

“And you,  
**Bethlehem,**  
... from you shall come  
a ruler who is to shepherd  
my people Israel.”

Matthew 2:6, NRSV

St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Liturgy of Word and Sacrament  
Sunday, January 06, 2019  
**8:00 AM & 10:30 AM**  
Epiphany of Our Lord

WOV Holy Communion Setting Four: Light of Christ  
Pastor: The Reverend Faron H. Johnson  
Minister of Music: Michael Busija  
Church: 479-4110; Fax: 479-2994  
[www.stdavidslutheran.org](http://www.stdavidslutheran.org)

# ***Welcome to St. David's Lutheran Church!***

We are blessed by your presence and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign the friendship sheet that is located in the booklet at the end of each pew, near the center aisle. These sheets will be collected after the service.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to receive the elements at the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians. Persons, who may not wish to receive the bread and wine of the communion, are still welcome to come to the table to receive a blessing. To do so please fold your hands and bow your head.

**Prayer Requests** may be made by placing the request in the small wooden box at the rear, near the doors through which you entered. The acolyte will collect the requests and they will be included during the prayers of the congregation.

**For your comfort** there is a restroom, equipped with a changing table and supplies and a water fountain located upstairs. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex. The restroom is straight ahead in the parlor, beside the grandfather clock, and the water fountain is to the right at the beginning of the hallway.

**Devotional** – The worship folder you are holding is also a weekly devotional booklet. The prayers and Scripture readings are appropriate for use at any time during the week. The liturgy itself is a Scripturally based order for daily prayer and devotion with Scriptural references noted where they apply. Even the hymns are appropriate tools for prayer and praise. Finally, there is a daily lectionary of Scripture readings for the rest of the week on the last printed page.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Epiphany means "manifestation." On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi's adoration of the Christ child, Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God's grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly stands.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

*Kneel/Stand*

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

*The minister stands and addresses the congregation.*

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Shine, Jesus, Shine

671

*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!

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

Hymns/Music Reprinted with permission under CCLI #1718591.

