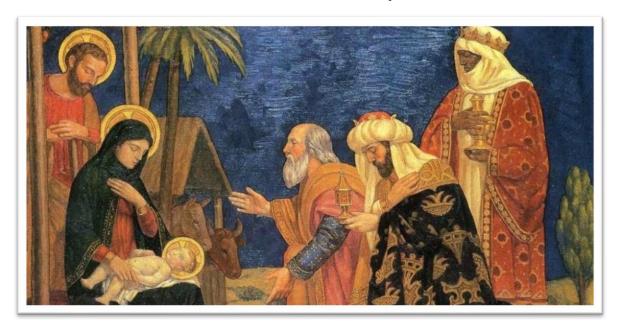
# +DIVINE SERVICE III+

## OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

+THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD + 05 JANUARY 2025+



# The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod 902 S. Maple Inglewood, CA 90301-3824 tgslcms.org

# The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

"A Church where God gives and we receive."

- The Rev. Edward Killian, Pastor (mobile) 424.293.6588
  - Ms. Moira Killian, Secretary (Office) 310.671-7644
    - Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
    - Mr. Jose Lopez, Congregational Chairman
      - Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

## Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

## +Worship Notes+

The entire service, including the rubrics of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know about our membership, pastor would love to speak with you!

## **Communion Policy**

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and welcome to The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!

To Those Intending To Commune This Morning:

We respectfully request that those visiting this morning would speak to Pastor Killian before coming to the altar for Holy Communion. While we desire that all who believe would join us in this feast of forgiveness, we are mindful of what God has spoken to us in His word regarding receiving this precious meal:

"Whoever therefore eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgement on himself." (I Corinthians 11:27-29)

In light of this scripture and others, we take admittance to the Lord's Supper most seriously. It is God's desire that you approach His table with a prepared heart and mind, and our desire that you join us. Please speak to Pastor Killian that we may maintain good order and a God pleasing approach to His most precious gift of mercy! Thank you.

## Confession and Absolution

#### **Hymn of Invocation** 394 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise 1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise. 2 Man - i - fest Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King at su-preme; mak-ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul; 3 Man - i - fest in 4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be. Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee; see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word— 5 Grant us grace to Man - i - fest - ed by the To sa - ges from a - far, star the 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 rov - 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; will then the trum - pet hear, All All will see the Judge ap-pear; 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. 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.

God in man made man - i - fest.

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

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

Thou by

An - thems be

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

all

And may praise Thee, ev - er blest,

#### Invocation

- In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- $\mathbf{C}$ Amen.

Exhortation LSB 167

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

**Confession of Sins** LSB 167

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- 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.

Absolution LSB 167

- 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.
- Amen.

Stand

Introit

## Service of the Word

I will cause your name to be remembered in all gener- ations;\*

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 up- | rightness;\*

you have loved righteousness and hated | wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your

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

com- | panions;\*

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 be- | ginning,\*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

I will cause your name to be remembered in all gener- | ations;\* therefore nations will praise you forever and | ever.

**Kyrie** 

LSB 168



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

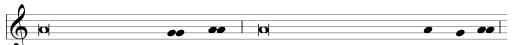


C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



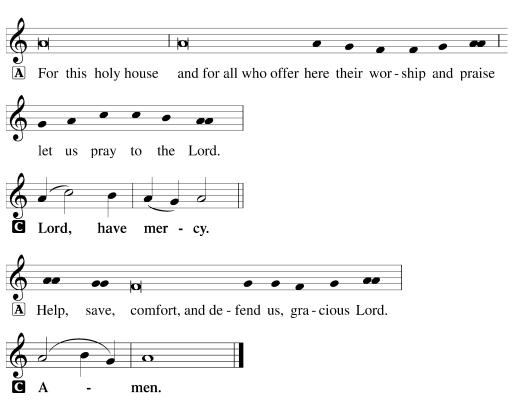


A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.









## Salutation and Collect of the Day





C And al - so with you.

## P Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

# Old Testament Reading The Future Glory of Israel

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, 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;

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you,

the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

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

Psalm 72:1–15

## **Give the King Your Justice**

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!

<sup>2</sup>May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!

<sup>3</sup>Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!

<sup>4</sup>May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!

<sup>5</sup>May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

<sup>6</sup>May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!

<sup>7</sup>In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

8May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!

<sup>9</sup>May desert tribes bow down before him and his enemies lick the dust!

<sup>10</sup>May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute;

may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

<sup>11</sup>May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

<sup>12</sup>For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper.

<sup>13</sup>He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

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

15Long 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!

**Ephesians** 3:1–12

<sup>1</sup>For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

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

Stand



Holy Gospel Matthew 2:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.



#### The Visit of the Wise Men

<sup>1</sup>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, <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"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."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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.



