

# LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

2725 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Vero Beach, Florida, 32966

Tel: 772-778-1500 [www.livinglordlutheran.com](http://www.livinglordlutheran.com)

[livinglord@comcast.net](mailto:livinglord@comcast.net)



## Our Mission Statement

*“Living Lord Lutheran Church is a family of believers, renewed through the Holy Spirit, to be the real presence of the Risen Christ in this place, our community, and the world.”*

**PASTOR**

The Rev. Gregory Shreaves, ELCA

**MINISTER OF MUSIC**

Adria Ryan

**MUSICIAN EMERITUS**

Pamela Wilcox

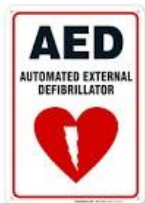
## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION - 10:00 AM

Living Lord Lutheran Church is a church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ([www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).) With over 9,100 congregations and 4 million members throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands, we are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. We are church. We are Lutheran. We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world.

We believe and teach that Christ’s body and blood are truly present and are really given in, with, and under the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist. Communion at present is given in one kind – that is, the consecrated Body of Christ. It is given, along with the words spoken by the Presiding Minister, “The Body of Christ, the Blood of Christ.” Children and adults are invited to come forward to receive a blessing if you do not wish to receive the Sacrament.

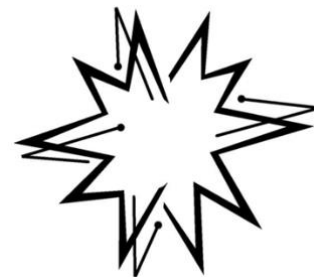
Our parish family extends a warm welcome to all newcomers, as well as those returning home to Living Lord today. We do not consider newcomers to be visitors. This is the church of Jesus Christ, and there is a place for you here. We invite you to join the conversation, participate fully in the spiritual life of this community, and proclaim with us the Good News to all the world. Again, welcome to Living Lord Lutheran Church. If you are visiting today, please inform an usher or the Pastor. Restrooms are located in the hallway off the lobby of the church.

**Pastor Greg’s contact information**    email: [gbsbuckeye1@gmail.com](mailto:gbsbuckeye1@gmail.com)    Mobile phone: 610.295.9774



**In the event of emergency, an AED device is located in the lobby/narthex of the church. You will find it on the wall leading to the restrooms.**

**Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Service of Holy Communion**  
**Day of Epiphany (January 6<sup>th</sup>)**



**WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP HERE TODAY**

*As the music begins please silence your phones and end your conversation with your neighbor and begin your conversation with the LORD.*

+ *Indicates that the congregation is invited to stand as you are able.*

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY** *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.*

**INSCRIPTION**

*Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing is often inscribed with white chalk above the main door of a home or church; for example, 20 + CMB + 21. The numbers change with each new year. The letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedicat*, which means, “Christ, bless this house,” or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).*

***Inscription***

*This inscription may be made with chalk above the entrance:*

20 † C M B † 25

*Write the appropriate character (left) while speaking the text (right).*

The magi of old, known as

C Caspar,

M Melchior, and

B Balthasar

followed the star of God’s Son who came to dwell among us

20 two thousand

25 and twenty-five years ago.

† Christ, bless this (*church*),

† and remain with us throughout the new year.



## *“East Idaho News – Secret Santa”*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Opening Prayer for Worship

Eternal God,  
You have called us to be members of one body.  
Join us with those  
who in all time and places have praised your name,  
that, with one heart and mind,  
we may know the unity of your church,  
and bring honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **All: Amen.**

*The assembly is invited to stand as you are able....*

### GATHERING

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

*The assembly is invited to stand as. You are able...*

### + BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS



### EPIPHANY DIALOGUE

*The dialogue may be spoken or sung, and led by a presiding or assisting minister, cantor, or choir.*

P: We give thanks on this holy day, adorned with epiphanies:  
for the star that led the magi to the manger,

**C: that the nations may see the light of Christ;**  
for the water turned to wine at Cana’s wedding,  
**that the people taste the goodness of the Lord;**  
for the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Jordan,  
**that the Christ would save us all.**

This is the day that the Lord has made,  
**we will rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things. **All: Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection before continuing...*

P: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.  
**All: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.**  
P: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.  
**All: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.**  
P: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

P: People of God,  
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life,<sup>[a]</sup> and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. **C: Amen.**

+ **ENTRANCE HYMN** *“Away in a Manger”*



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.  
Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

## + APOSTOLIC GREETING

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

L: God who sent the Light into our world,  
God who shone in the Bethlehem manger,  
God who spreads the Spirit's rays, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## Mass No.1

Avon Gillespie

## + KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

5 Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy on us, Lord.