**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

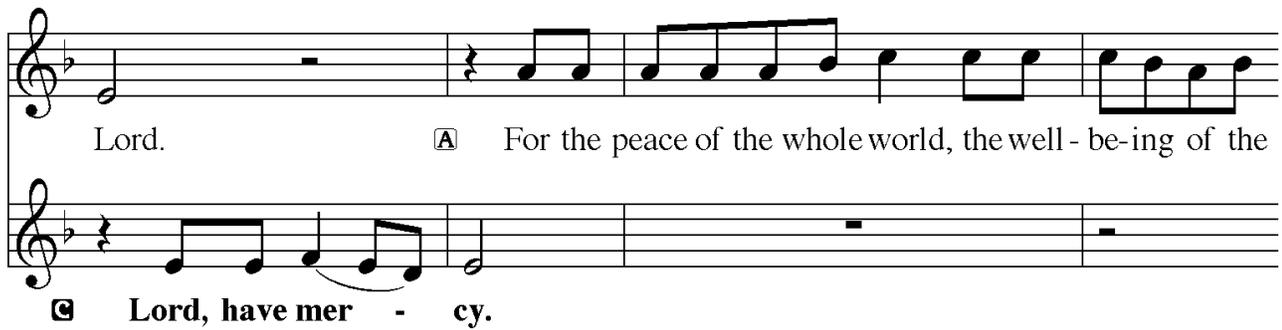


**A** In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the

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

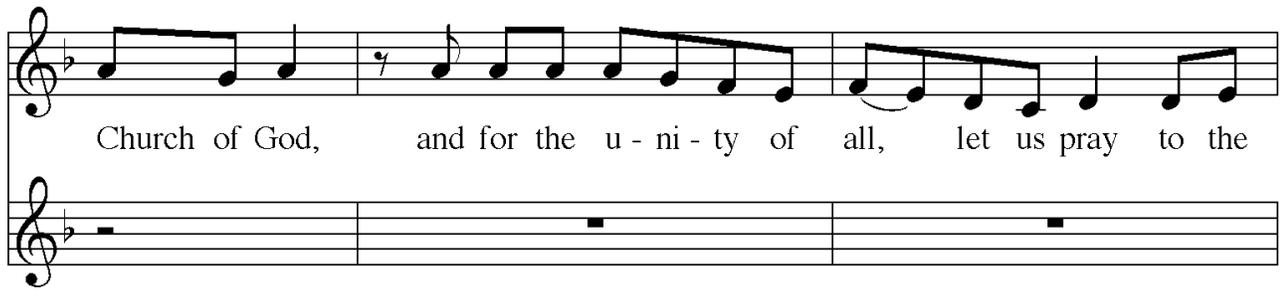


peace from a-bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the

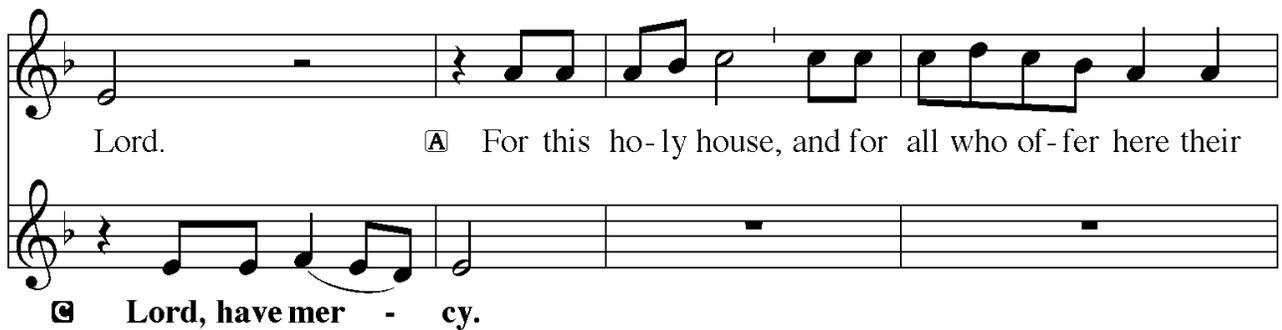


Lord. **A** For the peace of the whole world, the well - be - ing of the

**C** 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

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

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

**☒** Lord, have mer - cy.

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

**☒** A - men

# HYMN OF PRAISE



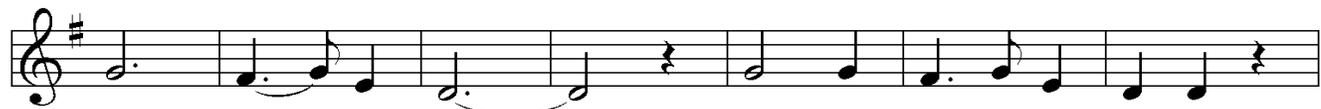
**Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.**



**1 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.**



**2 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, have mer- cy on us; you are seat - ed**



**at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.**



**3 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**

Let us pray.

Lord 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **WORD WITH THE CHILDREN**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6**

A reading from Isaiah the 60<sup>th</sup> chapter.

*{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.}*

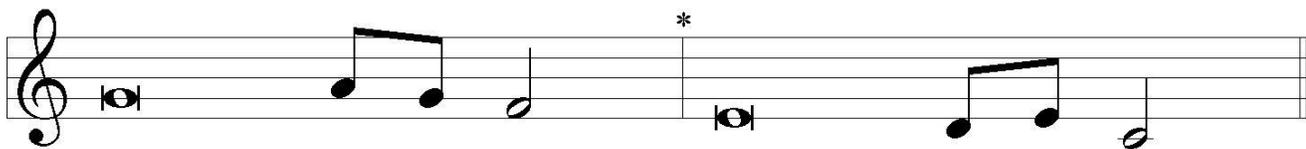
- <sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- <sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.
- <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
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: 72:1-7, 10-14 (sung responsively)

Psalm Tone 1



- <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. R**
- <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. R**
- <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- | ly and poor,  
and preserves the lives | of the needy.
- <sup>14</sup>**From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,  
and precious is their blood | in his sight. R**



## **GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12**

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*{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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON**

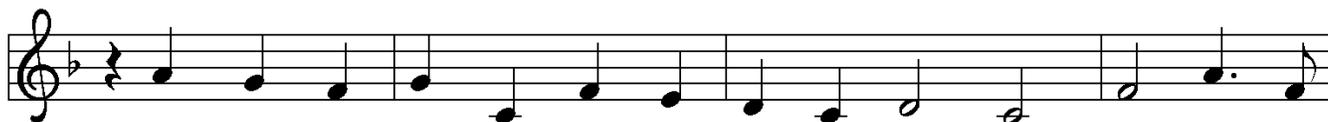
*The assembly stands.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Rise, Shine, You People!



