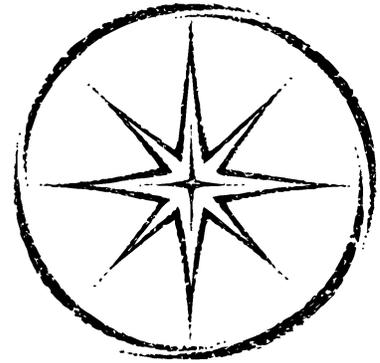


# January 8, 2023 Epiphany of Our Lord



*\*You are invited to read responses found in **bold**  
\*An asterisk \* invites you to stand in body or in spirit*

*Welcome to First Lutheran Church!*

## **we GATHER here**

**Prelude** — “Wie Schön Leuchtet”

Setting by Paul Manz

*This will serve as an extended introduction to our processional hymn*

**\*Processional Hymn** — no. 308

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

Stanzas 1 & 2: All Stanza 3: Low Voices Stanza 4: Choir Stanza 5: High Voices Stanza 6: All

**\*Words of Welcome**

**\*Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are  
clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give  
thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you  
created us in your image and placed us in a  
well-watered garden.

**In the desert, you promised pools of water for  
the parched, and you gave us water from the  
rock.**

When we did not know the way, you sent the  
Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the  
cross, you washed us from Jesus’ wounded side,  
and on this day, you shower us again with the  
water of life.

**We praise you for your salvation through  
water, for the water in this font, and for all  
water everywhere.**

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only  
you can give.

**To you be given honor and praise through  
Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*Epiphany Dialogue** — *see Yellow Supplement*

**\*Canticle of Praise** — hymn no. 310, Stanzas 1 & 4

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

## \*Prayer of the Day

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

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

## we LISTEN and RESPOND

### A Reading from the book of Isaiah — Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
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.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

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.

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.  
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 Light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

### Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 — sung responsively by verse



Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,  
and your righteousness to | the king's son;  
**that he may rule your | people righteously**  
**and the | poor with justice;**  
that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the  
people,  
and the | hills, in righteousness.

**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the**  
**people,**  
**rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**  
May he live as long as the sun and | moon  
endure,  
from one generation | to another.

**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown**  
**field,**  
**like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**  
In his time may the | righteous flourish;

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon  
shall | be no more.

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay**  
**tribute,**

**and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.**

May all kings bow | down before him,  
and all the nations | do him service.

**For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in**  
**distress,**

**the oppressed, and those who | have no**  
**helper.**

He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,  
and preserves the lives | of the needy.

**From oppression and violence he re- | deems**  
**their lives,**

**and precious is their blood | in his sight.**

## A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians — Ephesians 3:1-12

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

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. 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, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 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. This 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.

The Light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation** — hymn no. 300, Stanza 3 and refrain

“The First Noel”

**And by the light of that same star three magi came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**\*Gospel** — Matthew 2:1-12

The Gospel of Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

‘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.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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.” 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. 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.**

Stanza 1: Choir Stanzas 2-3: All sing



1 When a star is shin-ing o - ver east - ern hills,  
2 Where the world is wait-ing for an un - known day,  
3 Lead us on, O Day-star, in the qui - et night;



when the air is si - lent, and the clam - or stills,  
where a voice for - got - ten cries, “Pre - pare the way!”  
guide us through the shad-ow with your gen - tle light;



when the night is wait-ing, and the old hopes rise,  
Where an earth - ly pow-er makes the heart turn cold,  
show us in a man-ger our re - demp-tion’s sign;



then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise.  
there the gifts are of - fered— in - cense, myrrh, and gold.  
bring us to a morn-ing where the prom - ise shines.



Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn-ing where the



prom-ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,



to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.

\*Affirmation of Faith — The Apostles’ Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the  
Father,  
and he will come 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

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Faithful God, continue to provide dedicated leaders and passionate people for your church, so that wisdom and compassion in all its rich variety may be made known throughout the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your glory shines around us in every star, creature, and person. Liberate us from the ways we destroy your creation. Free us to care for the earth so that all experience your bountiful goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Give your justice to the leaders of the world, O God. Endow them with humble courage to defend the cause of the poor and give deliverance to those in need, so that peace abounds in all countries. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

By the guidance of a star, you led the magi to pay homage to the Christ child. Protect new families, those who live alone, travelers, those who suffer loss, and all others in need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ever-present One, in Christ Jesus we boldly come before you in worship. Nurture and encourage all who gather for worship, those who serve in worship leadership roles, and all who participate in the work of this faith community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Generous God, throughout time you have given us people who have shown us the gift of your grace. Inspire us by their faithfulness to serve you and all your people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Offering

*Music at the Offering*

“How Bright Shineth the Day-Star!”

