

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



Daikhari Blanks
Grade 1

7 JANUARY 2024
The Theophany of Our Lord
10:30 am

From the beginning, through baptism, we are called Christian. We are “Christened” at the font. Bearing Christ’s name, we share the same Father and are invited to address this parent intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of God. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 814-454-0106

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

WALT GABER

Cantor

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL

THE REV. KAREN PARSH

THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

Pastors in Residence

LINDA GRAFFIUS, RN

Director of Care & Health Ministries

JAN MACINNES

Care Ministry

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI
Youth and Family Ministry

MICHELLE THOM

Academy Administrator

7 JANUARY 2024

THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD Holy Communion • 10:30

Luther Memorial Church and Academy is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Haudenosaunee, Mississauga, and Erie people, people of the Six Nations Treaty, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

GATHERING – “The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.”

PRELUDE – “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

J. C. Bach, Dietrich Buxtehude

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 300

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; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

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.**

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -

God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!

Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es

you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though

ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and

in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART

WORD – “God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.”

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

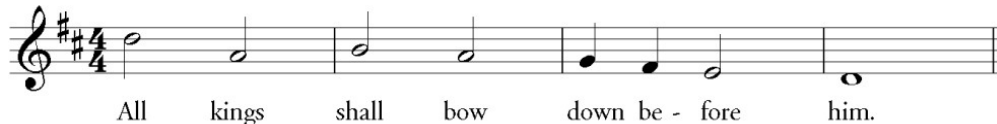
¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and the glory of the Lord will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light and rulers to the brightness of 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 in 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.

☐ The Word is made flesh.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Refrain: (*Sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation and sung where indicated by R.*)



- ¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
²that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;
³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.
⁴He shall defend the needy among the people,
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor. **R**
- ⁵He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
⁶He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.
⁷In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- ¹⁰The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,
and the kings of Arabia and Seba offer gifts. **R**
- ¹¹All kings shall bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.
¹²For he shall deliver the poor who cry out in distress,
and the oppressed who has no helper.
¹³He shall have pity on the lowly and poor,
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
¹⁴He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight. **R**

SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³Then Paul said, “Into what, then, were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied, ⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

The Word is made flesh.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able to greet the Gospel.

SEQUENCE

ELW 308

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with
heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your
mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “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.” 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 magi 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 in the east, 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.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

GRADUAL

ELW 308

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,
when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!
Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here
and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -
lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life
for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

Please be seated.

SERMON

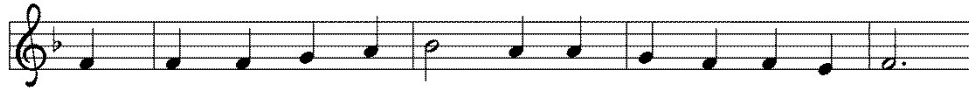
Pastor Jay

Please stand as you are able to proclaim the Word of God in Song.

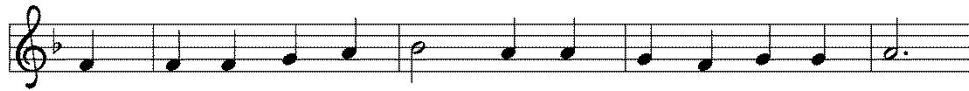
HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 311

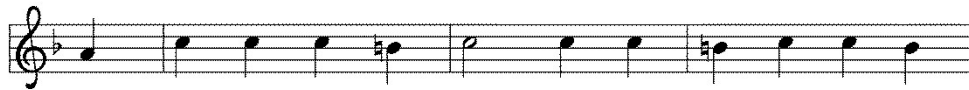
Hail to the Lord's Anointed



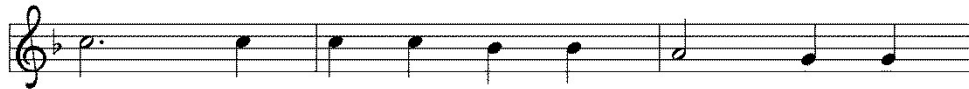
1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to
Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,
To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and
light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are
go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from
cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



rule in eq - ui - ty.
pre - cious in your sight.
hill to val - ley flow,
king - dom with - out end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.
Music: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540-1602

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

- A** In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”
- P** Siblings in Christ, as we celebrate Jesus’ own baptism and God calling him Beloved, we gather to celebrate the baptism of another beloved of God. God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Please be seated. The sponsor(s) present the candidate for baptism:

- P** I present **Martin Jonathan Gaber** to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

The presiding minister addresses the parent(s):

- P** Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Martin Jonathan baptized into Christ?

