



# FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third & Terry, Longmont, Colorado  
(303) 776-2800 | [www.firstluth.org](http://www.firstluth.org)  
Pastor Garrett Struessel and Deacon Korra Looschen

Ordinary Time

Epiphany of the Lord  
Sunday, January 4, 2026  
9:30 a.m.

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

### INTRODUCTION



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.

### WELCOME

### CONFESS 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,  $\dagger$  one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,

**we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.**

**Amen.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you.  $\dagger$  Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

**Amen.**

# 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.

## GATHERING HYMN

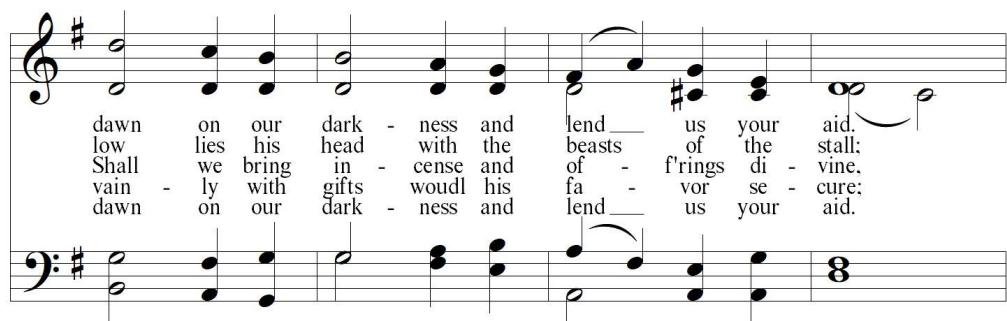
*"Brightest and Best of the Stars"*

ELW 303 vs. 1,2,3

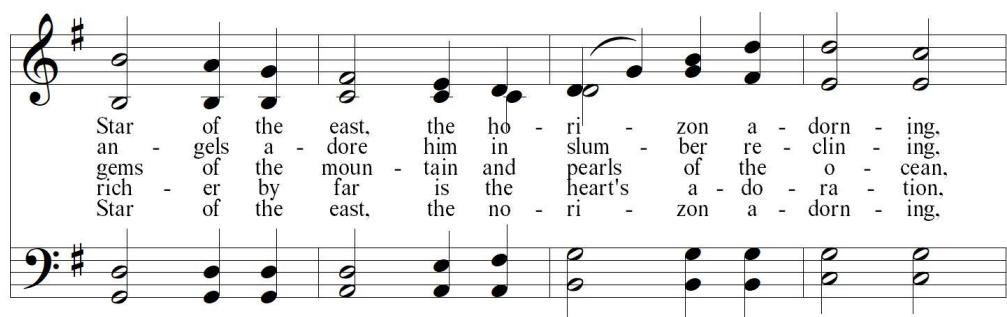
Brightest and Best of the Stars ELW 303



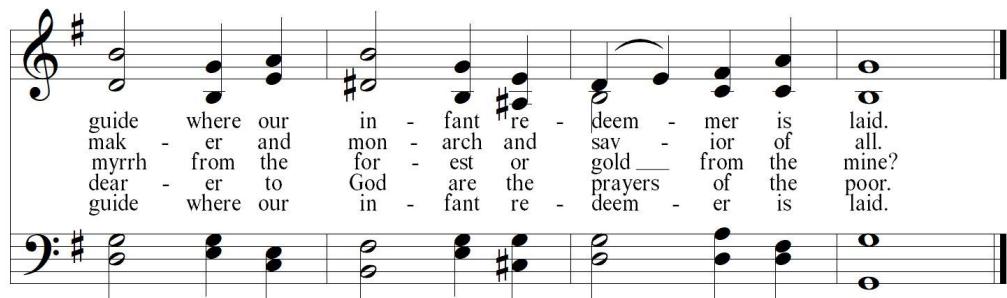
1. Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
2. Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;  
3. What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?  
4. Vain - ly we of - fer each stars of the morn - ing,  
5. Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.  
low lies his head - with the beasts of your stall;  
Shall we bring in - cense and of - frings di - vine,  
vain - ly with our dark - ness and 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 a - do - ra - tion.  
Star of the east. the no - ri - zon a - dorn - ing.



guide where our in - fant re - deem - mer 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.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.  
Music: James P. Hardin, 1850-1911, adapt.

