

Epiphany of Our Lord

Sunday, January 1, 2023

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren St.
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316
www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE "Christmas Medley" J. Schmidt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
who makes all things new, and whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sins against God and neighbor.

O Holy One,

we confess that we are wrapped up in sin and cannot free ourselves.

Our feet have not followed in your path and

our hearts have turned away from you.

Forgive us that we may be reconciled to you and one another

and teach us to walk in the light of your grace. Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy:

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given."

Let us rejoice in the good news of peace and salvation.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,

our sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

"We Three Kings"
[See back of bulletin]

GREETING

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. **O come, let us adore him.**

May the light and peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

WORD

A Reading from Isaiah

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

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

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

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD. (Isaiah 60:1-6)

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

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14 (Read responsively)

¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.

- ²May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.**
- ³May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**
- ⁵May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- ⁶May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**
- ⁷In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
- ¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.**
- ¹¹May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.
- ¹²For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.**
- ¹³He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.
- ¹⁴From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

A Reading from Ephesians

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, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

(Ephesians 3:1–12)

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

(Matthew 2:1-12)

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“What Child is This”
[See back of bulletin]

THE NICENE CREED (Read in unison)

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 OF INTERCESSION

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

Nurture ecumenical and interreligious understanding around the globe. We pray for Lutheran World Relief and other organizations that provide humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and health care. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Protect fragile ecosystems: rain forests, coral reefs, wetlands, prairies, and shorelines. Help us to treasure the rich variety of animals and plants that share the world with us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Strengthen those who work for human rights, equality, and the protection of the most vulnerable. We pray for all in public office, that they may serve with honesty and honor. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Rescue any who suffer from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Free families who are caught in cycles of poverty. Heal social systems that enable racism and discrimination of any kind. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire those who lead worship, teach, visit, pray, administer, and serve. Keep us mindful of the needs of others in our communities and neighborhoods. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list and all who suffer in any way. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks, Redeeming God, for the witness of those who died trusting in you. Guide us by their example until we are gathered with them into your eternal presence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

(The Pastor concludes): Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

OFFERING

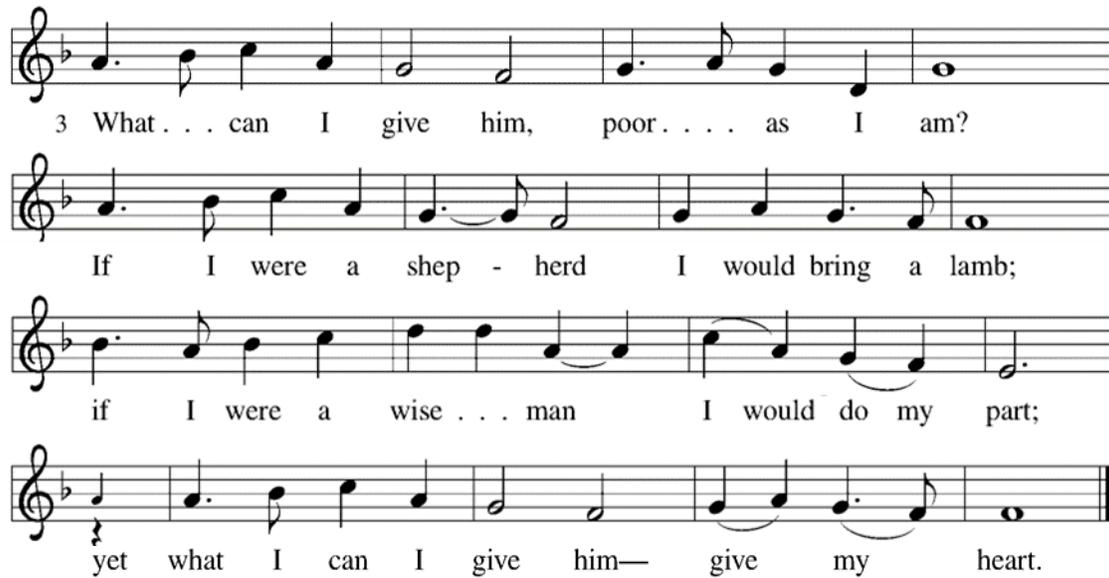
OFFERTORY MUSIC

“Angel's Carol”

J. Rutter

OFFERTORY HYMN “In the Bleak Midwinter”

vs. 3



3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these gifts of the earth that become your meal of grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use what you have graciously given us to bless and bring hope wherever we go, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

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.

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, 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 brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

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

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Dwell among us and bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people and fill us with your light.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Read in unison)

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.