R *I do.*

As you bring Martin to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in him hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help Martin grow in the Christian faith and life?

R *I do.*

The presiding minister addresses the sponsor(s):

- P** Sponsor(s), do you promise to nurture Martin in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

R *I do.*

Please stand as you are able. The presiding minister addresses the congregation:

- P** People of God, do you promise to support Martin and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

C **We do.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses the parent(s) and sponsor(s) of the child.

- P** I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.
Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

R *I renounce them.*

- P** Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

R *I renounce them.*

- P** Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

R *I renounce them.*

The presiding minister addresses the parent(s) and sponsor(s) and the congregation.



- P** Do you believe in God the Father?
- C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**
- P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C** **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.**
- P** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- C** **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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Water may be poured into the font before or during the thanksgiving. At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving:

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- P** We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

BAPTISM

The presiding minister baptizes the child. Water is poured on his head, as the presiding minister says:

- P** Martin Jonathan Gaber, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

Water is poured on his head a second time:

- P** and of the Son,

Water is poured on his head a third time:

- P** and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**



The presiding minister continues:

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

P Sustain Martin Jonathan with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose is used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

P Martin Jonathan, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to a sponsor of the baptized as the pastor says:

P Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the congregation. The pastor leads the congregation in the welcome.

P Let us welcome Martin, our newest sibling in Christ!

**C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

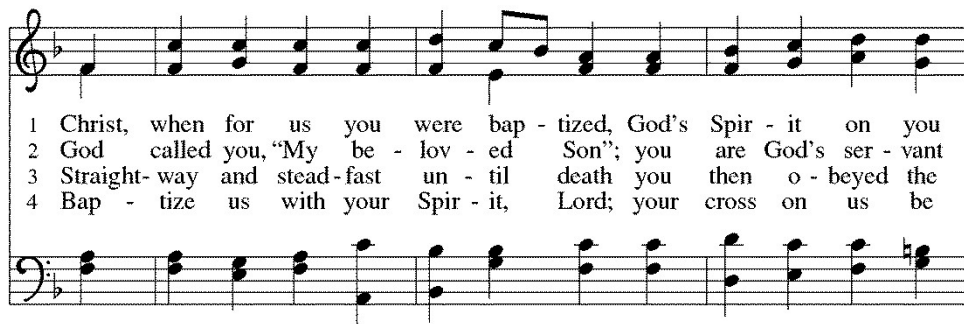
The congregation offers acclamation with applause.

SPRINKLING SONG

ELW 304

During the singing of the hymn, the congregation is sprinkled with water in remembrance of their baptisms.

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
3 Straight - way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
 true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
 call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
 signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may

ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
 ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
 give your life for all, to give your life for all.
 per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.
 Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561
 Text © 1985 The Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

THE PRAYERS

A With all the people of God, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all of God's good creation.

A brief silence.

A For the Church: for deacons, pastors, and bishops; for all who serve your people; for all who proclaim the good news of Christ come near. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A For creation: for nestling birds and dormant plants; for shelter from the weather; for all who work for clean water and fresh air for all. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A For the nations: grant lasting peace to the ends of the earth, in particular in Palestine and Israel, Ukraine and Russia. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A For the sick and suffering: for those whose names and needs we hold dear; for those who cry out to you in their distress; for those who will die today. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A For Martin James and all the baptized: we give you thanks for all who have been knit into your Risen Body through baptism and those whose faith was known only to you; keep us with them in the promises of baptism until we pass through Jordan and gather around your eternal banquet. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Into your wounded hands of love, O God, we place all our prayers trusting in the mercy and grace of your Beloved, Jesus.

C Amen.

THE PEACE

☐ The peace of Christ be with you.

☑ **And also with you.**

☐ The peace of the Christ Child be with you always. ☑ **And also with you.**

You are invited to greet those around you in your pew with a word or a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated.

MEAL – “God feeds us with Jesus Christ.”

