

The Epiphany Of our Lord January 5, 2025



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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.**

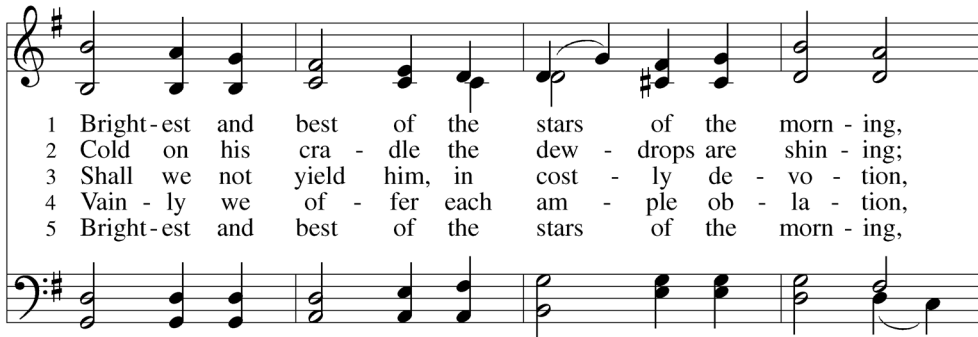
Hear the good news and rejoice!

You are God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved,
✝ forgiven in Christ,
and freed to respond in joy.

Amen.

**ENTRANCE HYMN - BRIGHTEST AND BEST OF THE STARS OF THE MORNING
(LBW 84)**

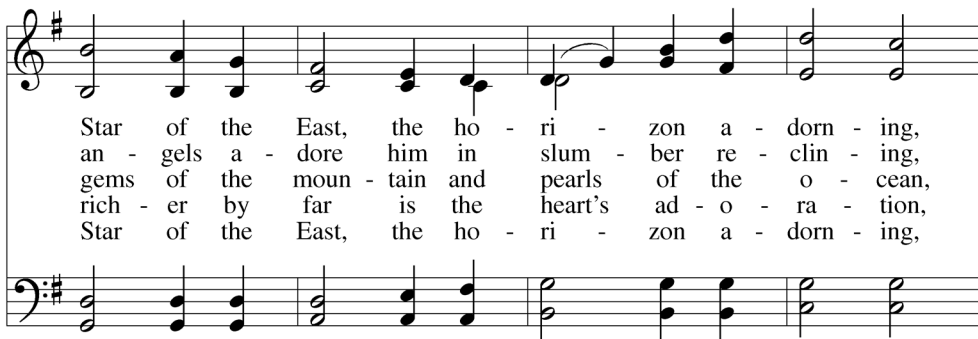
Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning



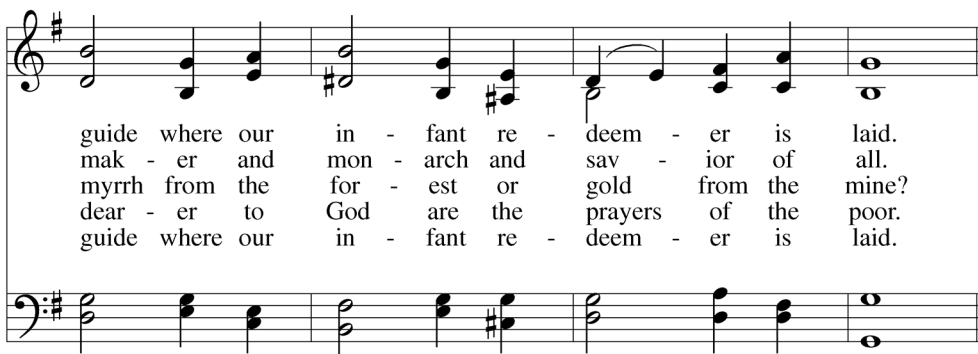
1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
3 Shall we not yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
fra - grance of E - dom and of - f'ring 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,



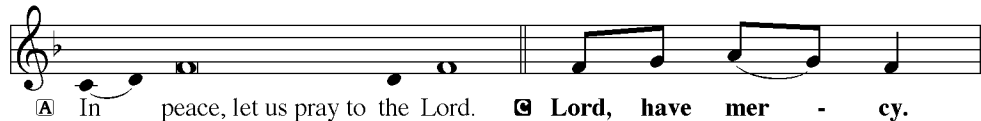
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