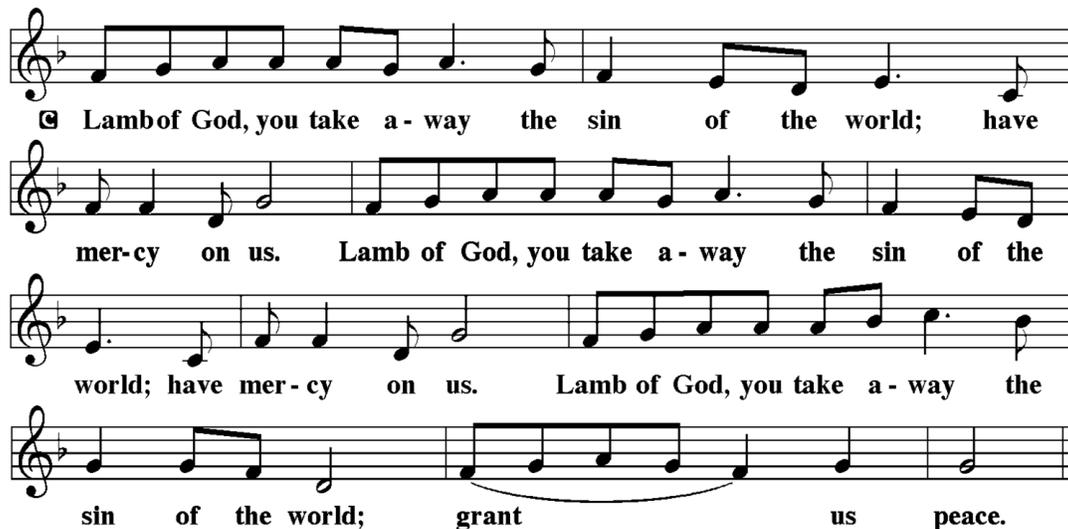
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table where Christ comes to meet us.
Let us rejoice and be glad.

INSTRUCTIONS

All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. Communicants may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. If you or your child would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, please come forward and say, "A blessing," or cross your arms over your chest. Those who are unable to come forward may receive the Sacrament as they sit in their pew.

AGNUS DEI



♩ 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.

COMMUNION HYMN "As With Gladness Men of Old"
[See back of bulletin]

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O holy One, we give you thanks for the healing and wholeness that springs forth from your table. Revive and renew our desire to do justice, show kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May the one true God, who faithfully brings forth justice and extends mercy to all people, † bless you, strengthen you, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“The First Noel”
[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ! **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

J. S. Bach

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

Please welcome Pastor Rob Reier as he leads our worship this morning!

Altar flowers are presented in memory of Guy and Frances Lengel by James Lengel and the Lengel Family.

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.

“SECOND SUNDAY” SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for children ages 1 to 10 years old will continue every second Sunday of the month during the 10:30 a.m. service. Please join us next Sunday, January 8, 2023, for Bible stories, crafts, a snack, fun, and fellowship. You can also call/text/email me with questions or to volunteer.

Sarah Eger: (570) 394-3522 (cell); swoodring86@hotmail.com.

GATHERING HYMN

“We Three Kings”

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain

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

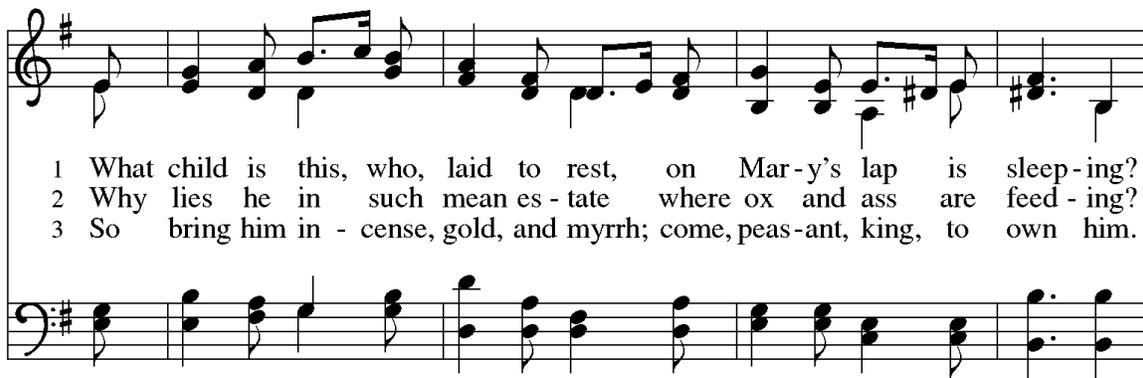
west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

