

Epiphany of Our Lord

Sunday, January 7, 2024 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Livestream at 11:00 a.m.



FAITH . DISCIPLESHIP . COMMUNITY
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Rev. Alejandro Mejia, Interim Senior Pastor
The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Interim Associate Pastor

At The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, we embrace the uniqueness of every individual and respect their dignity and worth, for all are created in the image of God.

We strive to welcome everyone in the fullness of who they are.

Let us call together for reconciliation, and live out God's vision of love for people of every sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic status, age, physical or mental ability, political persuasion, race, ethnicity, and personal history.

Let us walk together to strive for racial equity, as Jesus calls us to do.

All people are welcome here to worship, build community, and grow together as Jesus' disciples at this place.

Enter Reverently. Meditate Quietly. Worship Joyfully. Serve Christ Faithfully.

✦ GATHERING ✦

Prelude

Please rise, as you are able.

Confession and Forgiveness

P *Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.*

C **Amen.**

P *Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

P *God of life,*

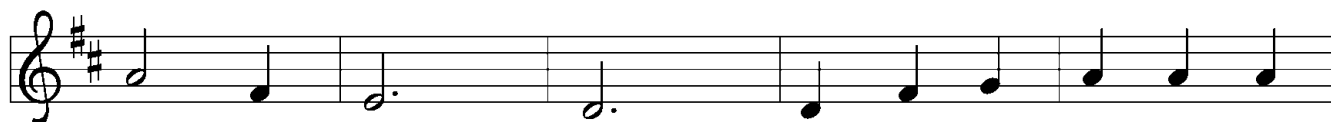
C **you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

P *Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ☩ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.*

C **Amen.**



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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

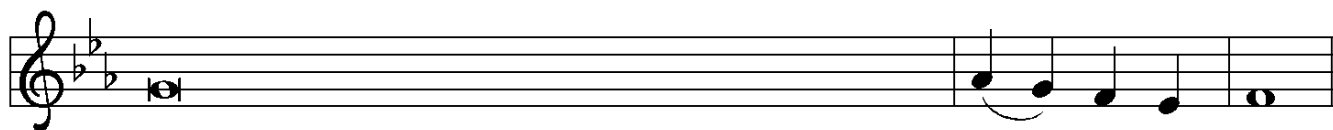
C **And also with you.**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



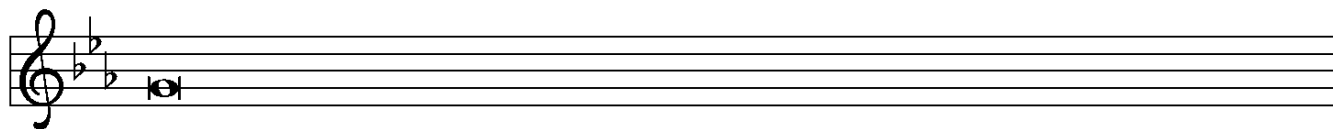
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



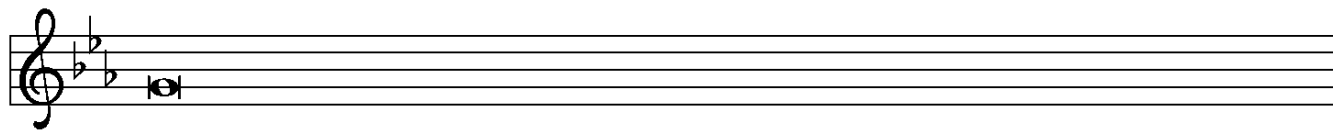
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



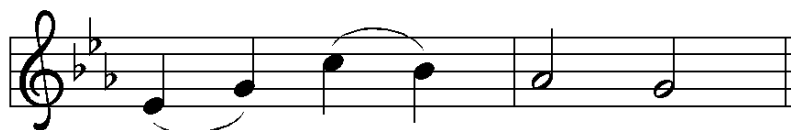
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

Hymn of Praise



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

- P** *Let us pray. O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star.*
- C** **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.**

Please be seated.

✦ THE WORD ✦

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

- A** *A reading from Isaiah. 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 his glory will appear over you.
³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings 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 on 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.*

A *The word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

A *Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.*

C **²May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.**

A *³May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.*

C **⁴May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

A *⁵May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.*

C **⁶May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.**

A *⁷In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.*

C **¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.**

A *¹¹May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.*

C **¹²For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.**

A ¹³*He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.*

C ¹⁴**From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.**

Second Reading

The Magi

by Malcolm Guite

A *It might have been just someone else's story,
Some chosen people get a special king.
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.
They did not know his name but still they sought him,
They came from elsewhere but still they found;
In temples they found those who sold and bought him,
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.*

Please rise, as you are able.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P *The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the second chapter.*

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

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “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.” 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 wise men 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 at its rising, 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.

