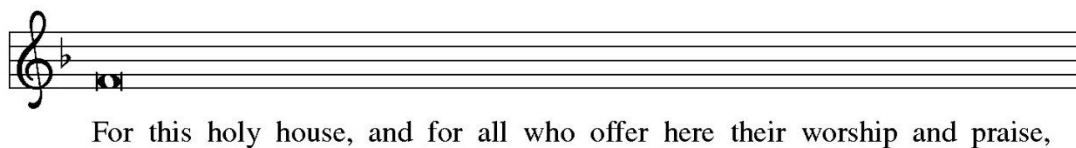
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



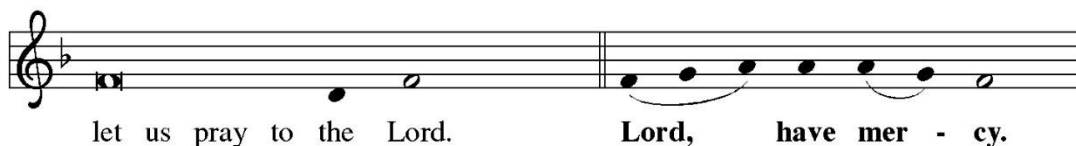
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



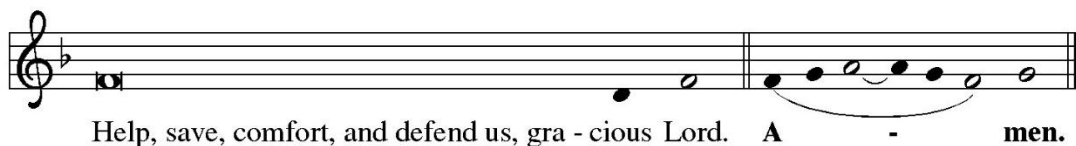
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.**

Gloria

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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

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

⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 72:1-7, 10-14

Read responsively by whole verse

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

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

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

AM: ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity^l to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

All: ⁴ Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

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

All: ⁶ Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

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

All: ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

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

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

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

All: ¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

¹ This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

AM: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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

Gospel Acclamation

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

P: The holy gospel according to John the 1st chapter.

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

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

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

⁶ ‘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.’ ”

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

Pastor Walter Still

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.



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: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

O Repairer of the breach, you separate us from our sin and unite us with one another. Heal the animosity in our hearts, and bind us together in love. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

AM: Author of life, you sent your spirit over the waters, your breath into your children, and guiding stars across the sky. Awaken us to the plight of the planet and send us to care for your creation. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

AM: Light that leads the way, you make yourself known to the nations. Illuminate just paths and guide leaders in the church and the world in your holy will.

All: Your mercy is great.

AM: Voice of the silenced, you cast the mighty from their thrones and fill the hungry with good things. Grant those in need the courage to demand equality and those with abundance the wisdom to share. Respond to any who call out in need this day we pray especially for Chris Anderson, Marjorie Anderson, Sven Anderson, Sharon Anderson, Carolyn Brusseau, Jerry Ekblad, Richard Edge, Jan Frankenberg, Carol Hansen, Wayne Hansen, Betty Hasse, Ron Hanson, Marcia Imsdahl, Patricia James, Jim Jaszczak, Eugene Karls, Gisela Koegh, Velta Krauze, Marilyn Nelson, David O'Connor, Priscilla Reeve, Marnie Rose, Bev Stickler, Betty Swanson, Ivanka Vicic, Ken Wagner, Dorie Wiehe, Gary Winter, and MaryAnn Wistrom. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

AM: Proclaimer of promises, you raise up prophets and messengers in the places we least expect. Equip us to listen well to those who bring both good news and painful truths. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

AM: You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

AM: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Please be seated.

