

ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

7:45AM

10:45AM

JANUARY 2,
2022



Making the
Love of
Christ
Known

Jeffery Gramza
Senior Pastor

Doug Meyer
Pastor Emeritus

*Andrea
McDonough*

Prelude

Welcome /Announcements

Call to Worship

The Magi had a dream.

They dreamed of a Messiah. They dreamed of just rulers.

They dreamed of a new day for all people.

The Magi had a dream, and this dream led them to action.

They journeyed to unknown places.

They followed a star.

They walked for days to get to Jesus.

So may we be like the Magi,

May our dreams inspire action.

May we worship the one true God. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

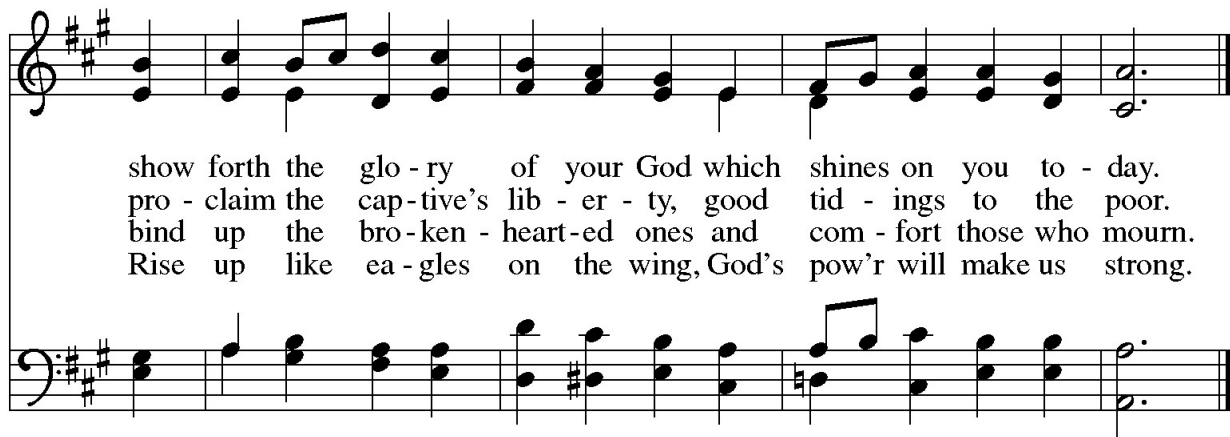
ELW 314



Arise, Your Light Has Come!



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893



Kyrie for Epiphany

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

By the holy mystery of the Word made flesh, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

By the lowly submission of the Maker of the world to Mary and
Joseph of Nazareth, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

By the humble nativity of the King of light in the manger of
Bethlehem, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

By the splendid manifestation of the King of glory to the shep-
herds and the magi, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace that Christ's birth brings, for our salvation, and for
the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort and defend us, O Incarnate Word.

Amen.

The Hymn of Praise

ELW 289

Angels We Have Heard on High



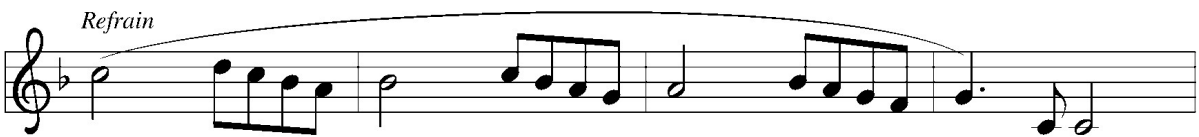
Angels We Have Heard on High



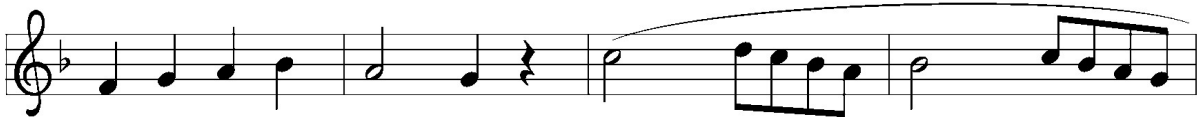
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
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: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol

Prayer of the Day

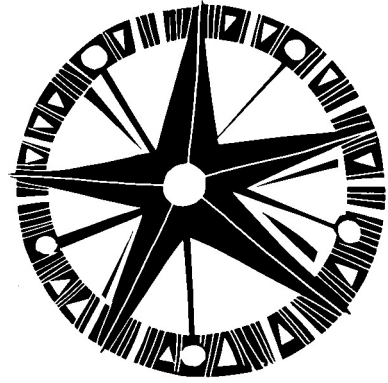
O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Children's Sermon



First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her, because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.



¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift 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.

⁵Then 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.

⁶A 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 reading is concluded:

 Word of God, word of life.

⁶ Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

- ¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
²that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;
³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.
⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
⁶Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.
⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall
be no more.
¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.
¹¹May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.
¹²For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.
¹³He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.
¹⁴From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.



¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In 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: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of 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. ⁸Although 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, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so 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. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 2nd Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They 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.’”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.” ⁹When 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.

¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

¹¹On 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. ¹²And 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

We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.
Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891



Call to Confession and Forgiveness

In the light of Christ, we see the shadows of our world and of our hearts. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

God, I love to worship you when the stars are bright above me. I love to worship you when the sky is clear, and the breeze just right. I love to worship you when the journey to Bethlehem is an easy one.

Unfortunately, as you know, this journey of life, love, and faith is rarely easy.

Now and again, the stars disappear.

My feet get blisters, and the journey is far too long and lonely.

On these days, forgive me for giving up quickly.

Forgive me for allowing the dream to die and for taking the shortcut home.

I want to be as brave as the Magi. I want to persevere.

Guide my feet. Show me the stars. Show me a new way home.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence. Each portion of the prayers concludes with these words:

Hear us, O God

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.



Offering

Today, we remember the coming of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. They brought with them their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This morning we gather our financial blessings as our gift to the Christ Child. We, like the Wise men bring our gifts to honor our Lord and Savior. Thank you for your generous gifts. You are enabling St. John Lutheran Church to tell the story.



What Child Is This



3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.



Offering Prayer

Glorious God, you led men of wisdom to seek Jesus, your Holy Child, and gift him with precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We, too, offer our gifts in gratitude, reverence, and thanksgiving for the birth of your child, whom you called to lead the world into fullness of life. Receive and bless this offering as a joyful sign of the boundless love and abundant life we are called to share in Christ.

Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The light has risen, the mystery is made known:

your beloved child, Jesus, is revealed to the whole world
as Savior and Redeemer,
and as the King who reigns in justice and peace.

You made him known first to the magi from the east,
who came to pay him homage,
though they knew of him only what the silent stars could tell.

And now, you draw us again to the feet of Jesus
— the crucified and risen Christ —
to offer our gifts of praise to the light of the world.

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.

And so we offer ourselves in union with Christ's offering of salvation:
Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

Lord's Prayer



Distribution of Communion

Approach from the center aisle. Glasses with white grape juice are available for those who cannot receive wine. Deposit the glass in a basket and return by way of the side aisle.



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.

Post Communion Prayer

Glorious God, you led three men of wisdom to seek Jesus, your Holy Child, born of Mary. Overjoyed in the presence of his radiant light, the men knelt down at the infant's crib and offered him precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We, too, offer our gifts in gratitude, reverence, and thanksgiving for the birth of your child, whom you called to lead the world into fullness of life. Receive and bless this offering as a joyful sign of the boundless love and abundant life we are called to share in Christ.

Amen.



Benediction

Light and peace are yours through Jesus Christ.

May your light so shine before others, that they see your works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

Almighty God, Father + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Shine, Jesus, Shine



Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;



blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.



Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;



send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!



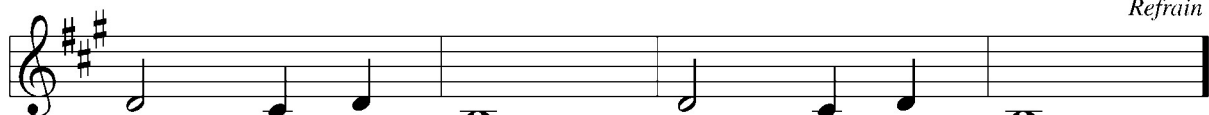
1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -



dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,



set us free by the truth you now bring us.
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.



Shine on me, shine on me:
Shine on me, shine on me:

Refrain