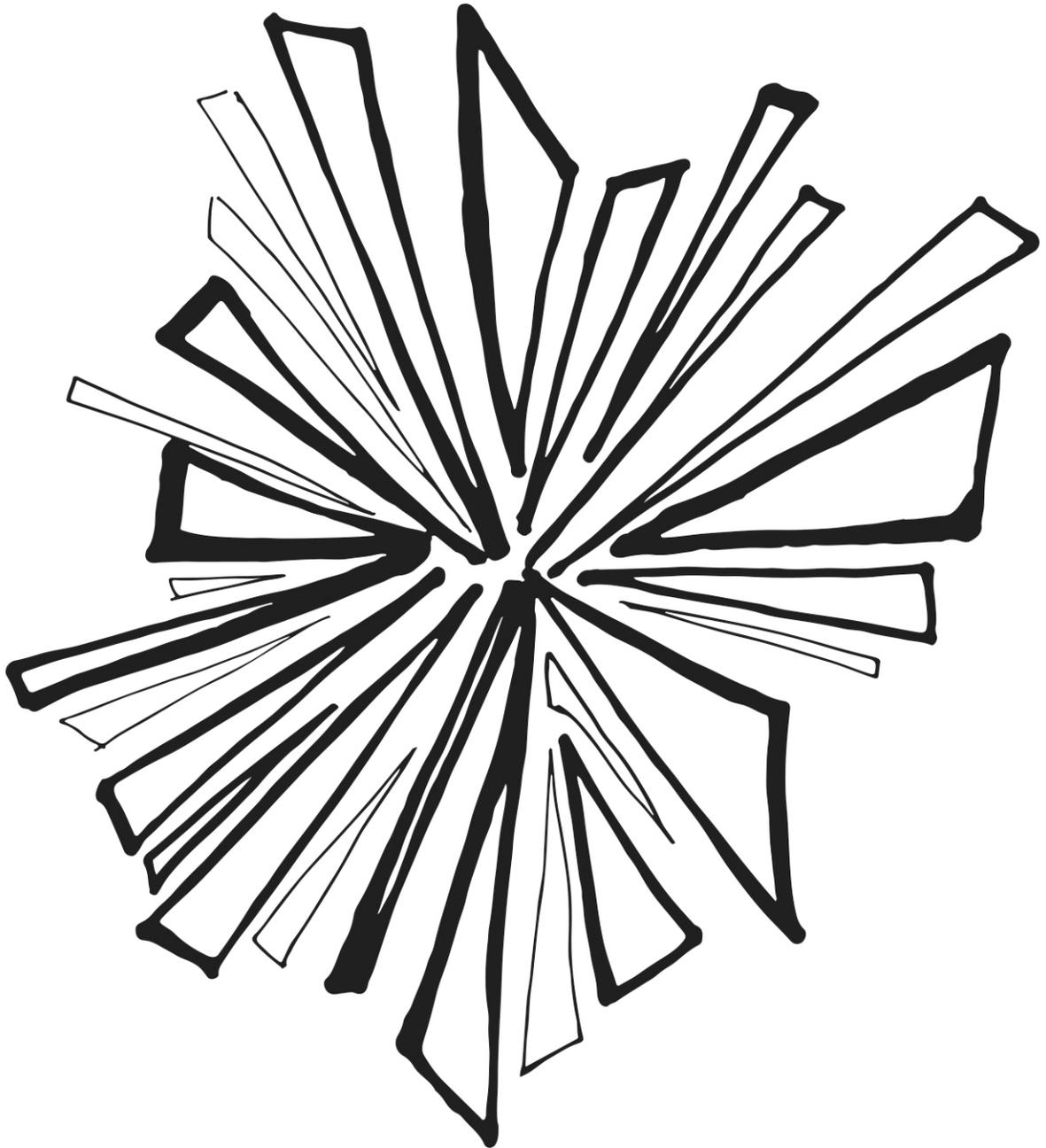




Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church

LIGHT OF CHRIST * ST. JOHN'S WINDISH * ST. PETER'S



Epiphany

Saturday, January 7th, 5 PM at St. Peter's
Sunday, January 8th, 10 AM at St. John's Windish

WELCOME TO BLESSED TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Thank you for joining us today! We are a group of three churches who joined together to form a brand-new community of Christ. Our congregations are led by **Pastor Suzanne M. Trump** (the pastor of St. John's Windish) and **Pastor Mike Button** (the interim pastor of Light of Christ and St. Peter's). Today's organist is **Deacon Linda Maule**. **The ministers are all the members of our parish.**

We follow an ancient pattern of worship that we call **liturgy**. It sounds fancy, but we're just imitating the first followers of Christ who (1) **gathered** to read the (2) **word of God**, (3) **share a meal**, and encourage one another before (4) **sending** each other out into the world to share God's love.

