

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD OBSERVED

January 5, 2025

+ PREPARATION **+**

Today we will observe The Lord's Supper... The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Grace Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked you first to speak with the pastor, an elder or an usher. (For further study, see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; I Cor. 11:17-34). Wine is used in the individual and common cup. The purple cup is grape juice. It may also be received by intinction. A gluten free wafer is available upon request.

PRELUDE

"The Star Proclaims the King is Here"
"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

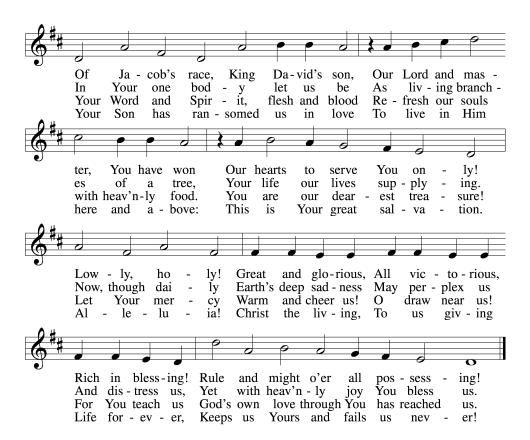
setting: J. Pachelbel arr. F. Ritter

WELCOME

Stand

HYMN OF INVOCATION





- O let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned, Our voices gladly blending! For Christ goes with us all the way— Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day! His love is never ending! Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story! Great is He, the King of Glory!
- 6 What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love is first and last, The end and the beginning! He will one day, oh, glorious grace, Transport us to that happy place Beyond all tears and sinning! Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness! We are yearning For the day of Your returning!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Text and tune: PhilippNicolai, 1556–1608
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INVOCATION AND ABSOLUTION

- In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

- P He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
- For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him.
- P And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
- And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.
- P For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
- and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.
- **P** Let us confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.
- P Do you recognize the truth—that you have not loved God with your whole heart nor loved your neighbor as yourself?
- I confess that I have failed to keep the two great commandments by what I have done and what we have failed to do. Heavenly Father, I don't deserve Your forgiveness, but ask for it because of the greatest love shown at the cross.
- P Hear the great news: God has used two common earthly elements—water and blood—to forgive your sins and make you His very own. Through the cross of Christ and the blood of Jesus shed there, and because you have been baptized, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the
 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Thank You, Lord, for revealing Your mercy and grace to me on this great day of Epiphany.
- Lord Jesus, thank You for shedding Your blood and giving us the waters of Holy Baptism,
- **(a)** by which You sacrificed Your life for ours and made us a part of Your family forever. Amen.

♣ SERVICE OF THE WORD **♣**

INTROIT

Psalm 45:6-8a; antiphon: v. 17

- A I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise You forever and ever.
- Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;
- A You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.
- Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions; Your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

- **A** I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations;
- therefore nations will praise You forever and ever.

KYRIE

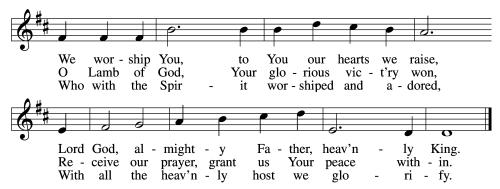
- A Lord, have mercy upon us.
- Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

HYMN

"Glory to God, We Give You Thanks and Praise"

LSB 946





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SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, our great High Priest,
- cleanse us by the power of Your redeeming blood that in purity and peace we may worship and adore Your holy name;
- P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
- one God, now and forever. Amen.

Arise, shine, for your light has come,

Sit

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,

and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

Then you shall see and be radiant;

your heart shall thrill and exult,

because the abundance of the sea shall be turned 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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 72:1–15; antiphon: v. 18

- A Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
- **©** who alone does wondrous things.
- A Give the king Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to the royal son!
- May He judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice!
- **A** Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!
- May He defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!
- May they fear You while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- May He be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!
- A In His days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
- May He have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!
- A May desert tribes bow down before Him and His enemies lick the dust!