#### **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 + of the world to come. Amen.

Sit



#### 395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright Hymn of the Day 1 O You shine with God's Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! 2 Come, heav'n-ly Bride-groom, Light di - vine, And deep with - in when You look on 3 Lord, us in love, At once there falls in Your Son 4 Al might - y Fa - ther, You loved us when own truth and light, A - glow with grace and mer There light our hearts now shine; a flame un - dy ing! from God a - bove Α ray of pur - est plea sure. be - gun this foun - da not yet Was old earth's Of Ja - cob's race. King Da-vid's son, Our Lord and mas bod - y In Your one let us be As liv - ing branch -Spir - it, Your Word and flesh and blood Re - fresh our souls ran - somed Son live in Him Your has us in love To You have won Our hearts You lv! ter. to serve on of tree, Your life our lives sup - ply ing. es a our dear with heav'n-ly food. You are est trea sure! here and a - bove: This is Your great sal - va tion. and glo-rious, All Low - ly, ho ly! Great vic - to - rious,

Rich in bless-ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess ing! Yet with heav'n - ly And dis-tress us, joy You bless us. For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us. Keeps us Yours and fails Life for - ev - er, nev er!

Warm

Christ

ly

cy

ia!

Earth's deep sad - ness May per - plex us

O

To

draw near us!

us

giv - ing

and cheer us!

the liv - ing,

Now, though dai

Al - le - lu

mer

Let Your

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: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401

Tune: Public domain

**Sermon** Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

## **Prayer of the Church**

Proper response is "hear our prayer".

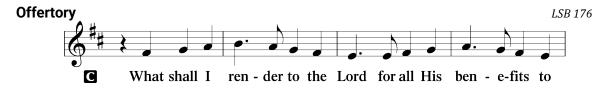
Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Holy God, eternal Light, the darkness of sin covers the earth and its peoples. Let the light of the Gospel lead us to Him who was born King of the Jews. Give us humble and grateful hearts that bow down and worship Him and willingly offer the most precious gifts we have to give. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

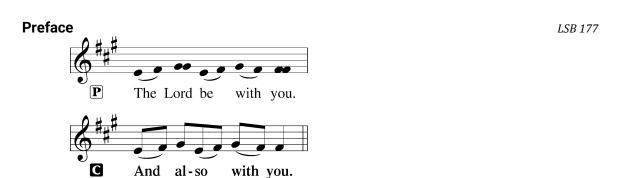
- P From distant lands and far off places, You gather a people to bear Your name and live in the light of Your Word. Bless the Church, that she may be united in doctrine, live in harmony and peace, and labor to bring the light of Christ to those still dwelling in darkness and death. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P You have established Your Church and drawn into her people from every race, tribe and nation. Bless those entrusted with the leadership of the Church. Give to all pastors and missionaries the boldness of Your Spirit, that they may proclaim the saving truth of Your Word without fear. Bless those who hear, that they may be brought to faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P Holy God, eternal Light, the psalmist begged that You would endow the king with Your justice. Grant the same gift to the leaders of our nation and every nation. Fill them with wisdom, compassion and care so that, unlike Herod, they would seek to uphold life and watch over the welfare of the governed. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P Give to all people the comfort of Your presence, healing according to Your will, relief in suffering, and an end to the terrors of mind and heart. We pray especially for Alice, Allison, Betty, Bev, Brittany, Diane, Esperanza, Johnathan, Lynette, Marion and her family, Ron, and Timothy and those we name in our hearts. Sustain the weary with Your Word, the wounded with hope and the dying with peace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P You have made us Your chosen people, members of Christ's Body, co-heirs with Him of all the riches of Your grace, including the privilege of this holy table. Bless our communion in Christ and bring peace and unity, that we may see the day when no divisions prevent us from kneeling in Your presence and receiving this blessed Sacrament for the life and salvation of all. Lord, in Your mercy,
- May Your light shine on us and bring forth the fruits of repentance in our daily lives. Give us confidence in Your Word, that we would embrace Your holy will without fear. Hear and answer us, we pray, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

**Offering** *Collected after service in the back of the church.* 





## Service of the Sacrament

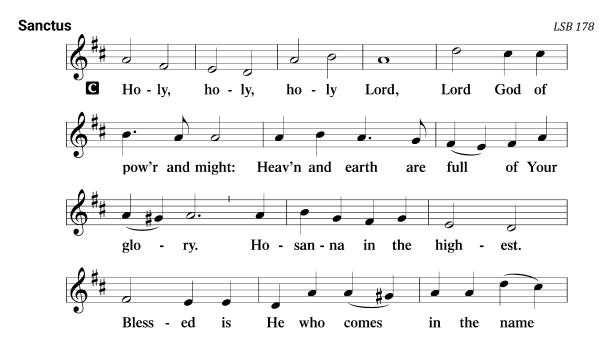




## **Proper Preface (Abbreviated)**

LSB 177

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:





#### 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.
- 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.



Sit

## **Distribution**



## 621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



- 1 Let all mor tal flesh keep si lence And with fear and
- 2 King of of Mar - y, of old kings yet born As on 3 Rank on heav - en rank the host of Spreads its van - guard
- 4 At His feet the six winged ser aph, Cher u bim with



trem - bling stand; earth He stood, on the way sleep - less eye, Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



For with bless-ing in His hand In the bod - y and the blood, From the realms of end - less day, As with cease-less voice they cry:

Christ our God to earth de-He will give to all the Comes the pow'rs of hell to "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le-



scend - ing faith - ful van - quish lu - ia! Comes our hom-age to de - mand. His own self for heav'n - ly food. As the dark-ness clears a - way. Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-85, alt.