MORNING STAR  
11 10 11 10

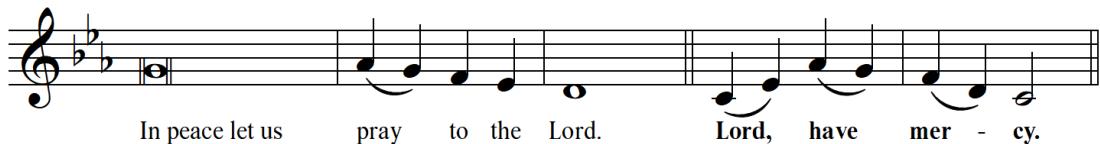
## GREETING

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

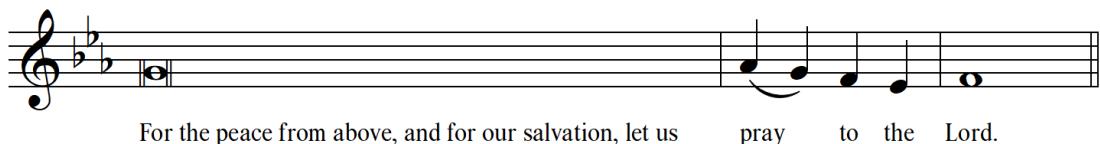
**And also with you.**

## KYRIE

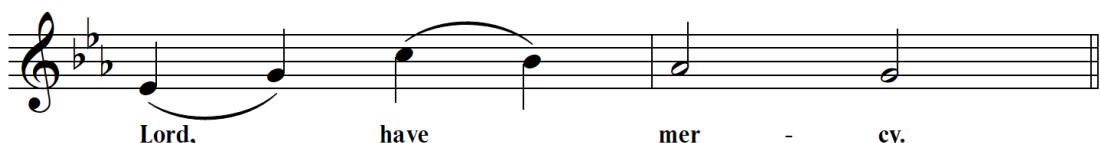
Page 98



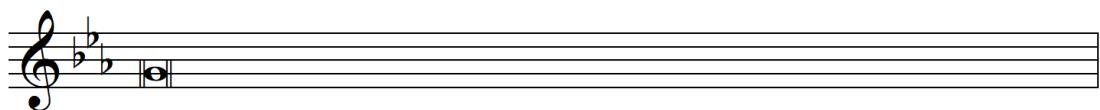
In peace let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.



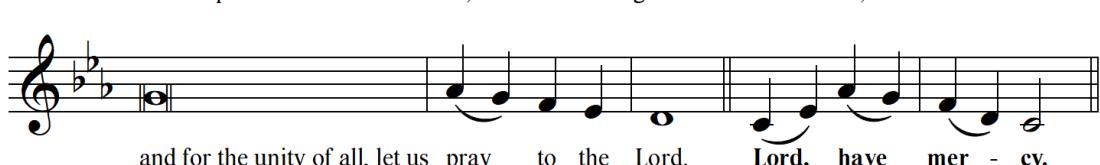
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



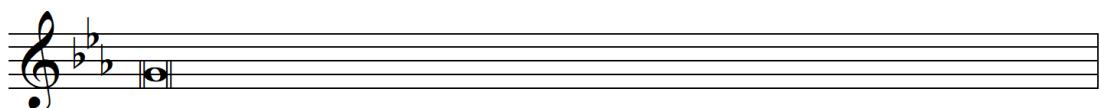
Lord, have mercy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the wellbeing of the church of God,



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



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



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high -  
 est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.  
 Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - migh - ty 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.  
 Glo - ry to God in the high -  
 est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**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.**

## ANTHEM

*"Star of Wonder"* arr. By Page/Shafferman

Chancel Choir

## WORD

## READINGS

### Isaiah 60:1-6

*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 in 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Ephesians 3:1-12

*What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

<sup>1</sup> This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, <sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> 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:

<sup>6</sup> that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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 <sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDRENS TIME

Deacon Korra Looschen

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Page 102

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

## GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

*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, magi 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 in the east 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 magi 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 in the east, 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.**

## SERMON

Pastor Ann Hultquist

## 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 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 THE PEOPLE

Hear us O God

**Your mercy is great.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

Peace of the Lord be with you always

**And also with you.**

## MEAL

## OFFERTORY

*“Alleluia”* by Ed Harris

Chancel Choir

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of glory,

**great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.**

**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Page 107

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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

## HOLY HOLY HOLY

Page 108

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of

power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Ho-

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE 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.**

## SHARING OF COMMUNION

*All are welcome who come trusting in the gift of God's presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation shared in this meal. "The body of Christ, broken for you", and "the blood of Christ shed for you", include the promise of forgiveness, life and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