If you need help, here are some hints:

- text in **bold** is spoken by the congregation (including you!).
- A "Δ" at the beginning of a section is an invitation to stand if you wish and are able. A "∇" at the beginning of a section means the congregation is seated.
- Some hymns can be found by using the **red hymnal** in your pew and going to the **hymn number** listed for the day.
- **If you get lost, ask a neighbor for help!** We're glad you're here.



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

▽ **PRELUDE:** *Shepherd's Noel* – arr. Kerr

Δ **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

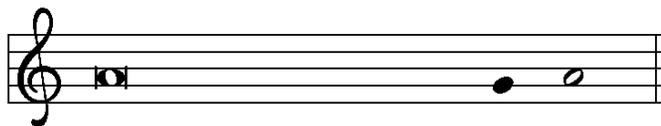
Δ **GATHERING HYMN:** *As with Gladness Men of Old*

ELW 302

Δ **GREETING**

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

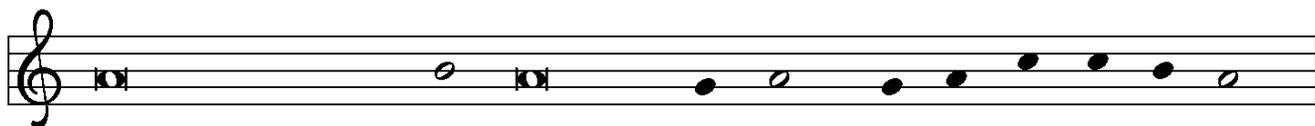
Δ KYRIE



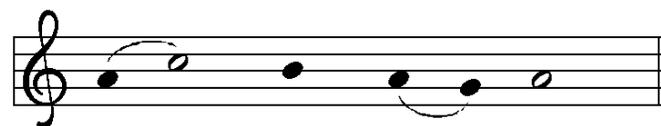
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



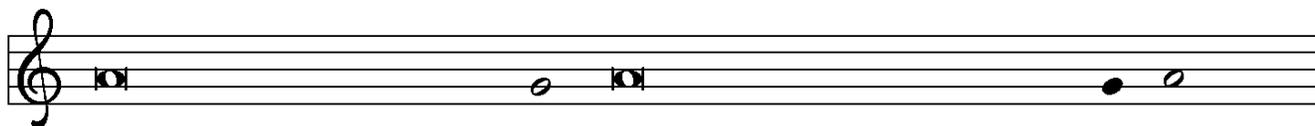
Lord, have mer - cy.



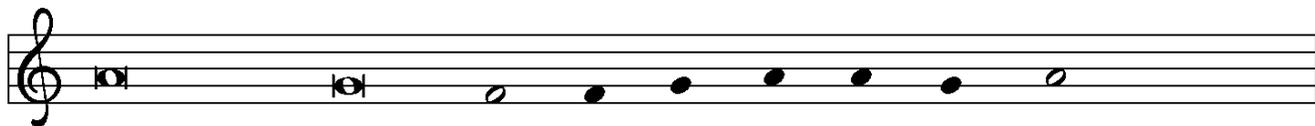
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



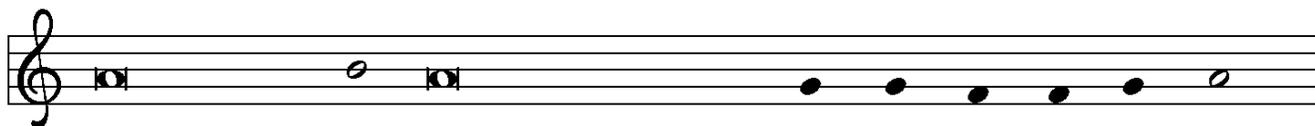
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Δ SONG OF PRAISE

Assisting minister

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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

Δ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: 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. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

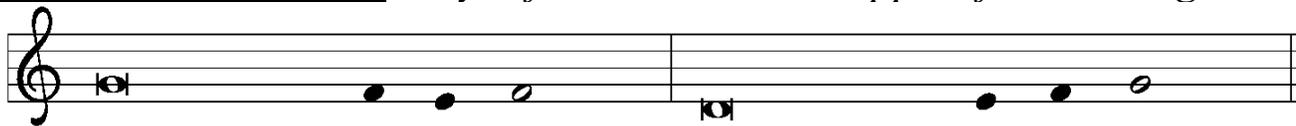
▽ **1ST READING:** *The Ingathering of the Dispersed* (Isaiah 60:1-6)
A reading from Isaiah:

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

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. 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. 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

▽ PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14: *Prayer for Guidance & Support for the King*



Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
**that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**

that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.

**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

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

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.**

May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.

**For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**

He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.