Setting by Marcel Dupré

# we SHARE the meal

\*Great Thanksgiving & Preface — *see Yellow Supplement*

\*“Holy, Holy, Holy” — *see Yellow Supplement*

## \*Words of Institution and The Lord’s Prayer

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.

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

### \*Invitation to Communion

Here is the table set for our special meal. The bread, the wine, prepared and presented. Ready to be served and shared.

We remember Jesus sharing a meal like this with his disciples, his friends.  
He included everyone, those he could trust and those he could not trust.

Today we are his disciples, his friends. Each one of us is welcome. How amazing it is to be loved and wanted even when we have not been perfect. How wonderful it is to be included as we are.

### Distribution of Communion

#### Communion Canticle — no. 1056, from *All Creation Sings* “God Bless to Us Our Bread”

Ben - di - ce, Se - ñor, nues - tro pan, y da pan a los que tien - en  
God bless to . . us our . . bread, and give bread . . to all those who are

ham - bre y ham - bre de jus - ti - cia, a los que tien - en  
hun - gry, and hun - ger for jus - tice to those who are

pan. Ben - di - ce, Se - ñor, nues - tro pan.  
fed. God bless to . . . us our . . . bread.

#### Hymn — no. 302

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

### Communion Blessing and Prayer

God of abundance,  
we give you thanks that in this holy meal  
you have invited us to feast with you and one another.  
May the taste of your love remain with us,  
and may our words and our work in your name  
invite others into your bountiful grace.  
Send us from your table to proclaim your presence,  
even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior.

**we DEPART for service**

### Announcements

#### \*Sending Hymn — no. 665

“Rise, Shine, You People!”

## \*Blessing & Dismissal

God bless you and keep you, ☩ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**Thanks be to God!**

## \*Postlude — “Wie Schön Leuchtet”

Setting by Mark Sedio

## Acknowledgements

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“Invitation to Communion” by Anna Gobledale, <https://worshipwords.co.uk/all-age-easter-communion-liturgy-ana-gobledale-uk/>

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” choral stanza arr. Emily Bruflat; “When a Star Is Shining” improvised introduction by Emily Bruflat

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## Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Cularis

Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

Audio/Video: Brett Peterson, Amelia Staples

Acolytes: Graham Menning, Nihla Hoenke

Greeter: Audrey Menning, Wes Chambers

Reader: Kallie Stadick

Ushers: John Nadeau

Musicians: Choir; Doug Schuldt, trumpet

Communion Preparers:

Communion Servers: Cindy Nadeau

Bread Bakers:

## Announcements

- Following worship today Pr. Chris will offer a **Bible study** in the Dining Hall on *Making Sense of Martin Luther*. No prior experience is necessary. Please join us.
- **Fellowship** following worship today is being provided by confirmation families, the Chambers & the Mennings.
- **Beginning tomorrow, on Jan. 9th**, members are invited to come for Morning Prayer in the Chapel at 9:30am and Bible study in the Conference Room. We will be discussing Bishop Chilstrom’s book *Hebrews: A New & Better Way*.
- Emily Bruflat will be leading a **presentation on the book** *Activist Theology* by Dr. Roberto Che Espinoza following worship next week. This will be in conjunction with our commemoration of MLK Day.
- Please attend our **congregation meeting** to be held following worship on January 29th. Your attendance and participation are very important in the life of our congregation!
- A reminder to sign up for our **“First’s Friends and Family Women’s Retreat”** by Jan. 30. The retreat will be held from 9:00am - 12:30pm on Sat. Feb. 4th. Women high school age and older are invited to attend!

## Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Myrene Bunge, Glenn Stryker, Erika Schuldt, Claire Cardwell, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth, Ellis Jones, Allen Storkson, Gene Roemhildt, Karen Smithers and Shirley Strand.
- We pray for all those mourning the recent loss of loved ones.
- We pray for Gene Roemhildt and Shirley Strand who are in Ecumen Hospice Care.
- We pray for Karen Smithers who is recovering from hip surgery.
- We pray for peace around the world; for all affected by natural disasters; and, for healing and wholeness in the lives of all who are ill.