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to  
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and  
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the  
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.  
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.  
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003

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Together we confess our faith:

## **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**

Dwelling in the presence of God with us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all in any need.

*A brief silence.*

Drawn into the light of God, we pray for the proclamation of the grace of Jesus Christ. Give us courage and boldness to go forth into the world to tell the good news of what God has done. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Drawn into the glory of creation, we pray for the earth. Sustain every living thing with abundant resources, clean water, and sustainable harvests. Help us to steward all that you have provided. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Drawn into the brightness of God's presence, we pray for the nations of the world. Reveal your compassion and peace for the sake of all who live in the shadow of oppression, violence, and fear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Drawn into the light of healing mercy, we pray for all who wait for healing and relief of suffering (*especially*). Give us hope in the promise of new life where pain and suffering will be no more. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Drawn into the dawn of a new day, we pray for the ongoing reconciliation between people. Make us bold to name sin in our lives and unite us in the promise of forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Drawn into the promise of everlasting light, we pray for those who mourn and give thanks for all the saints who now rest in the brightness of God's presence (*especially*). Make us confident in our worship as we reflect the light of God with eternal praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, we commend all for whom we pray, dwelling in the light and hope of Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The minister and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

**Peace be with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **OFFERING**

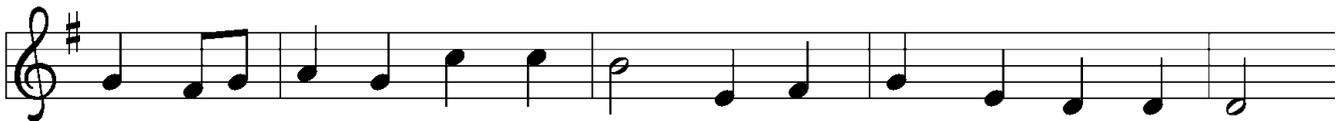
## **OFFERTORY**

# OFFERTORY HYMN

## 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;

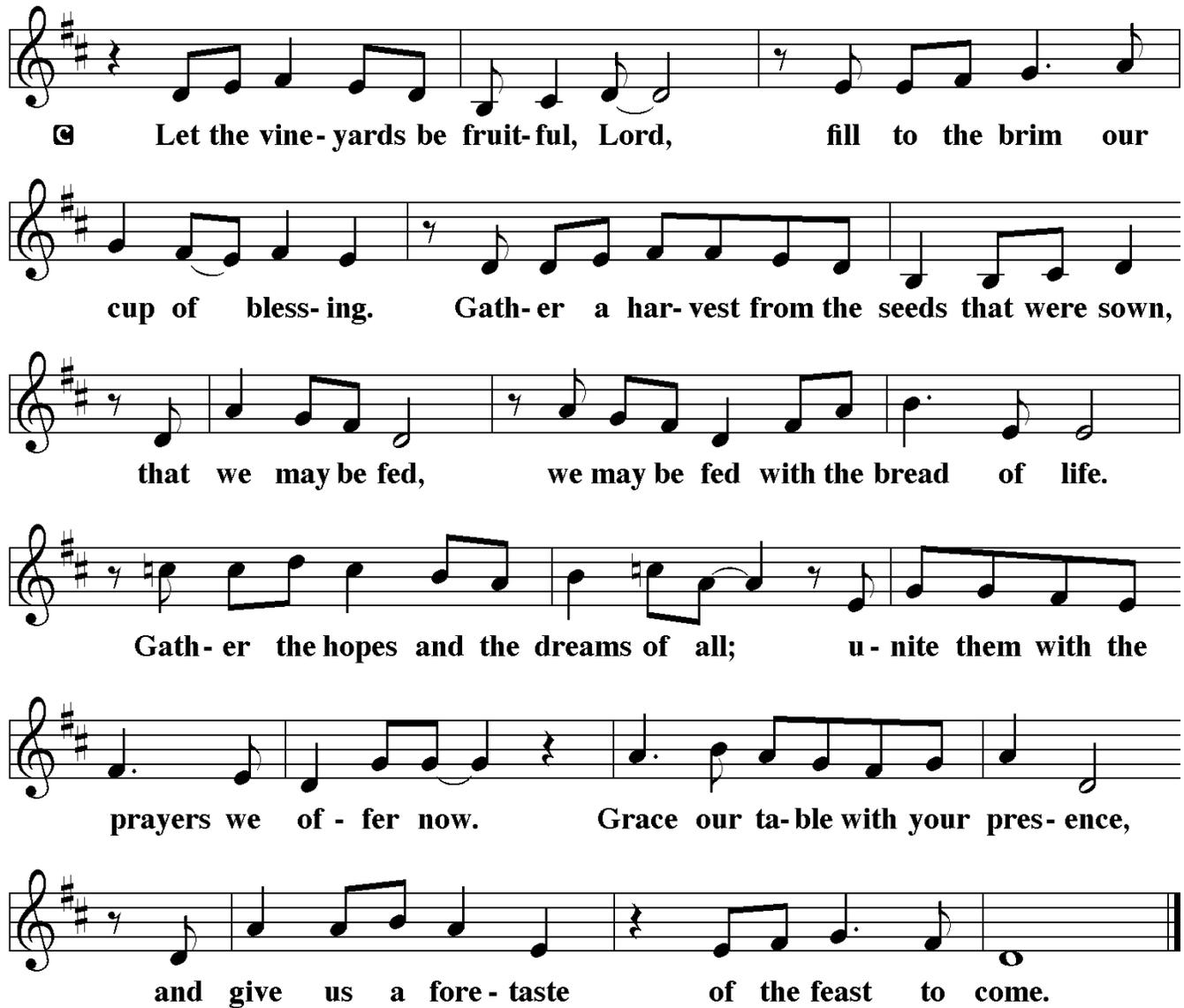


so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.  
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.  
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.  
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

*The assembly stands*

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE



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.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you,

**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

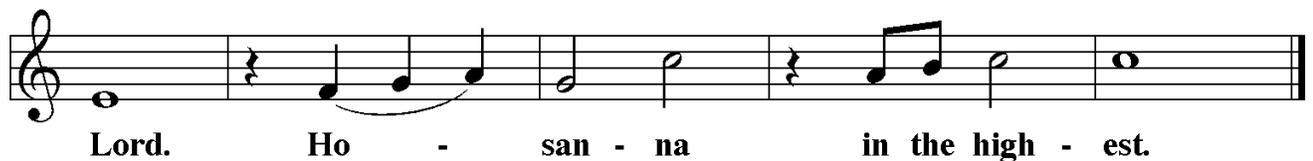
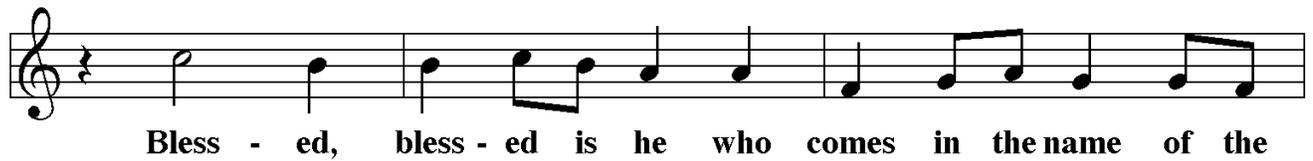
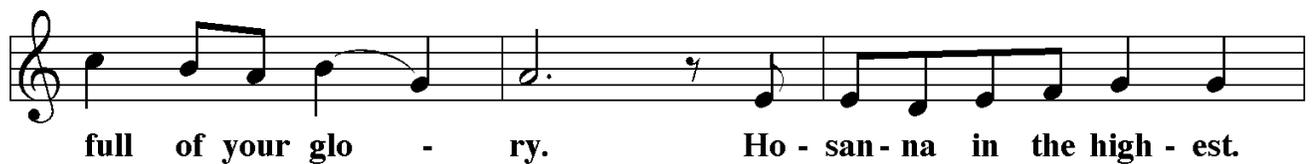
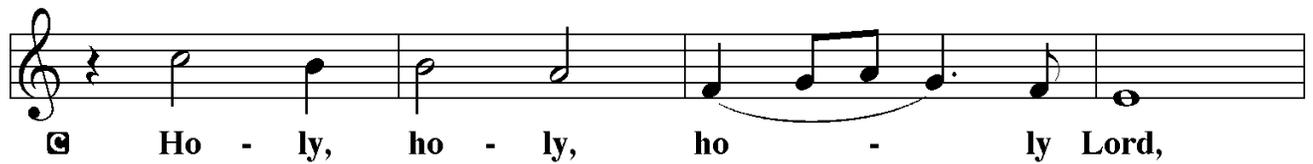
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;  
you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.

