

## **Introduction**

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. 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.

## **Welcome/Announcements**

**Prelude**      "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!" - arr. John Leavitt

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God-with-us,  
**we confess that we have turned away  
those seeking shelter,  
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.  
We have made power and wealth our idols,  
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.  
We have overlooked the shepherds,  
expecting good news in prettier packaging.  
Too often, we have valued violence  
instead of your peace.  
Turn us from our ways to your ways.  
Grant us the grace to begin again.  
Free us from all that keeps us bound,  
and forgive our sin,  
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.  
Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice!  
You are God’s chosen ones,  
holy and beloved,  
† forgiven in Christ,  
and freed to respond in joy.

**Amen.**

**Hymn** # 275 ELW

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

### 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.**

### Kyrie

**A** In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the

**G** Lord, have mer - cy.

peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For the peace of the whole world, the well - be - ing of the

**G** Lord, have mer - cy.

Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their

**G** Lord, have mer - cy.

wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**G** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

**G** A - men

### Hymn of Praise I-High Voices II – Low Voices

**G** This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

free to be peo - ple of God. **II** Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and  
 strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
**III** This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
**I** Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of  
 all cre - a - tion: **II** Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and  
 might to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men  
**III** This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
**I** For the Lamb, the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.  
**III** This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -  
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. A - men

**Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**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.*

- <sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> 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.  
<sup>5</sup> 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.  
<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 proclaim the praise of the Lord.

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

**Psalm**

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup> **that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**  
<sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**  
<sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.  
<sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**  
<sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
<sup>10</sup> **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**  
<sup>11</sup> May all kings bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.

<sup>12</sup> **For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**  
<sup>13</sup> He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.  
<sup>14</sup> **From 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.*

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

<sup>7</sup> 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.  
<sup>8</sup> 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,  
<sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see 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 wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.  
<sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,  
<sup>12</sup> in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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

### Gospel Acclamation



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

### Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> '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.'

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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." <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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 # 300 ELW

"The First Noel"



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing  
3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .  
4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .  
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .  
cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the  
wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it  
rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

*Refrain*

night that was so deep.  
 tin-ued both day and night.  
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
 place where Je - sus lay.  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional  
 Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

**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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.**

**Prayers**

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*A brief silence.*

Your glory fills the earth. Bless the work of all who engage in dialogue with people of other traditions and faiths. Bridge our differences with a shared mission of revealing your boundless love to the world.

God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Restore the glory of creation. Send rain to water-parched lands. Revive ecosystems and habitats threatened by a changing climate, and protect the peoples and creatures who live in them.

God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Give the rulers your justice and reveal your righteousness to people who govern. Frustrate the plans of tyrants and oppressors. Encourage the work of community organizers and activists who speak out against injustice.

God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Help all who have no helper. Draw near to persons who have no one to advocate for them and all who feel forgotten. Deliver healing to all who call to you. Precious are they in your sight. God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. In times of change, keep us ever mindful of your steadfast love. Sustain all people who are ill or suffering, especially people experiencing depression, anxiety, addiction, or any mental illness. We pray for all members of Faith Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry, especially Mary Muckler, Marc Dovenmuehle, Bob Baer, Pauly Zody, Sarah Driver, Jordan Seubert, Kim, John, Sue, and Liam.

God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Liberate this congregation from a yearning for the past that forgets the future. Fuel in us a passion for discovery. Give us the boldness to dream and to imagine our ministries in new and different ways. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for your holy ones who now rest in your radiant glory. Make us, with them, sharers in the boundless riches of Christ, our hope and promise. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

God, we thank you for another year. May this be a year of hoping, believing, and rejoicing. A year of helping others... in the mighty name of Jesus. A year of learning your Word, your will, and your ways. A year of growing... like a tree planted by streams of water. A year of praying, casting our cares upon you. A year of waiting; knowing that your timing... is always best. A year of trusting in your promises and in your faithfulness... And may this be a year of overcoming, because even in the darkness, the light shines. Whatever we face this year, we know we'll never have to face it alone because you're always with us and for us, in Jesus' name. So, we commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### Exchange of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

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### Please Greet people with the sign of peace.