- May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render Him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! May all kings fall down before Him, all nations serve Him!
- A For He delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper.
- **1** He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.
- A From oppression and violence He redeems their life, and precious is their blood in His sight.
- Long may He live; may gold of Sheba be given to Him! May prayer be made for Him continually, and blessings invoked for Him all the day!
- A Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
- who alone does wondrous things.

THE EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 3:1–12

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Stand

VERSEMatthew 2:2b

- P Alleluia. Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?
- For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 2:1–12*

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

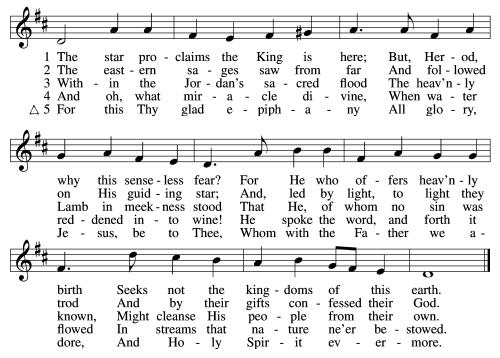
Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

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

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ

HYMN



Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt., Tune: Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Stand

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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- Let us pray for the whole people of God and for all people according to their needs.
 - Almighty God, You revealed Your Son to Gentiles on the day of Epiphany.
- **1** Use us, we pray, to bring light and peace where there is none right now.
- A Lord Jesus, You were willing to shed Your blood on the cross for our forgiveness and have given us the hope of salvation.
- Thank You for shedding Your blood and giving us the waters of Holy Baptism to make us Your own sons and daughters through faith in You.
- As You cared for the sick and still do, we remember before Your throne those among us who are sick and in need of Your care, [especially . . .].
- As You did in Your earthly ministry, continue to love, care, touch, and heal them according to Your will.
- A For Your kingdom, invisible to human eyes yet so very real, we lift up our voices in prayer.
- We pray that You would use us by the working of Your Holy Spirit to open hearts and eyes to Your love and see Your kingdom.
- Merciful Father in heaven, You hold all authority and power in Your hands. Use those whom You have installed as rulers over us for our good and not our harm.
- Use them to bring about blessing to those who are bringing justice and peace to our lands and to stop evildoers in their tracks.
- **A** We also remember those who are persecuted for Your name.

- For those who have to endure torture and persecution, give them the hope of their eternal reward.
- P Almighty God, You are the fountain of all wisdom. You know what we need before we ever ask, even when we do not know what to ask or even how to ask.
- We are but mortal men and women, but You are immortal, invisible, and wise. Look upon us with compassion, care for us, and meet our needs.
- A These things we ask, almighty God, in Your name, trusting that in Your mercy and according to Your will, You will not only hear our prayers but answer them.
- C Amen.

Sit

OFFERING

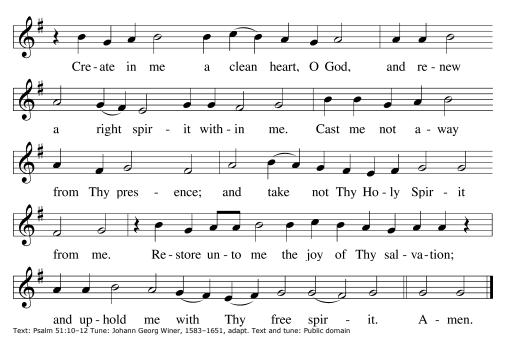
VOLUNTARY

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

setting: A. Fedak

Stand

OFFERTORY LSB 956



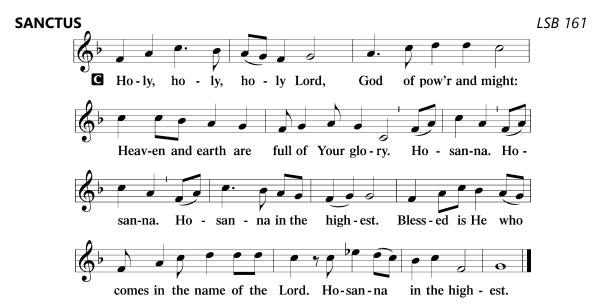
★ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT **★**