We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.

We thank you for the new world to come  
and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen,  
the people of your promise:  
the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,  
the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile,  
and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,  
who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the  
Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup  
we remember the incarnation of your Son:  
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.

We remember the sacrifice of his life:  
his eating with outcasts and sinners,  
and his acceptance of death.

But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb,  
his ascension to the seat of power,  
and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We cry out for the resurrection of our lives,  
when Christ will come again in beauty and power  
to share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we and all who share in this bread and cup  
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,  
and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants  
of every time and every place, and unite them  
with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

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

**Amen, amen, amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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;**

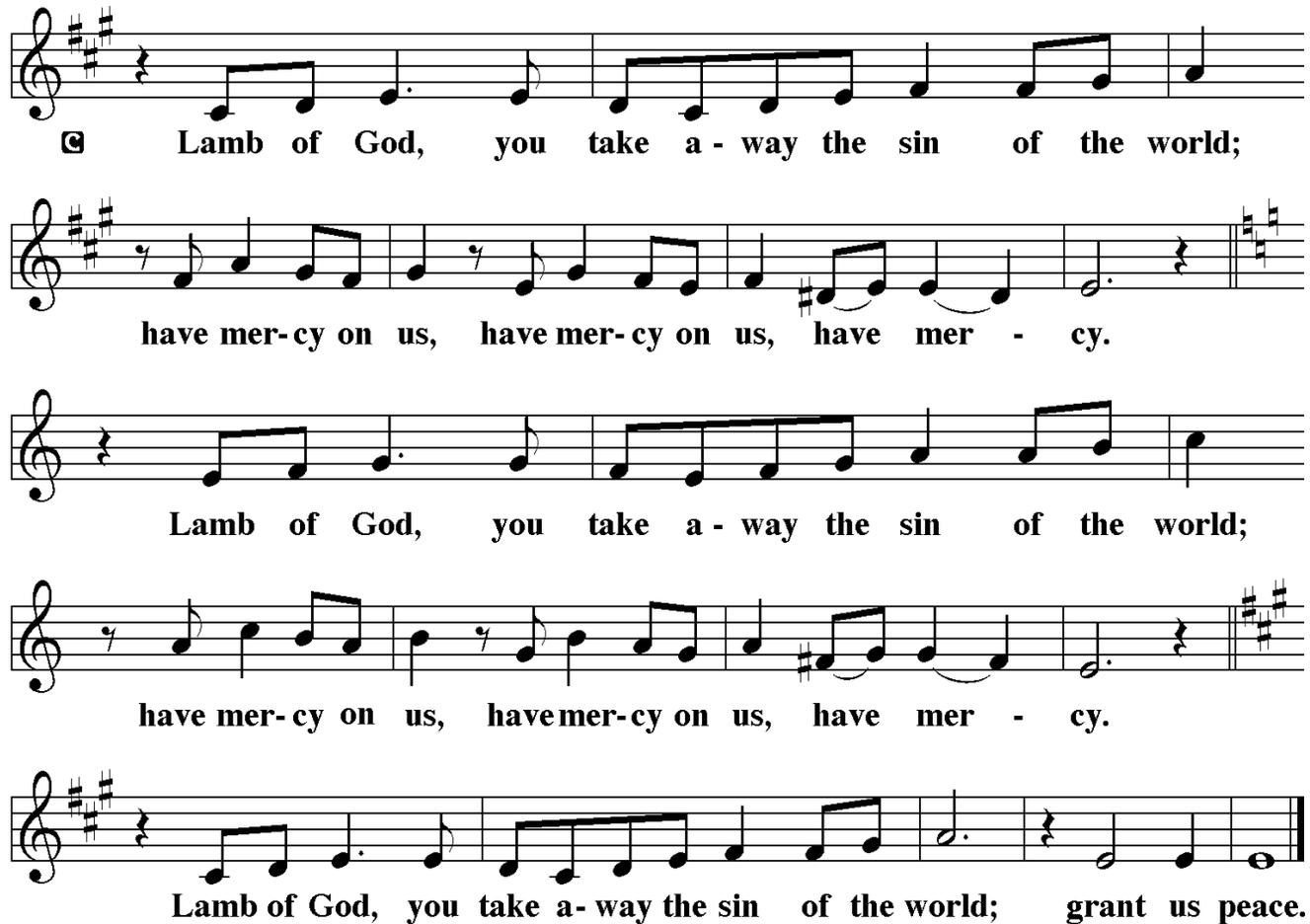
**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