OFFERING IS RECEIVED

ANTHEM – “The Baptism of Jesus”

Austin C. Lovelace

*When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John,
He did not come for pardon, but as the sinless one.
He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins,
To speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.*

*He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss,
For us and our salvation to die upon the cross.
So when the Dove descended on him, the Son of Man,
The hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.*

*Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make;
This very day invade us, and every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most;
To share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.*

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY HYMN

ELW 308

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

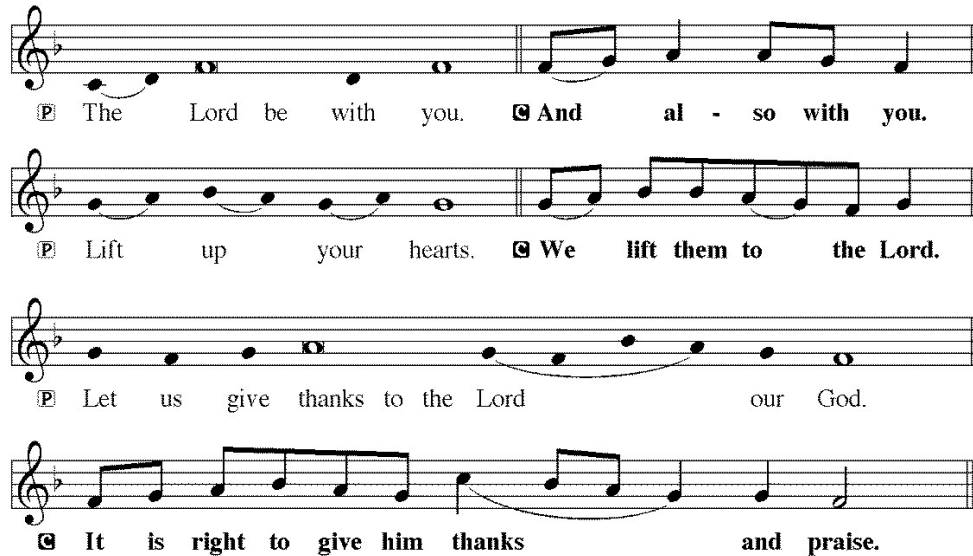
Oh, let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with mu-sic crowned,
Our voic - es gai - ly blend - ing! For Christ goes with us all the way,
To-day, to-mor - row, ev'-ry day! His love is ne - ver end - ing!
Sing out! Ring out! Ju - bi - la - tion! Ex - ul - ta - tion!
Tell the sto - ry! Praise to Christ, who reigns in glo - ry!

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG



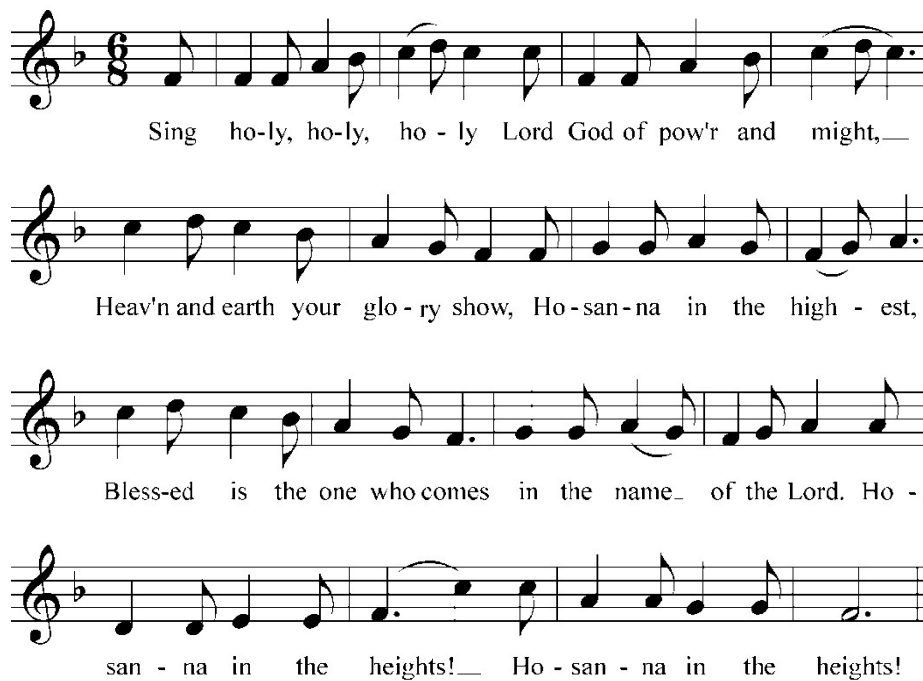
P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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 him thanks and praise.