## **Distribution Hymn**

## 590 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy



- 1 Bap-tized in to Your name most ho ly, O Fa ther, Son, and 2 My lov ing Fa ther, here You take me To be hence-forth Your
- 3 My faith ful God, You fail me nev er; Your prom ise sure ly
- 4 All that I am and love most dear-ly— Re ceive it all, O

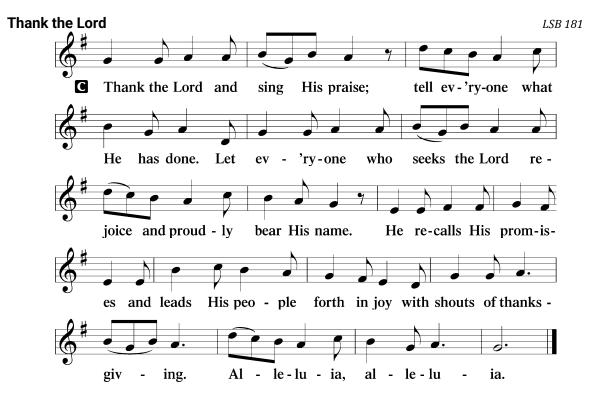


Ho - ly Ghost, child and heir. will en - dure. Lord, from me.

a place, though weak and low - ly, I claim You make me My faith - ful Sav - ior, here not for - ev - er cast way O me a con - fess faith sin - cere - lv: Let me my



#### Stand



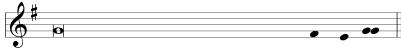
#### **Post-Communion Collect**

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, 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; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction LSB 183



**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.







- 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 at ed 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-clous 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, 1837–98, alt. Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872 Text and tune: Public domain

## O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Charles W. Ore

#### Acknowledgments

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## 1 Note From The Organist:

Today we have two pieces from Charles Ore, who is Professor Emeritus at Concordia University, Seward. Charles Ore often features explorations in rhythm, and these pieces showease that characteristic. In the prelude, the right hand plays a cheerful dance motive, while the melody is played by the left hand, first on the Open Diapason, then on the Cromorne. The pedal accompanies the right hand, coupled to the swell manual without pedal stops to give a lighter feeling to the music.

For the postlude, Ore creates an English-Style trumpet tune. Here the melody is played on the Great Trumpet, a digital voice that mimics the trumpets of 19th century English organs. Here again, Ore explores rhythmic variations in the chorale melody.

## January Birthdays!

Alice Huhn 16<sup>th</sup> Richard Huhn 26<sup>th</sup> Kieran Maher 29<sup>th</sup> Jill Killian 30<sup>th</sup>

# + THIS WEEK'S NOTES +

## **Announcements**

+ Last Sunday's Attendance: 37

+ Altar Guild Set Up: January 5<sup>th</sup> Maurine January 12<sup>th</sup> Gayle Cleanup for January: Maurine and Nannette

+ Ushers for January: Leon Tarr and Jose Lopez

- + Today is Mite Sunday! The mite offerings for the month of January will be designated to helping care for students with special needs, both children and teenagers. Drop your mites and pick up a treat!
- + Thank you to everyone who dedicated a poinsettia to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas! You are welcome to take yours home today!

# Lectionary Summary for the Epiphany of Our Lord The Lord God Is Manifested in the Incarnate Son

The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi from the East. In that respect, it is a "Thirteenth Day" of Christmas; yet, it also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season. While Christmas has focused on the incarnation of our Lord — that is, on God becoming flesh — the season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. The Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true light (Is. 60:1–2). He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel, which He causes to be preached within His Church on earth — not only to the Jews but also to Gentiles (Eph. 3:8–10). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ Child with His mother in the house (Matt. 2:5–11), so does He call disciples from all nations by the preaching of His Word to find and worship Him within His Church (Is. 60:3–6). With gold, they confess His royalty; with incense, His deity; and with myrrh, His priestly sacrifice (Matt. 2:11).

## **Stewardship Bulletin Blurb**

Matthew 2:11 – "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." Worship and the giving of gifts go together. This makes sense because God is the great Giver of every good gift, and we worship Him and desire to grow into His image. We receive His gifts in worship and then, being conformed to the likeness of His image, we imitate His generosity.