GREETING

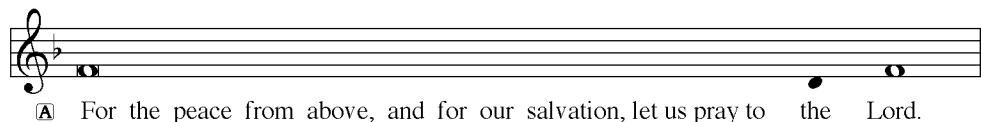
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

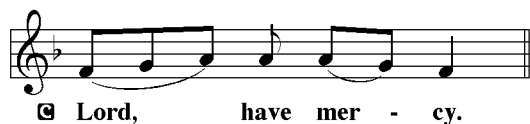
KYRIE



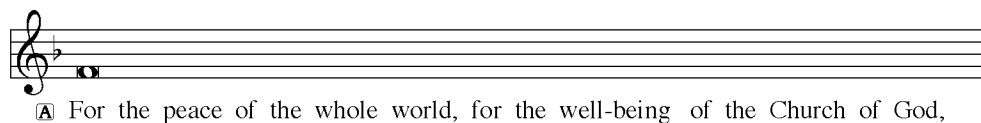
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



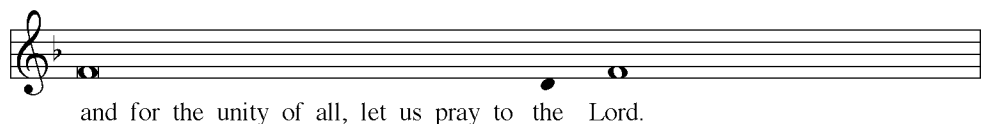
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



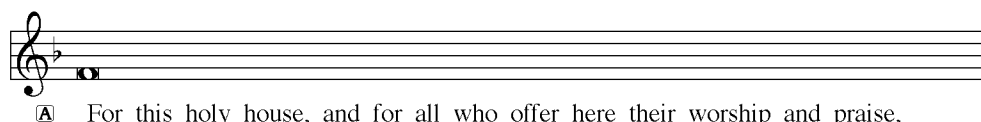
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



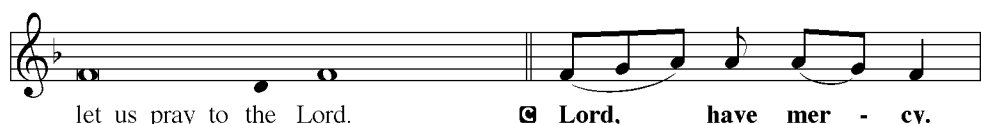
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. **C** A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you / **And also with you** / Let us Pray...

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 WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

- ¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- ² 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.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ 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.
- ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (Read responsively by whole verse)

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
- ² **that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
- ⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**
- ⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- ¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**
- ¹¹ May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.
- ¹² **For 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.

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

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

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 word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 2nd Chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

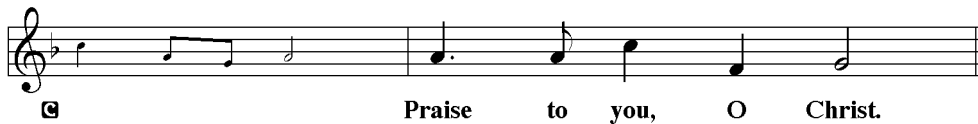
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "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:

⁶'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 wise men 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.



SERMON – Reverend Derrick Fallon

**HYMN OF THE DAY – AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD (LBW 82)
(NEXT PAGE)**

As with Gladness Men of Old

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 - a - ted 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 - cious 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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With joy and gratitude for the gift of Jesus, let us draw near to our heavenly Father in prayer, asking his mercy for the Church, the world, and all who need his loving-kindness. *A brief silence*

Holy God, thank you for Jesus. He shares our life, and shares your life with us. He grew in wisdom and understanding, and gives us the Holy Spirit so we can, too. He takes our sin, and gives us his pure, holy grace and love. He is your unfailing Light in the darkest days and places we endure. Thank you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son adorned the earthly Temple with his presence as a baby and as a growing lad. He is your Holy of Holies in our midst. Make your Church a Temple fit for his habitation. Grant that it may adorn his dear presence with faithful words, heartfelt worship, and deeds of love and mercy. May it draw all people to Jesus' feet, there to learn from him the Good News of our salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Grant to your persecuted servants your imperishable inheritance of grace, faithfulness, and endurance. Make us generous in aiding, defending, and praying for them. Turn the hearts of their adversaries away from sin and hatred, and toward you in repentance and faith. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Bless this congregation, so that people gladly come here to encounter you in Word and Sacrament, in fellowship, learning, and service. Make us wise in the ways of charity and faithfulness, so that all may find your precepts to be sweeter than honey. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray your favor upon this new year; upon our hopes for a better future; and upon all who find no release from the sorrows and cares of the previous years. Give us wisdom and strength to seek your will for our common good. Draw us toward that eternal New Year that you alone shall bring. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Solomon prayed for wisdom to lead your people according to your precepts. The wise men heeded your guiding and warning words. The prophets attended to your wisdom and counsel. Give that wisdom to all of our earthly rulers. Fill them with deep love for justice, mercy, wisdom, and integrity. Let all people live free from the consequences of malice, stupidity, and calamity. Crown not just this new year, but all of our years, with the blessings of your peace. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