ATTENTION: COMMITTEE LEADERS

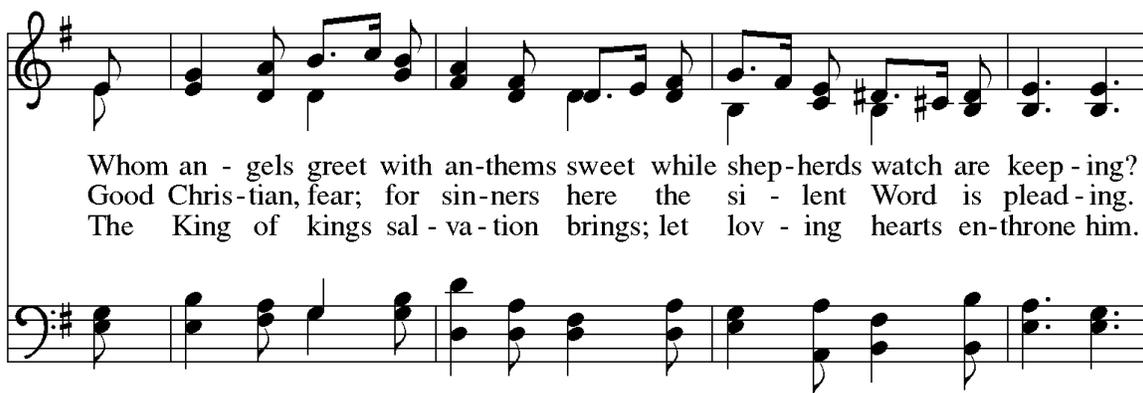
Your year-end reports for 2022 will be needed by Tuesday, January 3, 2023. Please have them completed, proofread, and ready for print by the deadline date. Email your file(s) to: office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org

HYMN OF THE DAY

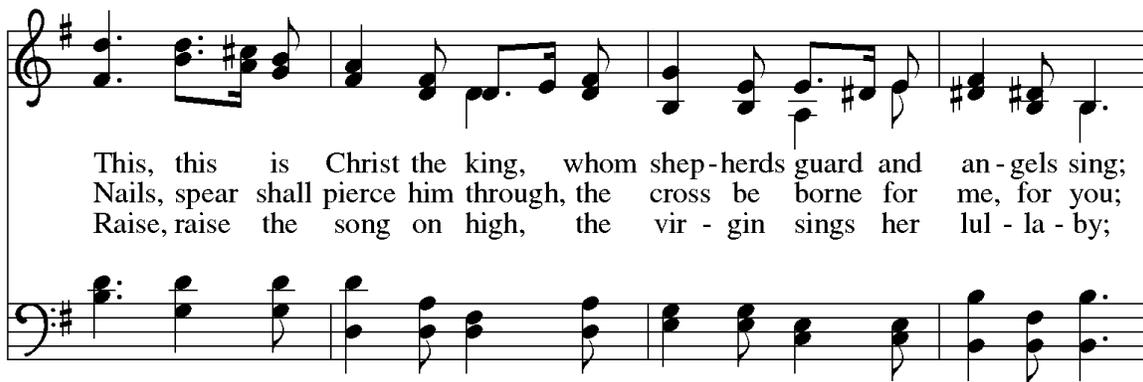
“What Child is This”



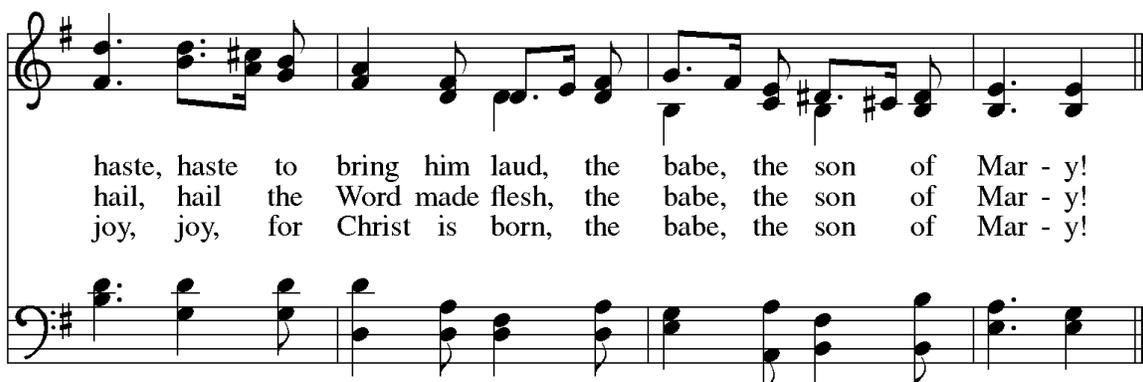
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



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!

WE WELCOME ALL VISITORS AND GUESTS

Our restrooms are in the back of our gathering room. Please look for the sign. If you have other questions, please ask our Greeter or Usher.

COMMUNION HYMN

“As With Gladness Men of Old”



The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

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.

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

Please consider worshiping with us after the holidays. Take a copy of our December newsletter. Check out our webpage. Visit us on Facebook. Watch our weekly video on YouTube. And get to know us better!

We are a Lutheran congregation with a rich tradition, but we are not old-fashioned. While we treasure the past, we look forward to an even brighter future. Everyone is invited to worship and work together here -- to the glory of God!

SENDING 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 . . .

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

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

Refrain
night that was so deep.
tin-ued both day and night.
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -

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