## LAMB OF GOD



**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians.

Please come forward by the center aisle. Pick up a communion glass from the trays at the end of the center aisle. Then move to the altar where you may kneel or stand. After receiving the elements the empty glass can be returned to the tray for empty glasses as you return to your pew by the side aisles. Be sure to fill out the pew pad.

# 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



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

*The assembly stands.*

*After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words.*

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

### **POST-COMMUNION 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.**

*Silence for reflection.*

### **BLESSING**

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

**Amen.**

### **QUIET MEDITATION**

# SENDING HYMN

## This Little Light of Mine



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**January 6, 2019**

### **EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

#### **Boundaries Rearranged**

A collision is taking place in the story of the magi coming to offer their gifts to Jesus. It is a collision we know well. It is the collision between outsiders who have something to gain and tight-fisted insiders who feel as though they have something to lose.

Have you ever noticed the contrast between the magi and Herod? The magi travel from afar to open their treasure chests, and presumably their hearts, to this new Christ. Herod's heart lurches and clenches and he has a tight-fisted temper tantrum at the prospect of sharing his power with anyone new, let alone some infant sought by strange astrologers!

Epiphany is about worlds colliding and boundaries being rearranged so that people who otherwise have nothing in common become one body. Many a Lutheran church sign reads, "All are welcome." Conceivably, "all" includes magi from the east, shepherds, Herod, young parents, newborn babies—you name it. "All are welcome" sounds great, unless you're Herod. Unless you have something to lose by making room; unless the arrival of new folks, new traditions, or newness in general might mean that you have to share your power, your privilege, and your status.

Epiphany reveals two truths. The first is that God really means business when God says that all are welcome. God is all about a manger scene that's full of unlikely characters, full of unsuspecting worlds colliding and becoming the community of God. The second truth is that while God brings outsiders in, Herod stands in like a placeholder for all of us, revealing our propensity to become tight-fisted, selfish, and hostile when our privilege or status is challenged.

Luckily for us, God goes ahead and makes room for the outsider despite our protest.

## *Daily Readings for the Week January 6-12*

<b>Sunday:</b>	Epiphany of Our Lord Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12
<b>Monday:</b>	Psalm 72 Daniel 2:1-19 Ephesians 4:17—5:1
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Psalm 72 Daniel 2:24-49 Ephesians 5:15-20
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Psalm 72 Numbers 24:15-19 Luke 1:67-79
<b>Thursday:</b>	Psalm 29 Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
<b>Friday:</b>	Psalm 29 Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 1 Corinthians 2:1-10
<b>Saturday:</b>	Psalm 29 Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 1 Corinthians 2:11-16

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