P *The Gospel of the Lord.*

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Rev. Alejandro Mejía

Please rise, as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

Be Thou My Vision

No. 793



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

A *Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.*

C **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from

Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

A *Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.*

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

A *Hear us, O God.*

C **Your mercy is great.**

The prayers conclude:

P *Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.*

C **Amen.**

P *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

C **And also with you.**

After sharing the peace, please be seated.

Offering and Anthem

As the gifts are presented, please rise as you are able.



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, you are the Liv-ing Bread.



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, let ev - 'ry soul be fed.



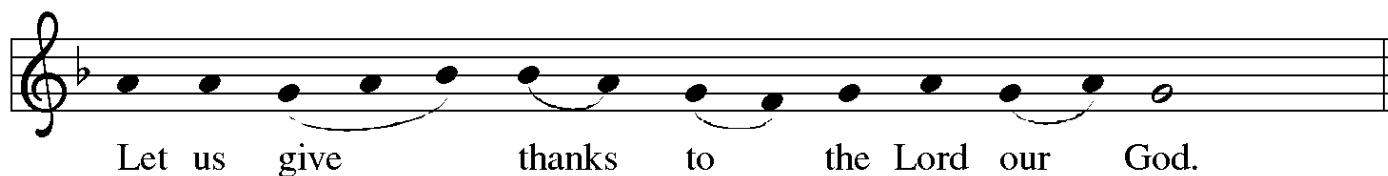
You are the Liv-ing Bread, let ev - 'ry soul be fed:



and now may ev - 'ry soul be fed with Liv - ing Bread.

- A** *Let us pray. God of abundance,*
C **receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

✦ THE EUCHARIST ✦



The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the season; the congregation responds:



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



²
Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

P *Holy God, mighty and merciful, your people praise you, saying:
Your mercy endures forever.*

C **Your mercy endures forever.**

P *By your promise you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures,
granting them life and calling them to flourish, setting the sign of
your bow in the clouds, the colors of your love and faithfulness.
Your mercy endures forever.*

C **Your mercy endures forever.**

P *By your promise you bound yourself to your people of old, blessing
them with family outnumbering the stars and calling them to be a
blessing to others, showing them steadfast love in every generation
and calling them to be a light to the nations. Your mercy endures
forever.*

C **Your mercy endures forever.**

P *By your promise you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved, grafting us
into your living Vine, and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-
giving love.*

In the night in which he was betrayed....

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,...

P *With this bread and cup we remember his life laid down and lifted up
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.*

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P *Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless us to be a blessing. Make us a sign of your faithfulness.
Send us to tend and cherish the earth and to serve the world with
mercy and love.*

*With all the saints in light, with the earth and all its creatures, with
sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus,
in your Spirit, now and forever.*

C **Amen.**

P *Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

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.**

P *Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated.

*We welcome to the table all who proclaim with us that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and the
wine. (Note: should you prefer, we also offer gluten free wafers and grape juice.*

During the distribution, the following is sung:



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.

Lamb of God *No. 336*



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

I Love to Tell the Story No. 661



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo-ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

After all have communed, please rise, as you are able.

P *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

C **Amen.**

A *Let us pray. God our redeemer,*
C **you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life.**
As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of
your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✦ **SENDING** ✦

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

Sending Hymn

Christ, Be Our Light

No. 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

- A** *Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Shine his light in the midst of the world.*
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

We welcome and thank Barbara Skillman for leading our music during worship this morning!

The Flowers are Given to the Glory of God by

Sue Hughes in loving memory of Charles.

Pray for Those That Need God's Healing

*Ray, Darius, Lynn, Donald, Al, Donna, Lind, Joan, Ed, Marion, Betty,
Doris, Theresa, Elaine, Georgeann, Jean, Marge, Nicholas, Lois,
Barbara & Bruce*

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SERVING TODAY

Greeters

8:30 a.m.

Gail Fricke

11:00 a.m.

Assisting Minister

Teri King

Teri King

Communion Assistants

Sherman Canapp, OSSD

Sherman Canapp, OSSD
Tina Zimmerman

Ushers

Doyle McCracken

Sam Raedeke

Acolytes

Livestream

Joel Raedeke