## +PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. *(the assembly prays together)*

C: **Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*The assembly is invited to be seated...*

## WORD

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



## 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.

L: Word of God, word of life. All: **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14**

*All kings shall bow down before him. (Ps. 72:11)*

- <sup>1</sup> Give the king your jus- | tice, 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 a- | mong 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 wa- | ter 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 low-<sup>l</sup>ly and poor,  
and preserves the lives<sup>l</sup> of the needy.

<sup>14</sup> **From oppression and violence he re-<sup>l</sup>deems their lives,  
and precious is their blood<sup>l</sup> 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.

L: Word of God, word of life.      **All: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly is invited to stand as you are able....*

**+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** “*Angels We Have Heard on High*”



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



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*



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

**+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.*

**P:** The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter.

**C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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.

*After the reading...*

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is invited to be seated...*

**MESSAGE** The Rev. Gregory Shreaves

*Silence for reflection . . . The assembly is invited into quiet reflection after the message, and before the Hymn of the Day.*

*The assembly is invited to stand as you are able...*

+ **HYMN OF THE DAY** "We Three Kings"

Verses



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; Bear - ing gifts we  
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold I bring to  
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: In - cense owns a  
4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a life of  
5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and



1. tra - verse a - far Field and foun - tain, Moor and moun - tain,  
2. crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er, Ceas - ing nev - er  
3. De - i - ty nigh; Prayer and prais - ing Glad - ly rais - ing,  
4. gath - er - ing gloom; Sor - rowing, sigh - ing, Bleed - ing, dy - ing,  
5. Sac - ri - fice; "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!"

1. Fol - low - ing yon - der star. O star of won - der,  
 2. O - ver us all to reign.  
 3. Wor - ship him, God on high.  
 4. Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 5. Sounds through the earth and skies.

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: 88 44 6 with refrain; based on Matthew 2:1-11.  
 Text and music: *Carols, Hymns and Songs*, 1863; John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

## + 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.**

### **+ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The service continues with the prayers of intercession.*

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

*A brief silence.*

*The prayers are concluded with these or similar words...*

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

### **+THE PEACE**

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

*The peace is shared by remaining in place and bowing, waving, extending a hand to those around you.*

*The service continues with the Offering.*

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*



### **THE OFFERING OF THE GIFTS**

*The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared. All are invited to place their offering in the offering plates in the lobby/narthex of the church either prior to entering the worship space, or on the way out of the church. All are invited into quiet reflection as the Offertory is played.*

Our work – God’s work here at Living Lord, is supported entirely by the financial generosity of this community. As an additional option to your giving today, prayerfully consider using the QR code below for a secure payment gateway on our church website. There you may designate where you’d like.



**OFFERING HYMN**      *“What Child is This”*



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y’s lap is sleep - ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 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.

*The assembly is invited to stand as you are able...*

### + OFFERING PRAYER

A: Eternal God,  
You make the desert bloom  
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.  
Receive thee simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,  
and make us messengers of your mercy and love  
for all in need of your healing and justice.  
We ask this through Christ our Savior.      **C: Amen.**

### + THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The presiding minister offers the Words of Institution over the bread and wine...*

P: The Lord be with you.  
**C: And also with you.**  
P: Lift up your hearts.  
  
**C: We lift them to the Lord.**  
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### PREFACE

P: 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.  
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:

# +SANCTUS

## "Sing Praise and Thanksgiving"



D Em A Bm Em G A  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God of pow'r and might,

5 G F# Bm A D E A  
Hea - ven and earth, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -

9 D A/c# Bm F#m/a Em G A D G F#  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he,

14 Bm A D E A A7 D A/c#  
bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Ho - san - na, ho -

18 Bm F#m/a Em G A D D/c  
san - na, ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na, ho -

22 B B/a Em G A D  
san - na, ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na, ho -

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The Presiding Minister continues...*

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
Your mercy is everlasting  
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

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.

