



Epiphany Sunday



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

GATHERING

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

P: In the dark of morning,,
C: **the stars still shine.**
P: In the depth of winter,
C: **the birds still climb.**
P: At the start of the year, tender and new,
C: **God is here. God is near.**
P: Do not rest in your fear.
C: **God is here.**
P: So like the stars and the birds,
C: **Let us worship holy God.**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

RISE, SHINE, YOU PEOPLE
NEXT PAGE

ELW 665

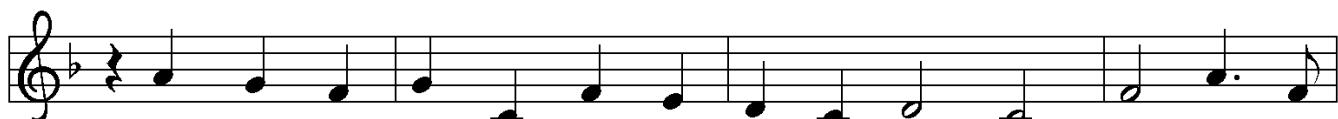


*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

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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***CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Friends, on this Epiphany Sunday we stand at the start of a new year, and there is nothing better about a new year than the chance to begin again. That is exactly what we do in the Prayer of Confession. We speak honestly with God and God surrounds us with grace. We are able to begin again.

So may we start this new year, this new season, this new week with God's grace. Let us pray. Let us begin again.

C: **Ever-loving God, we long for Christmas to usher in a season of peace and joy. However, we know that is not how the world works. Even just days after Christmas, we find ourselves face to face with fear once again.**

So today we pray—

**forgive us when we allow fear to stop us in our tracks.
Forgive us when our own fear prevents us from following your call. Forgive us when fear is louder than love.**

Show us how to turn our fear into action. Show us how to live like the magi who searched for you in a fearful world. With hope we pray, amen.

P: Family of Faith, whether you are brave and courageous or fearful and timid, God's love for you knows no end. So join me in these words of forgiveness:

C: **Whether fear inspires us to action, or stops us dead in our tracks, God's love for us is boundless. We are seen. We are surrounded with grace. We are sent to serve. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

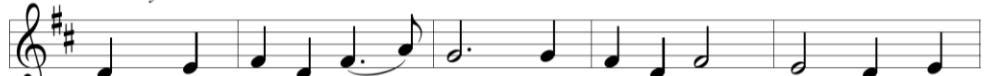
KYRIE

Cantor



We pray for peace, O Lord, make plow-shares of our swords, make

Assembly



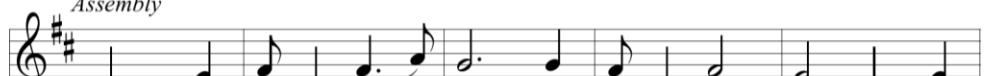
Lord, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Lord, have

Cantor



Christ, make us grow in grace un - til we see your face, un -

Assembly



Christ, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Christ, have

Cantor



De - fend your church, O Lord, and root it in your word, and

Assembly



Lord, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Lord, have

*STAND A

JOYOUS LIGHT OF HEAVENLY GLORY

1 Joy - ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own
2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of
3 You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev -'ry danc - ing star of

face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on
dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can
night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us

ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -
hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with
each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -

round us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of day - break,
won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that bursts all
a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing Spir - it

God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.
chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.
of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

* GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: **And also, with you.**

P: God of the Stars, like the magi, we come to this place searching for you. So today, just like every day, we ask that you would remove any barricades that keep us from your Spirit. Clear out the distractions. Wipe away the doubt. Open up our hearts, and speak to us through these ancient words. And as you do, we will keep walking. As you do, we will move toward you. With hope we pray,

C: **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: 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 in 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.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

O God, Whose Word Well-Planted



1 O God, whose word well-plant-ed yields fruit a hun-dred-fold,
2 O God of seed and har-vest, of sun and soil and rain,
3 O God, your fi-nal har-vest of his-try's an- cient field



we praise your grac-es grant-ed to those who sowed of old,
at-tend the word we sow, lest its plant-ing be in vain.
will test with truth the proud-est that hu-man work can yield.



who by their wit-ness scat-tered good seed up-on the soil
Send show-ers of your Spir-it, bright sun-shine of your grace,
Op-pres-sion's blight will van-ish, fair free-dom's fruits in-crease;



where oth-ers, reap-ing, gath-ered the har-vest of their toil.
that mul-ti-tudes who hear it your gos-pel may em-brace.
and love and joy will flour-ish to clothe the earth with peace.

*GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter, beginning with the 1st verse.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, 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." 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 magi 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 in the east, 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.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

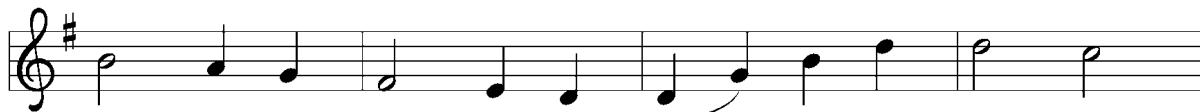
Brightest and Best of the Stars



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 am - ple ob - la - tion,
 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 the stall;
 Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,
 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
 dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorm - 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 ad - o - ra - tion,
 Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorm - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er 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: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

***APOSTLES CREED**

P: Let us now confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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, and 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 life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Creator of stars, Creator of sunsets and sunrises, Creator of big horizons and even bigger skies, today we bring you our prayers. Our prayers are small in comparison to the greatness you have created, but even so, we know that you are listening.

So today, God, we pray for courage. In a world that is rattled with fear, fill our hearts with courage. Show us the places we can make a difference. Quiet the voices of comparison and doubt. Silence our imposter syndrome. Fill the sky with stars and guide our steps, so that, like the magi, we might walk toward you in courage.

For if we're honest, the world is a scary place. You know that. We know that. We fear change. We fear death. We fear being alone or not being enough. We fear the Herods of the world, just like we fear losing our way. There are a million reasons we have to be afraid, God, but we do not want fear to stop us.

So today we pray—make us like the magi. Grant us the courage to keep walking. Grant us the conviction to keep hoping. Grant us the imagination to keep dreaming. Grant us the faith to keep seeking. Grant us the wisdom to keep reaching. Grant us the will to keep walking.

Make us like the magi, and we will walk toward you.

With hope, we place one foot in front of the other. With hope, we look to the stars. With hope, we gather every ounce of courage we have. With hope, we reach for each other. With hope, we choose to keep walking. With hope we lean forward, we listen for your word, Draw near to us, O God, as we command all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

P: Let us share God's peace with each other now.

MEAL

OFFERING AND SETTING THE TABLE

*OFFERTORY ANTHEM



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we

place up - on your ta - ble. We do not wor - ship
grew in your good plea-sure. What once was com - mon,
lift in prayer be - fore you. Lord, by your grace now

as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
dai - ly food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

*OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

**C: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for
the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*THE PROPER PREFACE

P: 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, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P: 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.

And so, we will join our voices together to pray the prayer your son taught us to pray, saying...

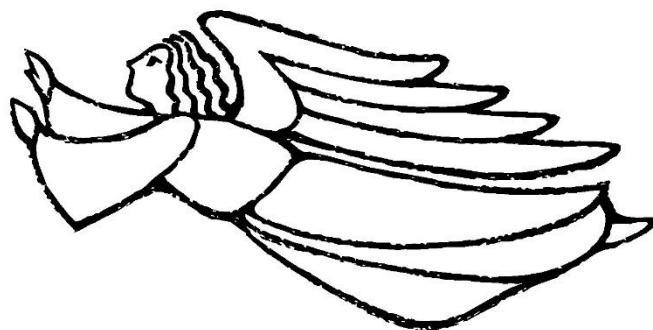
C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is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

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: There is no need for fear here, for this is a joyful feast. And you are invited. Come. All are welcome.

COMMUNION MUSIC

1 O Lamb of God, to the earth you came to
2 O Lamb of God, the on - ly Son, to
save us all from grief and shame. Shorn of your life, up -
us show mer - cy, Ho - ly One. You save the world from
on the tree you hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
all its sin. Lord, give to us your peace. A - men.



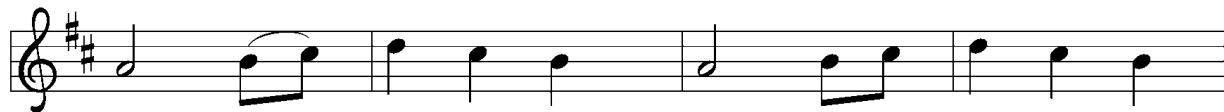
The First Noel



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

Refrain



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

***PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION**

P: And now may this, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace forever.

C: **Amen.**

A: Loving God, In a world racked with fear, you gather us together. You set the table. You meet us here. You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits. You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win every time. So with renewed courage, with renewed hope, with renewed conviction, send us out into the world. Help us to feed others as you have fed us. With gratitude we pray,

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

***BLESSING**

P: In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear. In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with— go in peace and be not afraid.