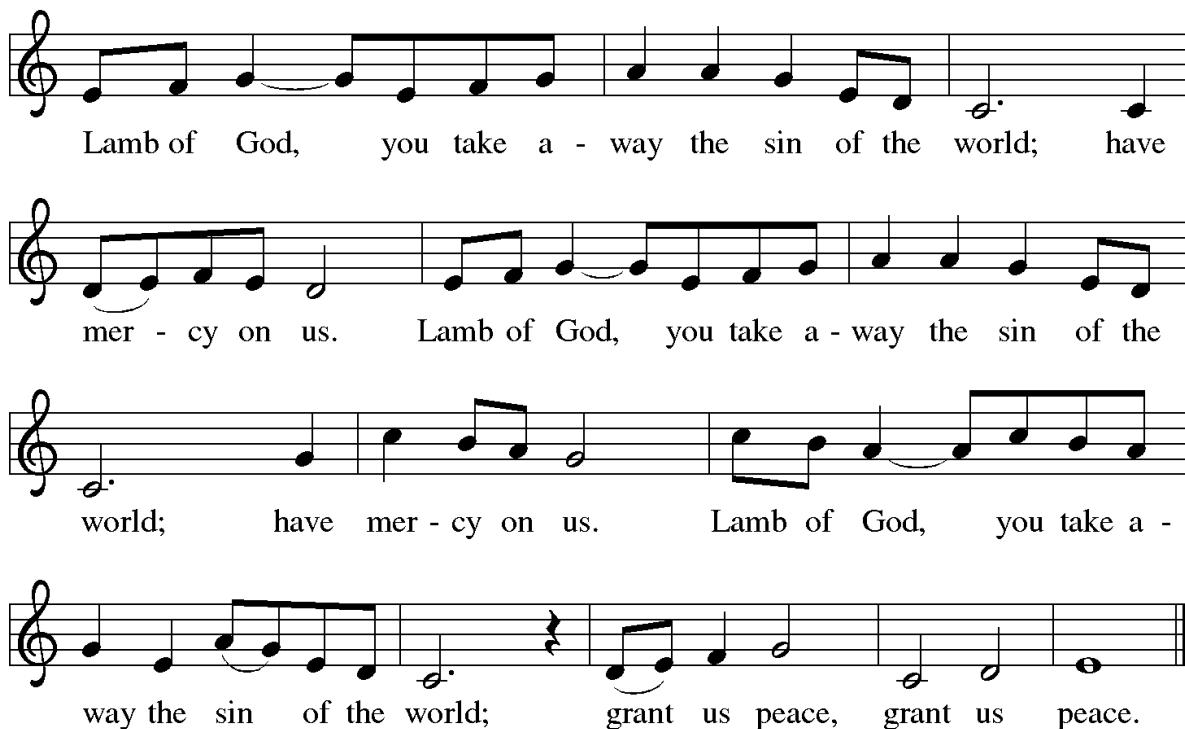
*Hear these words and partake of the bread/cracker and wine/juice, giving it to each other, if possible:*

**"The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you."**

*All are welcome who come trusting in the gift of God's presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, shared in this meal. "The body of Christ, broken for you", and "the blood of Christ shed for you", include the promise of the forgiveness of sin, life and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord. The ushers will invite you to come forward for communion. We invite everyone to receive communion if you so desire. The invitation to receive Holy Communion is from Christ Jesus; therefore "all are welcome". In our serving communion trays, wine is darker red on the outside, and grape juice is the lighter color in the center. We serve only gluten-free bread prepared in a kitchen excluding wheat flour, to include everyone regardless of wheat-gluten sensitivities. Come, taste and see, that the Lord is good.*

## LAMB OF GOD

Page 112



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, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

*"As with Gladness Men of Old"*  
*Bright and Glorious Is the Sky"*  
*"Angels, From the Realms of Glory"*

ELW 302

ELW 301

ELW 275

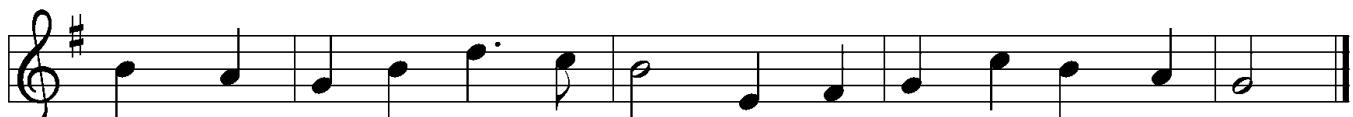
### As with Gladness Men of Old



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

# Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

ELW 301

1. Bright and glo - rious is the sky.  
 2. On that ho - ly Christ - mas night  
 3. Sa - ges from the east a - far,  
 4. Him they found in Beth - le - hem.

ra - diant are the  
 through when they saw this  
 when yet he worn no

beav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.  
 beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing.  
 won - drous star. went to fin the king of na - tions  
 di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly

All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to  
 all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as to the won - drous  
 and to of - fer their pure ob - la - tions rest - the child, the  
 with and in - fant and ho - ly to in - her

heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.  
 star drew night, as to the won - drous star drew night.  
 new - born king, the child, the new - born king.  
 lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877-1970, alt. DEJLIG ER DEN HIMMEL BLA  
 Music: Danish, 19th cent 77 88 77  
 Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

5 Guided by the star, they found  
 him whose praise the ages sound  
 We too have a star to guide us,  
 which forever will provide us  
 with the light to find our Lord,  
 with the light to find our Lord.