PREFACE

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- **@** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. He is the long-awaited prophet and Savior, the Holy One who has destroyed the power of the devil and gives forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation by His sacrifice on the cross. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

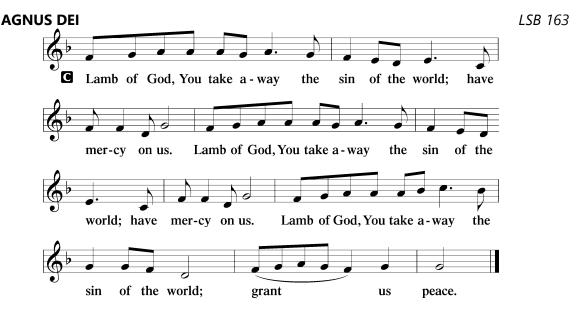
LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

LSB 394



- 1 Songs of thank ful ness and praise, Je sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
- 2 Man i fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;
- 3 Man i fest in mak-ing whole Pal sied limbs and faint ing soul;
- 4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
- 5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres ent in Thy ho ly Word—



Man - i - fest - ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far, And at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God-head man - i - fest; Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell - ing all the dev - il's might; Christ will then like light - ning shine, All will see His glo-rious sign; Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:

Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;

Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring - ing good from ill;

All will then the trum - pet hear, All will see the Judge ap - pear;

That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.

An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.

An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.

Thou by all wilt be con-fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.

And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-85, alt., Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93 Text and tune: Public domain

VOLUNTARY

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

"To Follow the Star"

setting: J. Engel F. Ritter

Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS LSB 165



POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

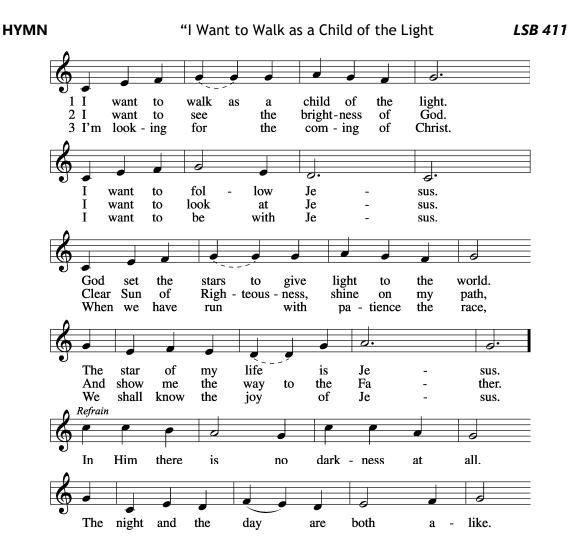
- Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, by Your blood, You have redeemed us from sin, death, and Satan, and through the waters of Holy Baptism, You have made us Your own people. Continue to guide us by Your Holy Spirit that You would be revealed to us more each day though Your Word and Sacrament; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- Amen.

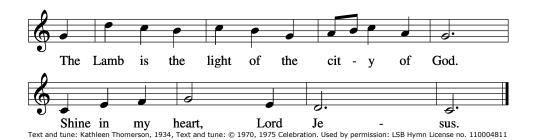
BENEDICAMUS

- P Let us bless the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

C Amen.





Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

- **P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

"Brightest and Best"

Arr. J. Rasley

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1.

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"The Star Proclaims the King is Here", setting: J. Pachelbel; tune: Wo Gott zum Haus, Wittenberg © 1955 Concordia Publishing House; "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright", arr. F. Ritter; tune: Wie Schon Leuchtet, P. Nicolai © 2023 Lorenz Publishing Co.; "We Three Kings of Orient Are", setting: A. Fedak; tune: Kings of Orient, J.H. Hopkins © 2005 Leupold Editions, Inc.; Songs of Thankfulness and Praise, setting: J. Engel; tune: St. George's Windsor, G. Elvey © 1982 Concordia Publishing House; "To Follow the Star", F. Ritter © 2002 Lorenz Publishing; "Brightest and Best", Arr. J. Rasley; tune, Morning Star, J. Harding © 2000 Lorenz Publishing Co.



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