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



Sing ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and might, —

Heav'n and earth your glo - ry show, Ho - san - na in the high - est,

Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name_ of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the heights! — Ho - san - na in the heights!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ Almighty Lord, we praise your shining light, your glowing grace. From before the earth's foundation, you loved us and promised us life forever. Within the earth's deep sadness, we laud your great and glorious might. Despite our tears and sinning, we sing of the gladness of your mercy.
- ☐ We praise your Son, our Morning Star. Christ is our diamond bright, our treasure dear. He is our living Savior who has ransomed us in love. He keeps us yours and fails us never—today, tomorrow, and every day.

*On the night before his great salvation, he 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.*

- ☐ With joy we tell our story:

☑ Alleluia!

- ☐ We call for your Spirit on us and this meal. Refresh our souls with this heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son. Nourish us as branches of your tree, and enlighten us with your undying flame.

We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son, we exult in the Spirit. Transport us in our yearning, and be for us the end and the beginning, our purest pleasure, our victorious crown, our never-ending love. And so we pray and praise:

☑ Amen! Alleluia!

OUR SAVIOR'S PRAYER

- ☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

☑ 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

- ☐ At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

☑ Amen.

- ☐ For those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the Body and Blood of Christ for you.

The congregation is seated.

*This is Christ's Table and all Christians are welcome to the feast!
We believe that this is the Body and Blood of Christ for you.*

Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle.

Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle.

White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine.

Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; please let the pastor know.

Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill.

As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the silver bowl.

*All are invited to the meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine,
please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing from the pastor.*

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

ACS 916

Down Galilee's Slow Roadways



1 Down Gal - i - lee's slow road - ways a strang - er trav - eled on
2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;
3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.



from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.
it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it's form.
We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.



He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,
The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:
But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.



but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.
"You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."
"You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933
Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.
Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.



Talia King
Grade 3

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky



1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
 2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness
 3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this
 4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no



heav - 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 find 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 the won - drous
 and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the
 with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her



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

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.

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

Please stand as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

P And now, may the body and blood of Christ, the Savior held in Mary's arms and which you have received in your hands, bless you, keep you in all goodness and health, and bring you to everlasting life.

C Amen.

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

What joy to know, when life is past, the Lord we love is first and last,
 the end and the be-gin - ning! He will one day, oh, glor-ious grace,
 trans-port us to that hap-py place be-yond all tears and sin - ning!
 A - men! A - men! Come, Lord Je - sus! Crown of glad - ness!
 We are yearn-ing for the day of your re - turn - ing.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608
 Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A** Giver of every gift, Christ’s body is our food, and we are Christ’s body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

SENDING – “God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.”

BLESSING

- P** ...and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit be yours this Christmas and always.
- C** Amen.

SENDING HYMN

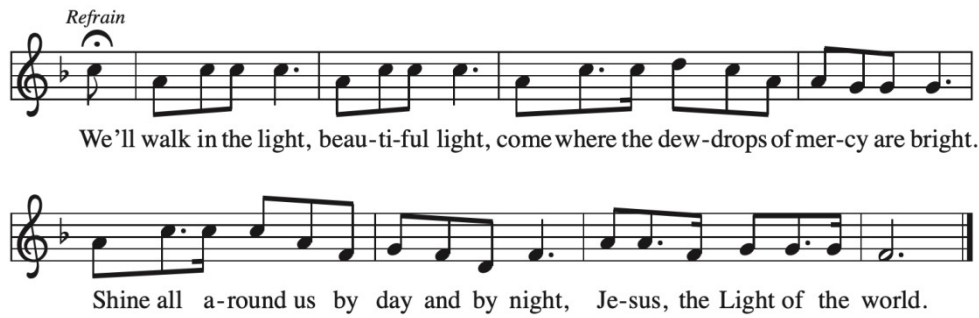
Jesus, the Light of the World

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je - sus, the Light of the world;
 2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je - sus, the Light of the world;
 3 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Je - sus, the Light of the world;
 4 Hail the heav’n-born Prince of peace! Je - sus, the Light of the world;

“Glo - ry to the new-born king,” Je - sus, the Light of the world.
 join the tri - umph of the skies; Je - sus, the Light of the world.
 Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je - sus, the Light of the world.
 Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je - sus, the Light of the world.



Refrain



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.
Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, stanzas; George D. Elderkin, 1845–1928, refrain
Music: WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT, Traditional; arr. George D. Elderkin

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

A Go in peace. You are God's beloved!