These are perilous times, dear Lord! Guide, strengthen and protect our military and first responders. May they accomplish all that is in accordance with your will. Return them swiftly to their loved ones. Bring them healing, hope, and renewed opportunities to serve you in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Be the light and salvation of everyone who calls on you in times of trouble. We plead especially for those we name before you either silently or aloud... Grant them health, wholeness, and hope. Ease the burdens and bless the labors of all who care for them. Refresh their spirits, and bind us all together in cords of mutual care and compassion. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

The generations rise and fall and pass before you, O Lord. We entrust our beloved dead into your merciful care. Comfort those who grieve, and whose hope falters. Give us eyes to see the suffering around us; lips to pray and encourage; hands to extend in blessing; and hearts to beat with compassion and forgiveness. Grant to all whom you have redeemed through your dear Son, a portion in the imperishable inheritance you have prepared for them. Bring us into your Kingdom, where you reign in unity with your Son and the Holy Spirit, God forever. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Thank you for hearing our prayers, dear Lord. We entrust them, and our lives, into your merciful care. **Amen.**

CELEBRATING THE EUCHARIST

PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(If you choose to exchange the peace, please use hand sanitizer before you start and again when finished.)

OFFERTORY

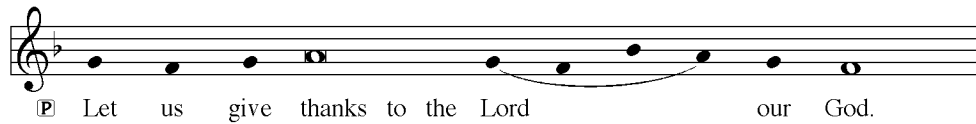
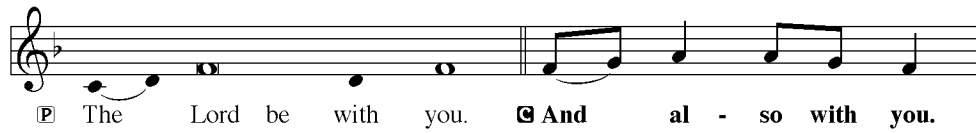
Offertory hymn - Let the Vineyards

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

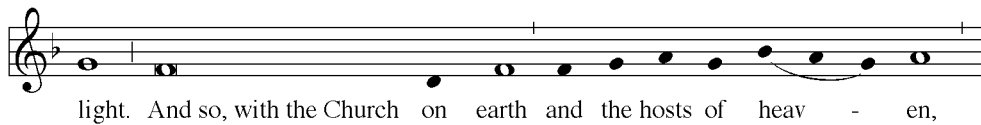
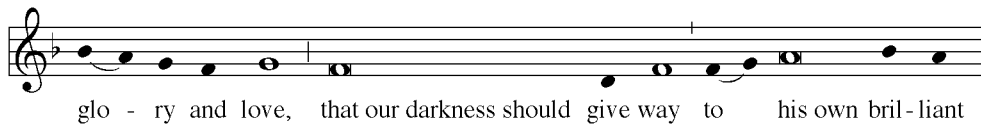
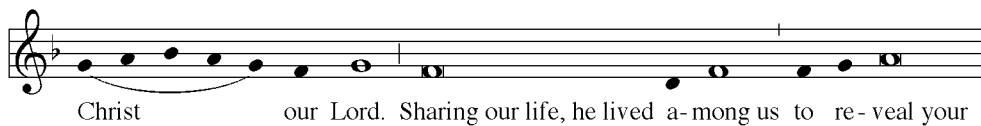
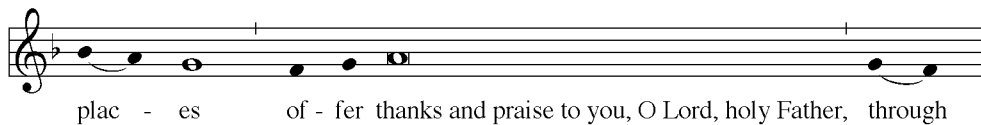
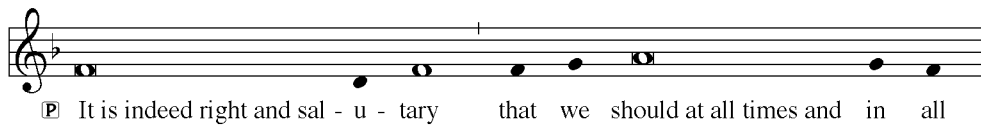
OFFERING PRAYER