### Offering

Wishing to make a donation? This QR code will take you to [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) where we can receive gifts. Please note: a [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) account is required to give in this way but is quick to create! Are you aware this app has an option to allow you to cover transactions fees?



### Special Music

"We Three Kings"- Piano/ Organ Duet, Deb Albin, Piano

### Offertory

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, 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, 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.

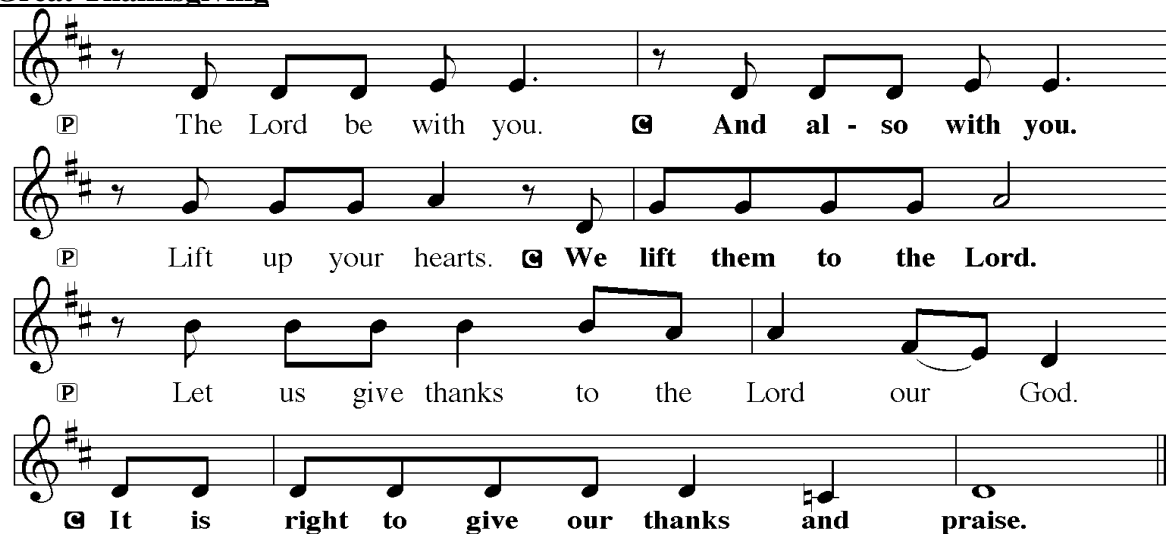
The image shows a musical score for a offertory. It consists of ten staves of music in a single system, all in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is a simple, melodic line with some rests and ties.

### Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Merciful God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### Great Thanksgiving



**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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 our thanks and praise.

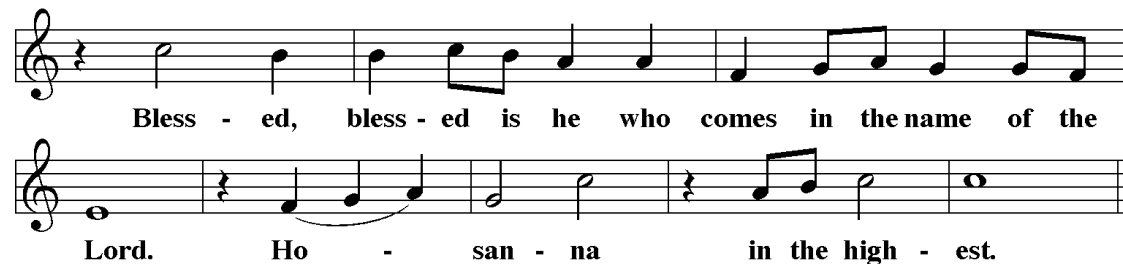
It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