**From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight.**

▽ **2ND READING:** *Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles* (Ephesians 3:1-12)

A reading from Ephesians:

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 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: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

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. 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, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 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. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Δ **THE GOOD NEWS:** *The Visit of the Magi*

(Matthew 2:1-12)

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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." 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

▽ SERMON

△ HYMN OF THE DAY: *O Morning Star, How Fair & Bright!*

ELW 308

△ THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

▽ INSTALLATION OF LEADERS IN THE CONGREGATION

The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;

and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church. You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world. You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified. You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

The elected congregants respond by saying: I will, and I ask God to help me.

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized? **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ. **Amen.**

Δ PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family. Guide the whole church with your wisdom, revealing God. Nurture ecumenical and interreligious understanding around the globe, especially in places of ethnic and religious strife. We pray for Lutheran World Relief and other organizations that provide

humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and health care. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Restore your glory to the earth, creating God. Protect fragile ecosystems: rain forests, coral reefs, wetlands, prairies, and shorelines. Guide us to treasure the rich variety of animals and plants that share the world with us, especially those that are endangered. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Bring the nations into the way of justice and peace, righteous God. Strengthen those who work for human rights, equality, and the protection of the most vulnerable. We pray for all in public office, that they may serve with honesty and honor. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Help those who have no helper, delivering God. Rescue any who suffer from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Deliver adults and children who are caught in cycles of poverty. Transform social systems that enable racism and discrimination of any kind. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Accompany the ministries of this congregation in the coming year, abiding God. Inspire those who lead worship, teach, visit, pray, administer, and serve. Keep us mindful of the needs of others in our communities and neighborhoods (especially). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Reveal your promise by the witness of those who died trusting in you, redeeming God. Receive our thanks for their witness and faith and guide us by their example until we are gathered with them into your eternal presence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **Amen.**

Δ PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

▽ **SPECIAL MUSIC:** *Jesus, the Light of the World*

Congregation: Please join in singing the anthem with the choir (the choir will sing the 1st verse).



- 1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
- 2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;
- 3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
- 4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;



“Glo - ry to the new-born king,” Je-sus, the Light of the world.
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Refrain



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Δ **OFFERING SONG:** *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. 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 dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble



with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Δ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

Δ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

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, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Hosanna in the High - est.' It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff the second line, the third staff the third line, and the fourth staff the fourth line. The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

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."

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

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

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.



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



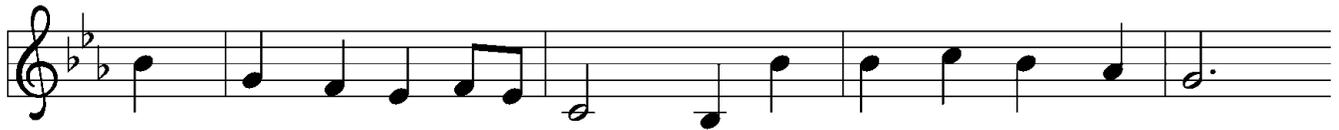
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

▽ **SONG DURING COMMUNION:** *The First Noel* ELW 300

▽ **SONG DURING COMMUNION:** *Walk as a Child of the Light* ELW 815

△ **TABLE BLESSING & PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
till rap-tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin - ing shore,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
where Christ, the bless - ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

Let us pray: God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

▽ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Δ BLESSING

God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

Δ SENDING SONG: *Brightest & Best of the Stars* ELW 303

Δ DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace! Proclaim the good news!
Thanks be to God!

▽ POSTLUDE: *Brightest & Best of the Stars* – arr. Held

This week's bulletins are in memory of Irene Boligitz from her son & family.

This week's flowers are in memory of Irene Boligitz & Judy Tomecsek

TODAY'S GOOD NEWS: What's in a Name?

The feast of Epiphany ("manifestation") concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. 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.

For and about what do you dream—not just your dreams in sleep, but your waking dreams and visions as well? When your heart beats in time with God's hopes and dreams for the world, what will it take for you to follow that vision? What risks will you take? What challenges will you be called to confront? How will you be changed when you encounter God in the flesh, God among us? By stars, visions, and faith itself, we are always being led by God toward hope and life, and we are being drawn to new pathways of forgiveness, compassion, and justice. We dream. And then we follow.

1st Reading: Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst.

2nd Reading: What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others.

Gospel: Just a quick chapter ago in Matthew's gospel, Joseph was told in a dream to stick by Mary and to name their child "Jesus," meaning "savior." Shortly after today's account of the magi, Joseph will be guided in a dream to take refuge in Egypt, and again will be directed to a safe and secure place to call home at Nazareth in Galilee. The magi also took to their travels via a vision. They observed a star and took it on faith that they should follow. The star led them to both promise and danger, and to a rather dubious audience with the sitting king. Despite the challenges, the magi continued, with courage and trust, to follow their vision to its end, to the place where Jesus was. It was in another dream that these travelers were guided to a better route home. This was both a detour out of harm's way, in a real sense, and also a symbolic way of walking the world differently after having encountered Christ.