MEAL

Offering Music

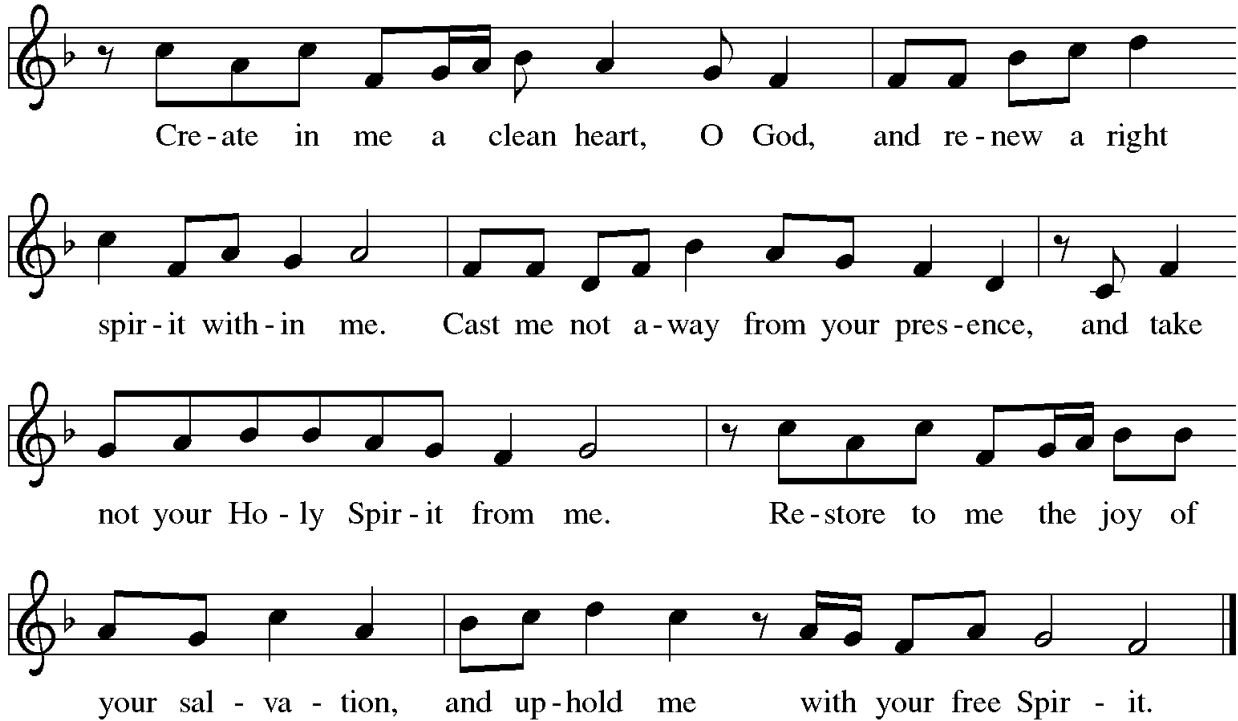
“Still, Still, Still”

arr. Kenon D. Renfrow

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 glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.



Great Thanksgiving

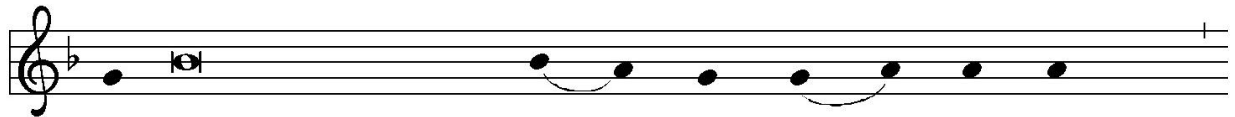
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

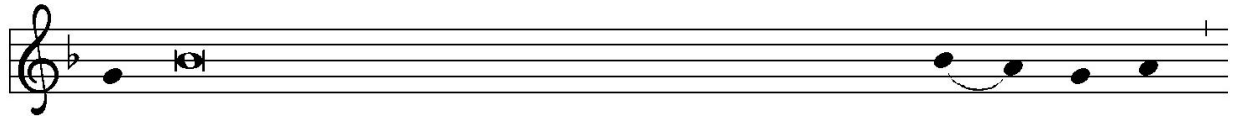
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor:



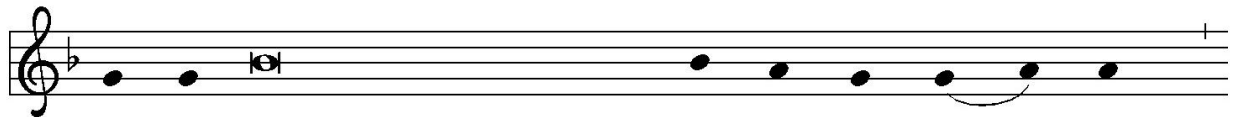
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



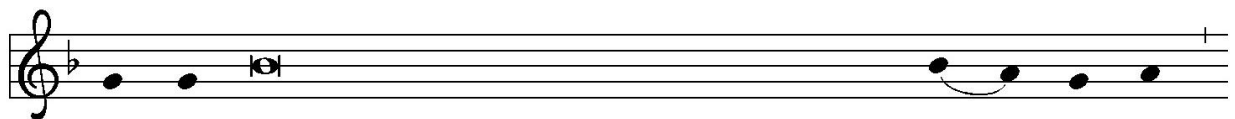
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



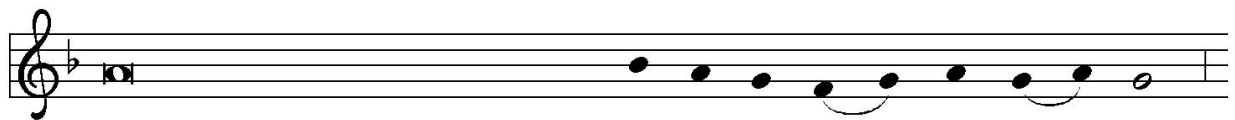
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.