With hearts full of memories and hopes,  
we break this bread and share this cup,  
remembering the death and resurrection of Christ,  
and his promise to be with us always  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

these your gifts,  
which we are about to receive from your bounty.  
Bless our table and the feast we share.  
Bless us with gladness of heart.  
Come, Holy Spirit.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

At this table make us your body.  
Form us to be people of justice and peace.  
Fill us with gratitude and generosity  
that we may bear the fruit of love in word and deed.  
Come, Holy Spirit.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Praise to you, Author of creation.  
Praise to you, O Beloved One.  
Praise to you, O Giver of all good things.  
Praise to you, blessed and holy Trinity,  
one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

P: And now we pray boldly as our LORD Christ taught 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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The light of Christ came into our world and shines in the darkness.  
Come now to feast at Christ's table.

## COMMUNION SONG

*Heritage Mass*  
Owen Alstott

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the  
world, have mer-cy on us. world, grant us peace.

Music © 1978, OCP. All rights reserved.

*The assembly is invited to be seated for the distribution of the Sacrament.*

*The Sacrament is distributed. Worshipers will come forward to receive a host from the Presiding Minister, and receive the wine from the Assisting Minister.*

*As the Presiding Minister offers these words, "The body of Christ, given for you", and the Assisting Minister offers these words, "The blood of Christ, shed for you" each is invited to respond with "Amen."*



During the distribution of the Sacrament, the assembly is invited to sing below:

## COMMUNION HYMN

## “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.

*After the distribution of the Sacrament is completed, all are invited to stand as you are able...*

+ P: The body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: Amen.

### + POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: O Lord, you look upon us in love and refresh our souls through the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out, reflecting the light of your grace, to tell the story of Jesus Christ, our bright morning star. C: Amen.

### SENDING

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



### +BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

P: Beloved children of God, what came into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The light of Christ shine on you with grace and mercy and fill you with joy and peace. (*John 1:1, 3-5*) C: Amen.

*The assembly is invited to be seated for Ministry Announcements.*

### MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly is invited to stand as you are able...*

**+ SENDING HYMN**

***“Joy to the World”***



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

**+DISMISSAL**

**A:** Go in peace. The Light has come into the world!

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL MESSAGE

January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

#### *Overwhelmed with Joy*

*Epiphany* means “a manifestation of a divine or supernatural being.” On Epiphany we give thanks to God that Jesus, king of the Jews, was born to become Savior of all. Salvation sounds like good news, doesn’t it? However, in today’s gospel reading we learn that Jesus’ nativity caused fear in King Herod and all of Jerusalem. Why?

People oppose change for many reasons. They fear the loss of personal power or resources. They are reluctant to shift the way things have always been done. They are concerned about financial, personal, or societal costs. Any of these reactions might have been at work in the royal court.

It says something about the wise men, that they left everything when Jesus’ star rose in the East and were “overwhelmed with joy” (Matthew 2:10) upon finding Jesus and his mother. This is another possible response to change.

Although the wise travelers did not know everything about Jesus, they were open to being led by God, excited by new possibilities, and willing to pour out the treasures of their time, talent, and money for the opportunity to kneel at Jesus’ feet.

Today we are invited into an Epiphany experience! The Holy Spirit is out ahead of us, blowing through the neighborhood, revealing Jesus in words and deeds. How can we follow God into the world? Where might we catch sight of Jesus and partner with him in the work God is already doing? How can we worship outside the church building? And how can our enthusiasm, our overwhelming joy, ease the fear of others who are more uncertain about change?

Jesus’ incarnation was the greatest change to ever come into the world. In this season of Epiphany, how might you embrace the change necessary to bring the gospel to all of your neighbors for the sake of Christ?

*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2007 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #20703. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

**THANKS!** *Many thanks to all who were able to contribute to the church’s employee Christmas fund this past year, and who made individual contributions. On behalf of Adria Ryan, Kristen Aurand, and me, PG, thanks! We love serving you and this congregation.*