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE – "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

Wilhelm Rudnick, Walter Pelz

*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #11143-L
Other music and texts reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-709766
Citations from Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts.
Scripture quotations based on Readings for the Assembly © 1995, 1996, 1997 Augsburg Fortress;
NRSV Bible © 1989 and NRSVue Bible © 2021 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.
Adapted and edited by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw .*

— SERVING TODAY —

GREETER – Jeff Swanson

ACOLYTE – Gabe Stroup

ASSISTING MINISTER – Liz Stroup

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Beth Keller

LECTOR – Pat Bellingham

MAGI BEARERS – Tessa & Jack Bartlett, Amelia & Elliot Lang, Lincoln McCall

USHERS – Tom Klomp, Brooke & Lincoln McCall, Betty Pletz

VIDEO STREAMING – Gina Snider

ALTAR GUILD – Sharon Burke



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of the baptism of Martin Jonathan Gaber by grandparents, Cathie and Tim Dugan and Jeanne and Walt Gaber.

Front altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Fred on his 94th birthday which was January 3 by Marilyn.

Martin Jonathan Gaber will be welcomed into the fellowship of Luther Memorial during the 10:30 service this morning. Born October 24, 2023, Martin is the son of Molly and Jonathan Gaber and grandson of Cathie and Tim Dugan and Jeanne and Walt Gaber.

Our graphics in today's bulletin are the artwork of some of our LMA students. Over the next few weeks, more of the creativity will be shared in our bulletins. We invite you to stop by the 11th Street entrance to see more of their drawings.

Today's Events

Offering envelopes for 2024 are located on the table by the ramp door. To save on postage we ask that you please pick up your envelopes. They are arranged alphabetically. Thank you.

Desk calendars for 2024, compliments of the Burton Quinn-Scott Funeral Home, are located at the welcome tables. Please pick up as many as you need for the coming year.

Greeting cards can be found in the information rack located near the parlor area. A large variety of cards that will fit every occasion are available. Youth are offering these cards for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

Worship

Our prelude begins at 10:25 each week and flows into the 10:30am worship time. We hope that this will draw us together and into our time of worship. Please remember to be mindful of those around you and those worshipping at home by keeping conversations and visiting to the lobbies once the prelude has begun. Thank you.

A reminder that our livestream runs from the beginning of the prelude through the end of the postlude. To maintain a worshipful space for those joining from home, please remember to leave the chancel area (the area around the altar) clear until after the postlude.

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, January 28, 2024 following the 10:30am service. The 8:15am service will not be held. Annual reports from staff members, committee heads and other key members of the congregation are appreciated to the church office by Sunday, January 14, 2024. The Annual Report will be emailed prior to January 28, and copies will be available to the congregation.

Where Is Pastor Jay?

Pastor Jay is out of town Monday, January 8 and Tuesday, January 9.

Pastor Jay would love to meet with you! You don't just need to have an emergency to have a great chat. If you want to get together, because Pastor Jay is often away from his desk doing other pastorly things, you should probably call the church office or e-mail Pastor Jay directly at JMitchell@LutherMemorialOnline.org. This week, Pastor Jay is available Wednesday, January 10 from 3:00-4:30pm in the office or Thursday, January 11 from 8:00-9:00 at Pressed Coffee (8th and Greengarden).

Opportunities for Fellowship

“Souper” Bowl Tasting event will be held Sunday, February 4 in fellowship hall following the 10:30am service. All are invited to whip up a batch of their favorite soup for all to have a taste and enjoy. Soup may be taken to fellowship hall in the morning to keep warm. If you'd like to share your recipe, please bring along some copies. Thank you to our Congregational Life Committee for planning this fellowship time.

OWLS will be attending the Valentine's Day luncheon on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at the Ambassador Conference Center, 7794 Peach Street, from 12:00 noon – 2:00pm. There is no charge and parking is free. Only a certain number of reservations are accepted and these fill up very quickly. Please contact Jan MacInnes at 833-0476 or Norma in our church office with any questions. Thank you.

Magic Fingers Grace Group hopes you will join them this new year the second and fourth Tuesdays each month for knitting and crocheting. We will gather January 9 and 23 from 10:00am-12:00 noon for a creative and fun morning. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

Faith Formation

ALT Worship (*A Lutheran Table*) will gather the second Wednesday of each month beginning January 10, 2024 at 5:30pm. The service is about 60 minutes and centers around sharing a meal. We begin by preparing the meal and the worship space together and end with dessert and clean-up. All part of the worship experience. We will also share in Communion. Come on out for something new and a unique encounter with the Divine!