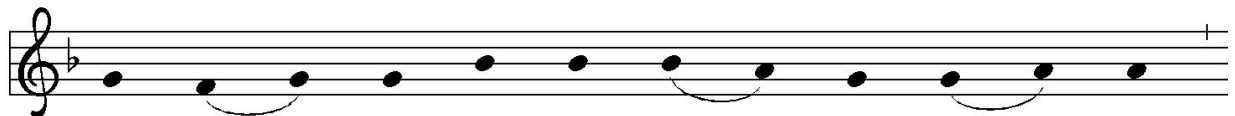
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all na - tions;



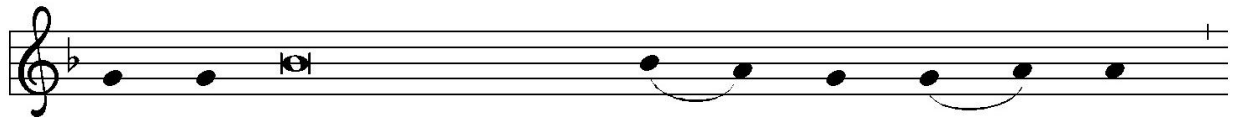
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your be - lov - ed Son,



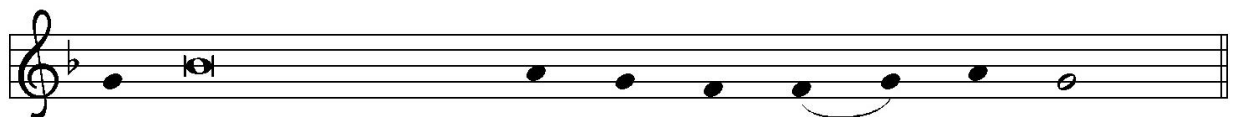
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he re - vealed your glo - ry.



And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,



with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

From *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* copyright © 2006. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #_____.

All:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness
and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed
are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's
openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made
flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours. Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

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.

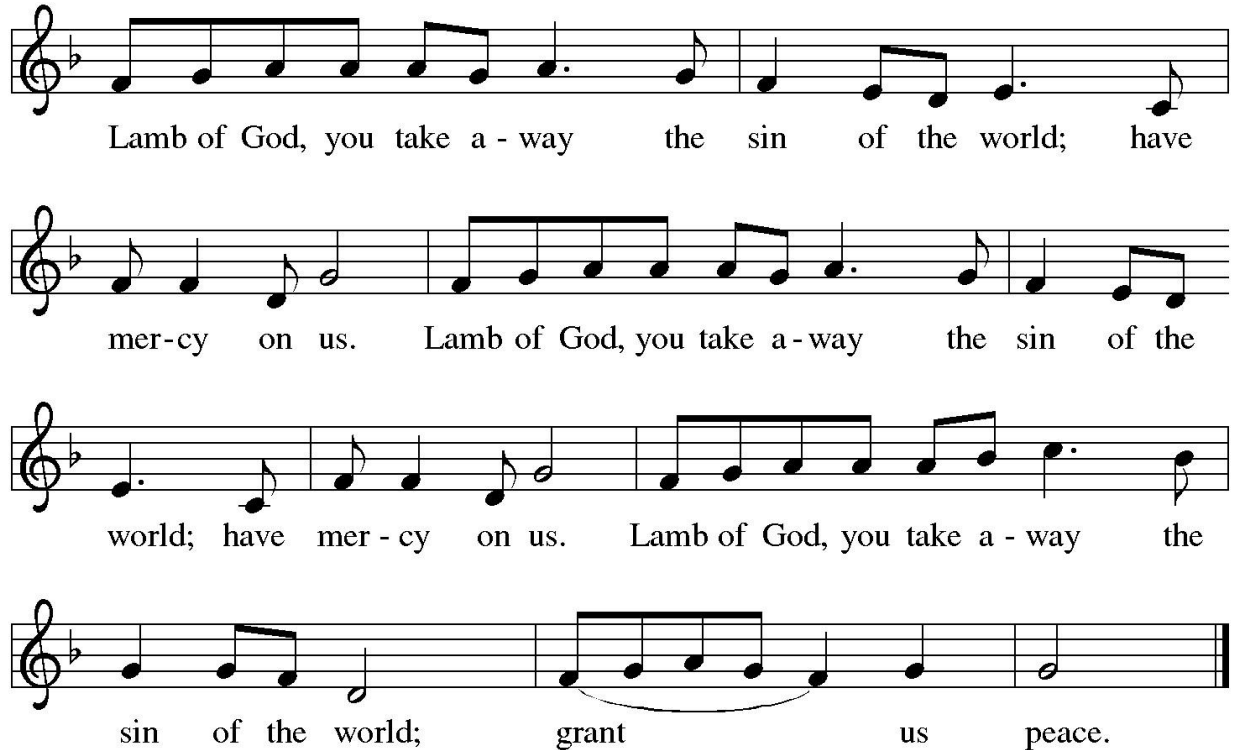
**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

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

The Pastor will invite those worshipping with us at home to share Christ's presence in the bread/wine/juice that they have prepared.

Then the congregation will sing "Lamb of God".

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.

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. John Carter

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: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

All: Amen.

Sending

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



Sending Hymn “Good Christians Friends, Rejoice”

ELW# 288

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



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

Inscription

This inscription may be made with chalk above the entrance:

20 † C M B † 26

Write the appropriate character (left) while speaking the text (right).

The magi of old, known as

C Caspar,

M Melchior, and

B Balthasar,

followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us

20 two thousand

26 and twenty-six years ago.

† Christ, bless these holy people and this church,

† and remain with us throughout the new year.

Prayer of Blessing

P: O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that as you bless all who gather in this church with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Blessing

P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy incarnate One, abiding Comforter, + bless you with endless grace, peace and joy.

All: Amen.

L: 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. Walter Still

Organ/Piano: Barbara Rossow

Assisting Ministers: Mary Kowitz and Dennis Rasmusson

Communion Assistants: Elaine and Charles Rorhbach

Ushers: Tom Brackey and David Almquist

Hospitality: Valerie and Orval Osmundson

Livestream Producer: Silvester Vicic or Jim Persoon



Annual Meeting – February 8, 2026 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 15th.

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
Amy Adams-Westin	January 26
Julie Ann Anderson	January 28

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

Upcoming Events

January 4	Sunday Morning Worship	9:30 a.m. We will begin using Setting 3 for the liturgy.
January 5	Alley Shoppe Volunteers	9:00 a.m.
January 6	Alley Shopped donations accepted	between 10:00 a.m. - noon
January 6	Alley Shoppe Devotions	9:00 a.m.
January 6	Alley Shoppe Clients	9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
January 6	Alley Shoppe Donations	10:00 a.m. - noon
January 6	Worship, Music and the Arts Board meeting	– 10:00 a.m.
January 7	Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
January 11	Sunday Morning Worship	9:30 a.m.
January 12	Alley Shoppe Volunteers	9:00 a.m.
January 12	Alley Shopped donations accepted	between 10:00 a.m. - noon
January 13	Alley Shoppe Devotions	9:00 a.m.
January 13	Alley Shoppe Clients	9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
January 13	Alley Shoppe Donations	10:00 a.m. - noon
January 14	Finance, Property and Administration meeting	– 5:00 p.m.
January 18	Sunday Morning Worship	9:30 a.m.
January 19	Alley Shoppe Volunteers	9:00 a.m.
January 19	Alley Shopped donations accepted	between 10:00 a.m. – noon
January 19	Executive Committee Meeting	10:30 a.m.
January 20	Alley Shoppe Devotions	9:00 a.m.
January 20	Alley Shoppe Clients	9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
January 20	Alley Shoppe Donations	10:00 a.m. - noon
January 20	Congregational Council Meeting	6:00 p.m.
January 25	Sunday Morning Worship	9:30 a.m.
January 25	Member Forum following worship	
January 26	Alley Shoppe Volunteers	9:00 a.m.
January 26	Alley Shopped donations accepted	between 10:00 a.m. – noon
January 26	Executive Committee Meeting	10:30 a.m.

PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK FOR AHLC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Chris Anderson, Marjorie Anderson, Sven Anderson, Sharon Anderson, Carolyn Brusseau, Jerry Ekblad, Richard Edge, Jan Frankenberg, Carol Hansen, Wayne Hansen, Betty Hasse, Ron Hanson, Marcia Imsdahl, Patricia James, Jim Jaszczak, Eugene Karls, Gisela Koegh, Velta Krauze, Marilyn Nelson, David O'Connor, Priscilla Reeve, Marnie Rose, Bev Stickler, Betty Swanson, Ivanka Vicic, Ken Wagner, Dorie Wiehe, Gary Winter, and MaryAnn Wistrom.

If you wish to have Pastor Walter visit with you, please contact Mary in the church office to set up a time.

On Sunday, January 25 following the Worship Service, there will be a forum in the reception room. At that time, the Congregation Council will present an update on the Sale of the Church building and “What’s Next” steps. There will be time for questions following the presentation.

Reports for the Annual Meeting, (from the Pastor, President, Treasurer, Secretary, Alley Shoppe, Tanzania and Committees, are due to the Church Office by January 15th at the latest. Thank you!

Gathering 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.

- 4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at
last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory
hide.

- 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, 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

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

- 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866