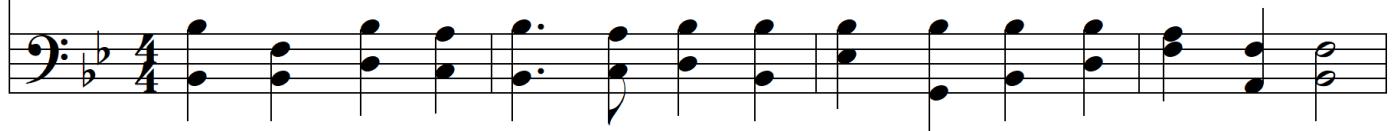
6 And this star, as bright as day,  
 that will never lead astray  
 with its message so appealing,  
 is the word of God, revealing  
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life,  
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

## Angels, from the Realms of Glory

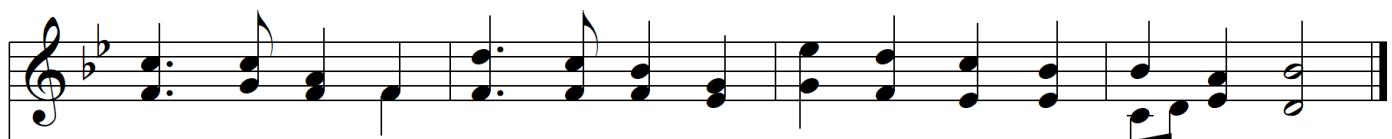
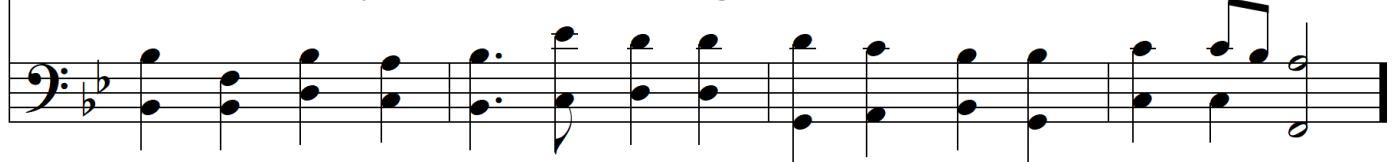
ELW 275



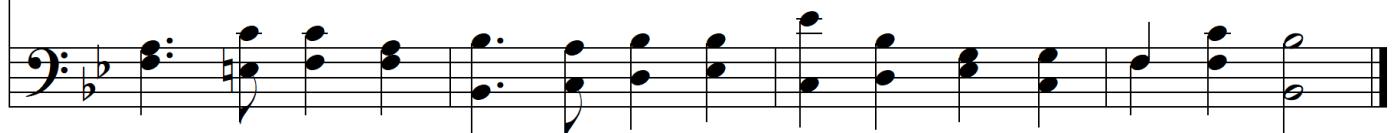
1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o're all the earth;  
 2. Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o're your flocks by night,  
 3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
 4. All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ the new - born king.



Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
 Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

REGENT SQUARE  
 8 7 8 7 8 7

## COMMUNION BLESSING

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.**

**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BENEDICTION

#### SENDING HYMN

*"Arise, Your Light Has Come"*

ELW 314

#### SENDING

Glory to God in the highest!

**And peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**Thanks be to God.**

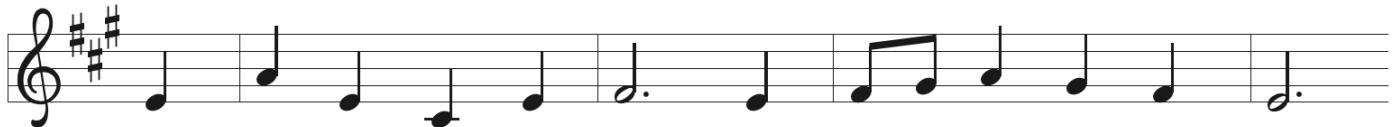
### POSTLUDE

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|                      |                                   |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Preacher/Presider    | The Rev. Ann Hultquist            |
| Worship Assistant    | Deacon Korra Looschen             |
| Acolyte              | Jonathan Leos                     |
| Council Members      | John Gaddis, Sr.<br>Kayla Morelli |
| Ushers               | Vicki Hergott<br>Tim King         |
| Reader               | Dorotha Ekx                       |
| Communion Assistants | Herb Hergott<br>Marilyn Williams  |
| Choir Director       | Sally Campbell                    |
| Pianist/Organist     | Gary Elmquist                     |

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## Arise, Your Light Has Come!



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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