**Amen.**



**We welcome all to join in the sacrament of Holy Communion as the Holy Spirit guides and directs.**

*People in worship will be invited to come forward to the altar by pew rows.*

*The pastor will distribute a wafer or gluten-free wafer, saying, "The body of Christ, given for you."*

*Each person will then move toward a volunteer holding a tray of disposable, plastic cups: the inner ring will be filled with grape juice, the other cups will be filled with wine.*

*As each person selects their cup, they will hear: "The blood of Christ, given for you." Empty cups will be placed in a tray held by another volunteer after each person has communed.*

*Pre-sealed cups are on the table in the hallway for anyone who chooses to communion in this form.*

**Communion**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

**Hymn # 303 ELW**

“Brightest and Best are the Stars of the Morning”

1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
 2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;  
 3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?  
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,  
 5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,

dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.  
 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
 Shall we bring in - cense and of - f' rings di - vine,  
 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;  
 dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.

Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
 gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
 rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,  
 Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,

guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.  
mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.  
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?  
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877–1970, alt.  
Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

**Post-Communion Blessing**

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

**Post Communion Canticle**

Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who  
seek the Lord re - jice, re - jice and  
bear Christ's ho - ly name. Send us, O God, with your  
prom - is - es, and lead us forth in joy

with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Prayer**

Let us pray. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Blessing**

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

Amen.

**Temple Talk**

Mary Alice & Dan Mawer (Pipe Organ)

**Hymn # 671 ELW**

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

*Refrain*  
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!

To stanzas | End

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.

*Refrain*

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

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950  
 Music: Graham Kendrick  
 Text and music © 1987 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE  
 99 10 10 33 and refrain

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"- arr. Gordon Young

## Announcements

**Welcome!** We welcome all visitors and guests. The sacrament of Holy Communion is an essential aspect of our worship, so we invite all who are present to share in this sacrament as the Holy Spirit guides and directs you.

**Can you help?** It's time to un-decorate our sanctuary and church building. If you can, please stay immediately after worship this morning to help take down our trees, banners, and store them in the attic until next year.

**Commitment Sunday/Annual Congregational Meeting** January 26<sup>th</sup> will be our time to celebrate the ministries and missions we have shared in the year now past and build a plan for the year ahead. Today, and in the weeks to come, we will have a Temple Talk guiding our planning. Our meeting will follow worship on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Baptism of Our Lord** In our worship next Sunday we will celebrate the Baptism of our Lord and participate in four (yes, 4!) baptisms, two adults and two children. Plan now to be a part of this spectacular event!

**Change for Change** On the first Sunday of each month we receive a noisy offering to fight food scarcity. Feel free to drop your change, checks, and cash in the bucket by the baptismal font. 100% of your gifts support ELCA World Hunger programs, both domestically and around the globe.

**Faith's Table** On the second Wednesday of each month, we invite our neighbors and friends to join us in a hot meal and offer pantry goods. This ministry is called Faith's Table. We set up at 4:30 pm. We start serving food (both at table and via drive through) at 5:30 pm. Clean up follows, so everyone leaves around 6:30 pm. We love volunteers! Please join us! If you can prepare food to share, please let us know by using the sign-up sheet on the name tag table.

**January Newsletter** You may have already received your January newsletter by email. Let us know if you need one. Contact Kim at 513.523.3808.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study** Join us at 8:30 am in the Korte Lounge as we begin anew!

**Zoom Bible Study** Please join our next Zoom Bible Study. Our meetings for this study are on Wednesdays, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. We are studying the Minor Prophets. Join us!

**Humanitarian Support** While the wars between Israel and Hamas and Ukraine and Russia continue, you can offer financial support through our Lutheran agencies – which give 100% of all donations directly to the cause. Both [Lutheran World Relief](#) and [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) will contribute 100% of designated funds to relief work.

**Church Office** This week, our church office is staffed Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 12 noon. Email our office admin at [FaithLutheranOxford@gmail.com](mailto:FaithLutheranOxford@gmail.com) or phone 513.523.3808 for any concerns. Please let our admin Kim know whenever you come into the building.