



all victorious,  
rich in blessing!  
Rule and might o'er all possessing!

Come, precious diamond, light divine,  
and deep within our hearts now shine;  
there light a flame undying!  
In your one body let us be  
as living branches of a tree,  
your life our lives supplying.  
Now, though daily  
earth's deep sadness  
may perplex us  
and distress us,  
yet with heav'nly joy you bless us.

#### DIALOGUE

The star shone bright in the Bethlehem sky.

**We too have a star to guide us.**

The shepherds ran to see the babe.

**We too have a star to guide us.**

The magi knelt at the child's feet.

**We too have a star to guide us.**

Christ shines with God's own truth and light.

**We too have a Star to guide us.**

CAROL ELW 275 Angels, from the realms of glory vs. 3

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations,  
you have seen his natal star.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

#### GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

READING: 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 to 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 to 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW 300 The First Noel

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## STAR WORD REFLECTIONS

### HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 715 Christ, Be Our Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
signs of your kingdom come.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

## CREED

We believe in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth.

**The one who is full of patience,  
who is not afraid of silence,  
who does not need to fill each moment with activity and noise.  
The one who is beyond bluster and flurry,  
and who does not jostle for attention.**

We believe in God the Son, Savior of creation,  
**who slipped into Bethlehem one night, mostly unnoticed,**

**who lived thirty years without headlines or hurry,  
who frequently took time alone with his patient Father,  
who waited for the right time to become the suffering servant,  
who stood quietly before the noise of his accusers,  
whose silence overpowered their words,  
who died, then rose again on a quiet Sunday morning.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
**who strengthens, empowers, renews and refreshes,  
sometimes arriving with obvious power,  
sometimes with the quiet breath of a whisper.**  
We believe in one God  
**who patiently waits for us,  
and who longs for us to do the same.**

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by the star, together with the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

O Splendor of God's glory, shine your radiance within our world. Remove the barriers that divide us, and teach us to love with all our might. Lead us, O God:

**lead us by your light.**

True Dawn from on high, set us free from the power of guilt and grave. Shine your light in our lives and grant us your grace. Lead us, O God:

**lead us by your light.**

O living Spring of light from light, renew the strength of all who suffer: the poor, the sick, and those who mourn. Lead us, O God:

**lead us by your light.**

God of light, into your hands we place all for whom we pray, trusting in your radiant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

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

#### BLESSING

Beloved children of God, what came into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. May the light of Christ shine on you with grace and mercy and fill you with joy and peace. (*John 1:1, 3-5*)

**Amen.**

HYMN ELW 303 Brightest and Best of the Stars

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.

Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

What shall we give him, in costly devotion?  
Shall we bring incense and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?

#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace, guided by the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### POSTLUDE Brightest and Best – arr. Miller

Tune: James P. Harding, 1850-1911

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