C: **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

SHINE, JESUS SHINE

ELW 671

NEXT PAGE

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Show Christ's love to the world.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Shine, Jesus, Shine / Brilla, Jesús

Verses / Estrofas

1. Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, In the
 2. Lord, I come to your awe - some pres - ence, From the
 3. As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness, So our
 1. *Dios, la luz de tu a - mor bri - llan - do es - tá; en el*
 2. *A tu san - ta pre - sen - cia ven - go; de la*
 3. *Con - tem - plan - do tu faz bri - llan - te, nues - tros*

midst of the dark - ness, shin - ing. Je - sus, Light of the
 shad - ows in - to your ra - diance; By the blood I may
 fac - es dis - play your like - ness, Ev - er chang - ing from
 me - dio de las ti - nie - blas, *Cris - to, e - res la*
 som - bra a tu luz ra - dian - te, *pue - do en - trar a tra -*
 ros - tros dan tu i - ma - gen; *trans - for - ma - dos de*

world, shine up - on us; Set us free by the truth you now
 en - ter your bright - ness; Search me, try me, con - sume all my
 glo - ry to glo - ry, Mir - rored here, may our lives tell your
luz de es - te mun - do, tu ver - dad re - ve - la - da nos
 vés de la san - gre; *prué - ba - me y con - su - me mi os -*
 glo - ria en glo - ria, *nues - tras vi - das re - fle - jan tu his -*

bring us: Shine on me; Shine on me.
 dark - ness: Shine on me; Shine on me.
 sto - ry: Shine on me; Shine on me.
 li - bra. Bri - lla en mí. Bri - lla en mí.
 cu - ri - dad. Bri - lla en mí. Bri - lla en mí.
 to - ria. Bri - lla en mí. Bri - lla en mí.

Refrain / Estribillo

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry.
Bri - lla, Je - sús, re - fle - jan - do la luz del Pa - dre;



Blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, riv - er, flow, Flu - yan do-quier
Es - pí - ri - tu, ar-de_en nues - tro ser.



flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy. Send forth your Word,
ri - os de com - pa - sión y gra - cia; man - da po - der



Lord, and let there be light!
y que ven - ga la luz.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b.1950; tr. by Luis Alfredo Díaz and Lori Black Mathis
Tune: SHINE, 9 9 10 10 33 with refrain: Graham Kendrick, b.1950, arr. by Tom Fettke
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Announcements

WE PRAY FOR...

- Rosemary Rizzo - Tony Rizzo - Erin Jankowski -
-Dee Marinov- Diane Busdiecker-Elaine Wolffers-
-Brian Freeburg- Maryann and Chip Orlando-

George Troester- Son of Maureen Sieteski
Maya Chakraborty
Katherine Sikorski
Brooke- Great-niece of Annette Berg
Angela Roeser
Emily- Niece of Patty Walker
Frank Senn- Brother of Nancy Noble
Janice Darveau- Friend of Kathy Busdiecker
David Jinks- Sarah Kuehfus' Father
Pete & Gayle Ciraolo- Vince Ciraolo's cousin
Jessica Ekman- Friend of Karl and Judy Kristoff

The annual meeting of the St. Paul's congregation will take place on Sunday, January 25th following the service.



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ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Acknowledgments

KYRIE

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Music: African American spiritual Text © 1990,
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CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen,
b. 1950
Music: Marty Haugen
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THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: Marty Haugen
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OFFERING

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer
Music: Appalachian traditional; Barb'ry Ellen
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HOLY HOLY

Music: Mass of Creation, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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AGNUS DEI

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Music: Appalachian traditional;
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COVER IMAGE: PAUL OMEN



What do
you fear
INSISTING ON HOPE THIS ADVENT



Treasured by God

A newborn baby often elicits “oohs” and “ahs” from its admirers and yet developmentally, may be doing nothing incredibly remarkable—only able to focus on objects only about 18 inches in front of its face and prone to stare at any shiny object. Nevertheless, a newborn is a miracle to behold, filled with wonder for the world around it and desiring nothing more than to be fed, held, rocked, nurtured, and loved.

The gifts of the magi direct us away from the cute, cuddly, cooing baby Jesus by pointing us to who Jesus really has come to be. The magi offer gold, a possession of kings; frankincense, used in ritual to indicate the presence of the deity; and myrrh, an oil used at the time of death as well as for anointing priests. By their gifts, the wise men reveal the identity of this child: the king before whom nations will bow, the anointed high priest of God, and the suffering servant who will die for the ones he has come to serve.

The “oohs” and “ahs” we offer as we celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord are not simply for a cooing and cuddly baby Jesus but for a God who chooses to reveal God’s love and mercy by taking human form. On this day, we celebrate that God’s mercy is wider and deeper than we imagined and includes all people and all nations. All people—rich or poor, Gentile or Jew, straight or gay, male or female—are God’s treasure, the precious ones for whom God is willing to die. What do we bring to honor our Lord before whom we bow? We bring the treasure of our lives poured out in praise of God and in service to others.

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