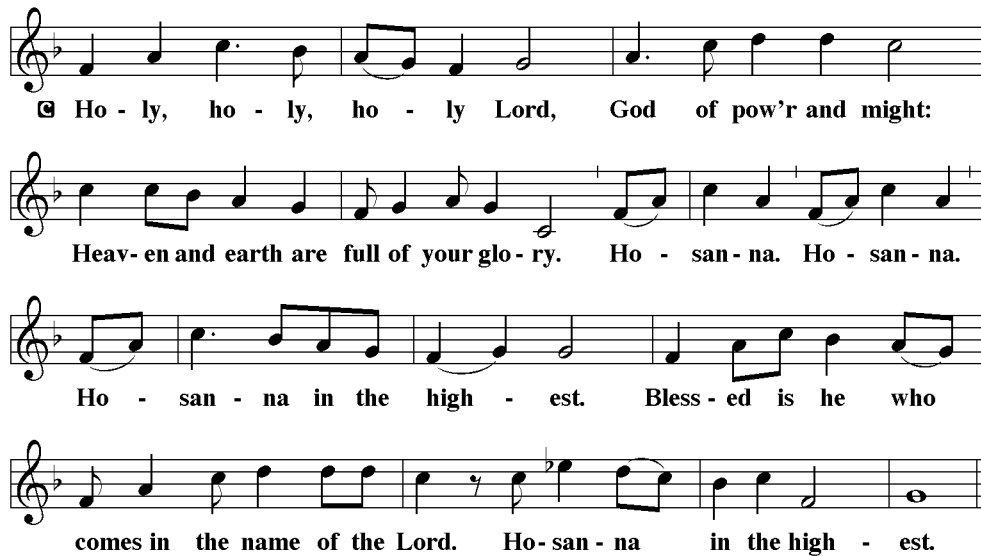
God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE





Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san- na. Ho - san- na.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O holy God:
 you are the Life and Light of all.
 By your powerful word you created all things.
 Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.
 Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.
 He is your Light, shining in our darkness
 and revealing to us your mercy and might.
 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 preaching and healing,
 his dying and rising,
 and his promise to come again,
 we await that day when all the universe
 will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.
 By your Spirit bless us and this meal,
 that, refreshed with this heavenly food,
 we may be light for the world,
 revealing the brilliance of your Son.
 Through him all glory and honor is yours,
 Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
 in your holy Church,
 both now and forever.

Amen

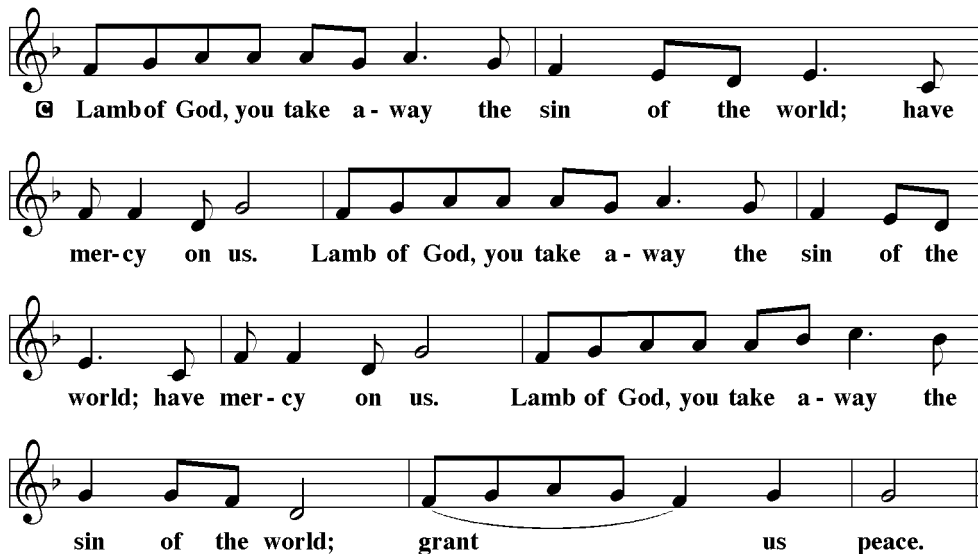
LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

FRACTION

LAMB OF GOD



☞ 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.
Please use hand sanitizer before coming to the Altar. Both intinction and common cup are available.