Dinner With Our Flock, will be held on Wednesday, January 17. At 5:30 we gather for dinner; the main dish is provided, please bring a dish to share. A Bible lesson and a craft or activity will be held following our meal.

B.A.D. (*Bible After Dark*) will be held on February 7 at 6:30pm at the Brewerie. Our evenings are a wonderful time of fellowship as we gather with folks from Mt. Calvary to share in Bible Study and fellowship (with some adult beverages if you would like). Every **first** Wednesday, we gather to share from *Bible Stories for Grown-Ups* and discussion of what these stories we learned in Sunday School still mean for us today. RSVP is not necessary but helpful. Let Pastor Jay or the church office know if you're interested.

Vendor Fair

Amazing after Christmas finds will be discovered at our Vendor Fair on Saturday, January 20. Held in fellowship hall from 10:00am – 3:00pm numerous vendors will have items available which will be sure to catch your eye. Admission is free.

Lenten Preparations

Do you have your palms from last year? Did you know that the former year's ashes palms are used for the ashes on Ash Wednesday of the next year? Please bring your old palms (from any year) into church and/or the office any time before Sunday, February 11! A basket will be on the Welcome Table near the ramp entrance. We will be using them to make this year's ashes for Ash Wednesday. Thank you.

Tuesday, February 13 is Shrove Tuesday (some know it as Mardi Gras or "Fat Tuesday"). We will celebrate with a fundraiser for our youth: a Pancake Supper will be held from 5:30 – 7:00pm in our fellowship hall. Join us for a delicious meal as we celebrate Mardi Gras. Cost is \$8/adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Proceeds will benefit our youth attending the National Youth Gathering in July 2024.

First Holy Communion will be offered on Sunday, April 14, 2024 during the 10:30am service. In preparation for First Communion two Saturday morning sessions will be held on April 6 and April 13 from 9:00am – 12:00 noon, including snack time. These 2 All-Family Workshops will be our preparation for the big celebration! Any family interested in First Communion should plan to attend both sessions. First Communion is open to all the baptized so any child and family are welcome if you're ready. However, families with children in grades 3-5 are strongly encouraged to participate if your child has not received First Communion yet. Please contact Pastor Jay or the church office if your family will be attending these sessions. Thank you.

Items to Note

In case of an emergency and unable to reach Pastor Jay, please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. During the weekend and evening you are welcome to contact Norma Buerk at 450-7162 or Linda Graffius at 440-5458. Thank you.

READINGS AND COMMEMORATIONS

January 8 – Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Genesis 17:1-13; Romans 4:1-12

January 9 – Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Exodus 30:22-38; Acts 22:2-16

January 10 – Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Isaiah 41:14-20; John 1:29-34

January 11 – Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Judges 2:6-15; II Corinthians 10:1-11

January 12 – Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Judges 2:16-23; Acts 13:16-25

January 13 – Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; I Samuel 2:21-25; Matthew 25:1-13

CALENDAR

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group
 2:30pm LMA Play Rehearsal
 6:00pm Church Council

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10 5:30pm ALT Worship

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11 2:30pm LMA Play Rehearsal
 5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal
 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Worship with us at 8:15am in Faith Chapel or 10:30am in the main church.

Adult Forum will gather at 9:15am.

Sunday School for children in Pre-K through grade 5 will meet at 9:30am.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Julie Ditz
Communion Assistant	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Nancy Benacci
	10:30am	Martha & Tom Klomp
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	Linda Graffius
Video Streaming	10:30am	John Bartlett
Counters	10:30am	Jeff Swanson, Pat Young
Ushers	10:30am	

— PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Lois Fobes	Dave Parsh	Ann Flick	Rose-Marie Rose
Pat Gilbert	Phil McAfee	Cyndi Treiber	
Friends and Family:			
Mitchell & family	Jean C.	Jeannette Bowers	Ian Minner
Carol E.	John Semonis	Jeff Granger & family	Nick
Paul Gustafson	Melissa	Jim Berger	Jane Rose
Allison, Audree & family	Melissa Pierce	Scot & Robin	Mark Hadzega
Cindy B.	Scott Coleman	Suzie Hosterman	Dick Braendel
Doug & Jenine	Doug Blum	Bella Poof	Lorraine Melms
Melanie Benn	Jonah Allgeier	Nancy Varner	Janice Carpenter
Grief:			
Bob Michel family			
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon			