

**January 4, 2026**

*Second Sunday  
After Christmas*



**GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

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.org

+

Divine Service:  
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am  
*Sundays*

Adult Bible Study &  
Sunday School:  
9:30 am

+

Pastor:  
Richard Willsea

Deaconess:  
Karen Suter

Organist:  
Patty Barnes

# THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 4, 2026

## ✠ 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; 1 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

"Fanfare for the New Year"  
"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

D. Paxton  
arr. L. Smith

### WELCOME

*Stand*

### HYMN

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

**LSB 384 sts. 1-3**



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,  
3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with  
gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets

He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -  
Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -  
have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face  
pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt., Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V, Text and tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**G** Amen.

## PSALM

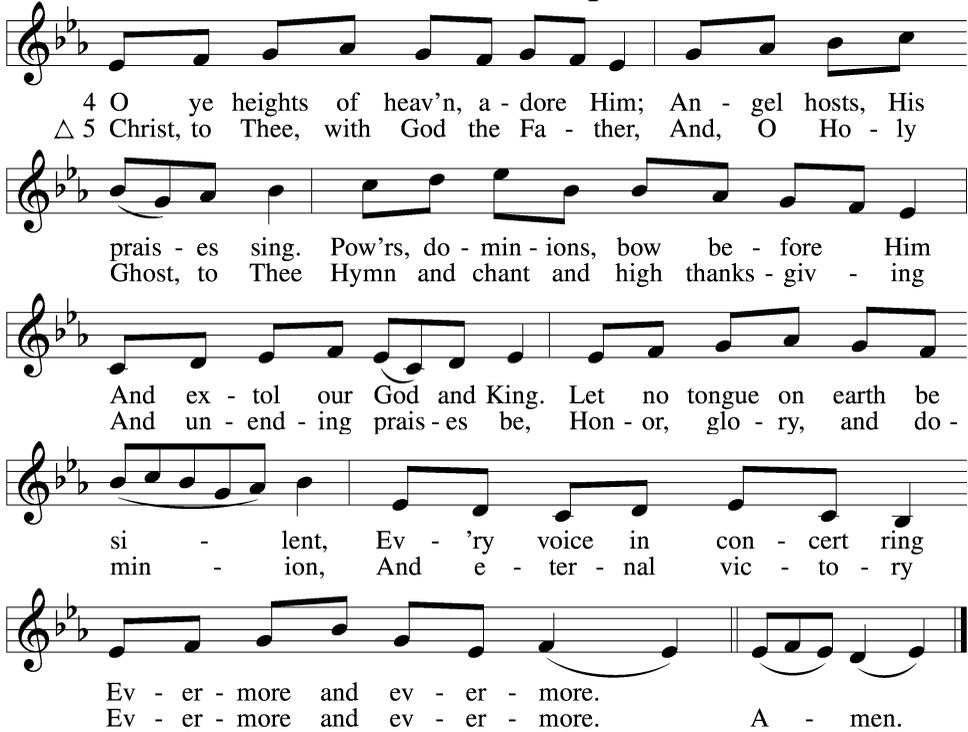
*Psalms 119:97–104*

- P** Oh how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.  
**G** **Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.**
- P** I have more understanding than all my teachers,  
**G** **for Your testimonies are my meditation.**
- P** I understand more than the aged,  
**G** **for I keep Your precepts.**
- P** I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep Your word.  
**G** **I do not turn aside from Your just decrees, for You have taught me.**
- P** How sweet are Your words to my taste,  
**G** **sweeter than honey to my mouth!**
- P** Through Your precepts I get understanding;  
**G** **therefore I hate every false way.**

HYMN

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

LSB 384 sts. 4-5



4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His  
 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly  
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him  
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing  
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -  
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

**KYRIE**

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**G** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace from the Word becoming flesh, dwelling among us, and revealing this glory to us, let us pray to the Lord:

**G** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace of the whole world, uniting to laud our God with an uplifting song of praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**G** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For this holy house, rejoicing to realize that God's understanding is beyond measure, let us pray to the Lord:

**G** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**G** **Amen.**

**HYMN**

"Once in Royal David's City"

**LSB 376**



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by  
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His  
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and  
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and  
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He  
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He  
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.  
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.  
stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-95, alt.  
Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-76  
Text and tune: Public domain

## SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word.
- C** **Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives;**
- P** through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Kings 3:4-15

The Word is read...

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

## GRADUAL

*Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a*

- A** To us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
**C** **and the government shall be upon His shoulder.**
- A** And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
**C** **Mighty God,**
- A** Everlasting Father,  
**C** **Prince of Peace.**
- A** Sing to the LORD a new song,  
**C** **for He has done marvelous things!**

## THE EPISTLE READING

*Ephesians 1:3–14*

The Word is read...

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

*Stand*

## VERSE

*Luke 2:40*

- P** Alleluia.  
**C** **The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him.**  
**P** Alleluia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 2:40–52*

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

The Gospel is read...

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

Sit

HYMN

"Within the Father's House"

LSB 410



1 With-in the Fa-ther's house The Son has found His home,  
2 The doc-tors of the Law Gaze on the won-drous child  
3 Yet not to them is giv'n The might-y truth to know,  
4 The se-cret of the Lord Es-capes each hu-man eye,



And to His tem-ple sud-den-ly The Lord of life has come.  
And mar-vel at His gra-cious words Of wis-dom un-de-filed.  
To lift the earth-ly veil that hides In-car-nate God be-low.  
And faith-ful pon-d'ring hearts a-wait The full e-piph-a-ny.

- 5 Lord, visit Thou our souls  
And teach us by Thy grace  
Each dim revealing of Thyself  
With loving awe to trace
- △ 6 Till we behold Thy face  
And know as we are known  
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Coequal Three in One.

Text: James R. Woodford, 1820–85, alt., Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758; adapt. William H. Havergal, 1793–1870, Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Stand

NICENE CREED

- ☐ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;**

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the  
dead, whose kingdom will have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Blessed be You, O God our Father, for in Your great wisdom, mercy, and love You have chosen us to be Your own children by faith in Christ. Grant to Your whole church Your light, love, and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- A** Give wisdom, O God, to all preachers of Your Word, to all pastors and leaders in Your church, wherever they may be, that they may rightly divide Your Word, proclaim it with power, and administer Your Holy Sacraments according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Let Your Holy Spirit seek out and reveal Your salvation for those who hear and believe Your saving Gospel. Cast away all doubt and strengthen the faith of Your people everywhere. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Give peace among the nations, O Lord, that Your Word may not be bound but be proclaimed freely and boldly to all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Bring Your healing and comfort to all who are sick or injured or in any need, [especially ...]. Give confidence in suffering and thankful hearts for Your every blessing. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Let the body and blood of Your Son strengthen faith and grant the wisdom that comes down from above, that all who commune may be one in confession and faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## OFFERING

### VOLUNTARY

"Within the Father's House"

setting: C.S. Lang

*Stand*

### OFFERTORY

LSB 955



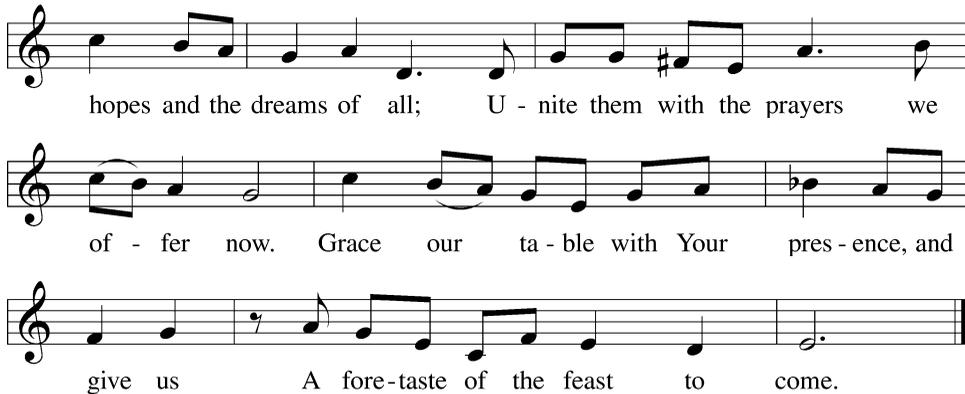
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our



cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the



hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and  
give us A fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-80, Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923-2010 Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004811

## ✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

### PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

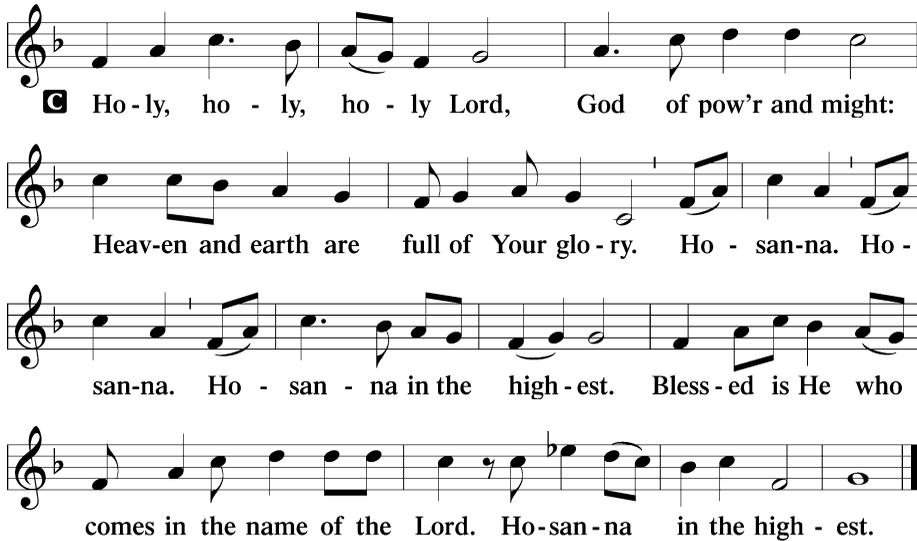
**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** 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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



**C** 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.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for by Your design, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Blessed are You, for You have given us faith to acknowledge Your overwhelming grace, which is beyond human understanding.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we ask for firm faith to receive Him in, with, and under this bread and wine for strength each day until we join all the faithful at the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

**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  $\text{†}$  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  $\text{✠}$  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

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- G** **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

- G** **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.
- G** **Amen.**

**☐** 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.

*Sit*

HYMN

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

**LSB 358 vs. 1-15 as needed**

1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good  
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,  
 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your  
 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by  
 news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great  
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of  
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your  
 God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,  
 joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:  
 low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.  
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.  
 bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.

- 5 “These are the signs that you shall mark:  
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.  
There you will find the infant laid  
By whom the heav’ns and earth were  
made.”
- 6 How glad we’ll be to find it so!  
Then with the shepherds let us go  
To see what God for us has done  
In sending us His own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your  
eyes,  
And see what in the manger lies.  
Who is this child, so young and fair?  
It is the Christ Child lying there.
- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,  
Through whom the sinful world is  
blest!  
You came to share my misery  
That You might share Your joy with  
me.
- 9 Ah, Lord, though You created all,  
How weak You are, so poor and small,  
That You should choose to lay Your  
head  
Where lowly cattle lately fed!
- 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair  
And set with gold and jewels rare,  
It would be far too poor and small  
A cradle for the Lord of all.
- 11 Instead of soft and silken stuff  
You have but hay and straw so rough  
On which as King, so rich and great,  
To be enthroned in royal state.
- 12 And so it pleases You to see  
This simple truth revealed to me:  
That worldly honor, wealth, and might  
Are weak and worthless in Your sight.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
A quiet chamber set apart  
For You to dwell within my heart.
- 14 My heart for very joy must leap;  
My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:
- 15 Glory to God in highest heav’n,  
Who unto us His Son has giv’n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt., Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valtin Schumann  
Text and tune: Public domain

## VOLUNTARY

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Setting: D. Schack

*Stand*

**NUNC DIMITTIS**

LSB 165



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -  
 pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -  
 veal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
 Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;  
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift,
- C** and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another;
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt., Text and tune: French, Text and tune: Public domain

*Sit*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

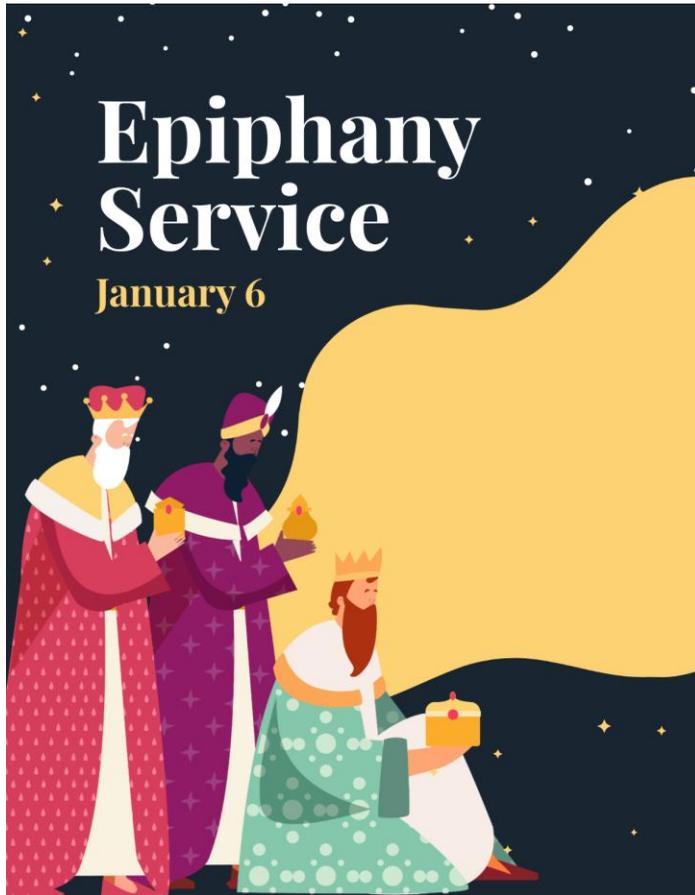
**P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE

"Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

arr. G. Martin



*Epiphany Services at Grace Lutheran Church  
will be at 12:00 and 7:00 PM  
On Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>  
Please join us*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

*Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.*

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*Konig © 1982 Concordia Publishing House; "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"- Setting: D. Schack; tune: Vom Himmel Hoch, from Geist liche Lieder, 1529 © 2006 Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc.; "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"- arr. G. Martin; tune: In Dulci Jubilo, 15th century Latin Melody © 1969 Lorenz Publishing Co.*