COMMUNION

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

TABLE BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE:



☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. **Amen.**

HYMN OF THE MONTH – CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



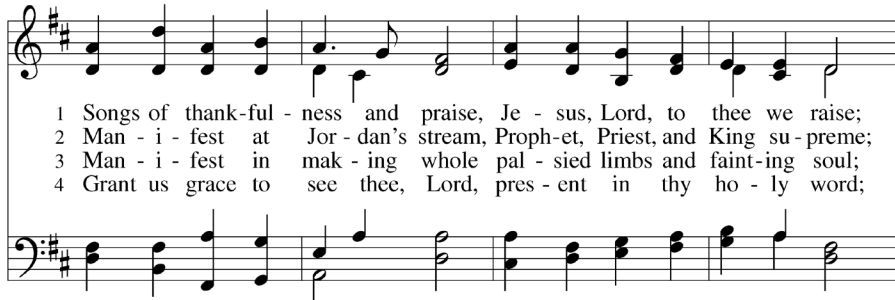
church gath - ered to - day.

BLESSING

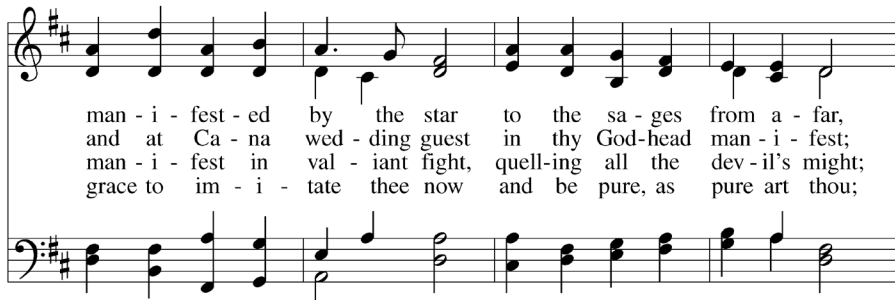
The God of love, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN – SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE (LBW 90)

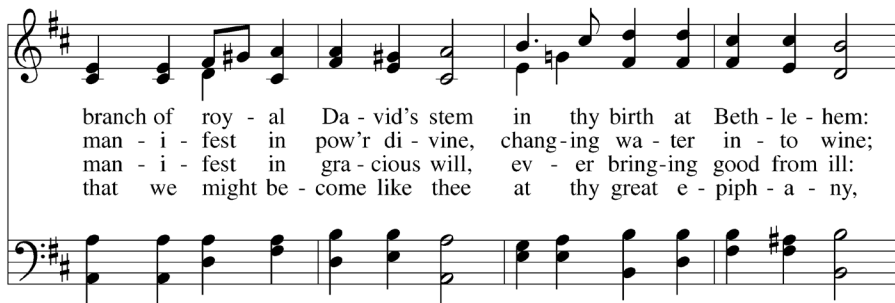
Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



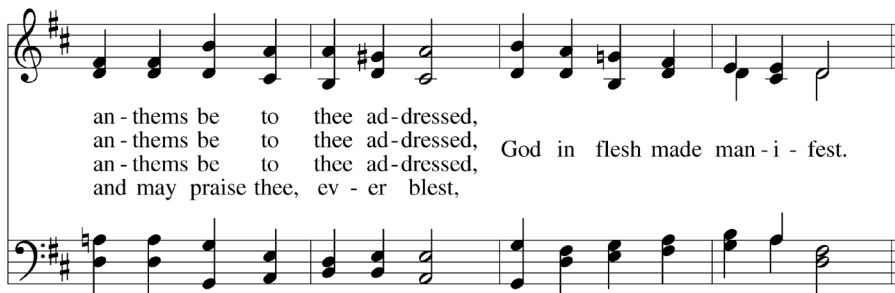
1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su - preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint-ing soul;
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
and 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;
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - 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:
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

BENEDICTION

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. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

Thanks be to God.