



Faith Lutheran Church

**We warmly greet members
and visitors in Jesus' name!**

Epiphany of Our Lord, Year A
January 8, 2023, 8:00 a.m.



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 to worship at Faith Lutheran Church
Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others

All the baptized are invited to the celebration of Holy Communion, trusting that Christ is present in this sacrament for the forgiveness of our sin and the strengthening of our faith.



The flowers on the altar today are given by:

No Donation | No Dedication



Presiding Ministers:	Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen, Pastor Rev. Larry Wright, Assistant Pastor
Lector:	Ron Walter
Director of Music/Organist:	David V. Patrick
Greeters & Ushers:	Thomas & Amanda Bright, Jerry Cooper, Eloise Dettmer, Dottie Gustavson, Grace Kaarre, Alf Kirkeeng, Gail Lidinsky, Judy Millard, Jan Phillips, Scott Rice, Joan Searles, Dave Wardach
Videography:	Andrea & Sergio Gamboa
Altar Guild:	Carole Inkrott, Judy Millard, Janet Phillips, Steve & Peggy Ragan
Congregation Council:	Ann Greenwood (President), Scott Rice (Vice President), Peggy Ragan (Secretary), Janet Petersen (Congregation Treasurer), Amanda Bright, Sandra Brinker, Eloise Dettmer, Grace Kaarre, Gail Lidinsky, Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen, Joan Searles, Anita Wooton
Retired Pastors in Residence:	Rev. Marianne Powrie Rev. John Spittal
Office Administrator:	Cate Teague
Sunday Sexton:	Thomas Bright
Lead Cantor/Music Librarian:	Tom Tryon
Artist in Residence:	Dr. Joseph Holt

Noted throughout the service - P: Presiding Minister L: Lector **C: Congregation**

Faith has a T-Coil-enabled hearing loop for those whose hearing aid(s) also are enabled. NOTE: This service is being live-streamed. While we try to avoid filming congregants, it may happen at times.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**OPENING LITURGY**

P: We begin our worship in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

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 loving kindness 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.

GATHERING HYMN

Angels, From the Realms of Glory
First and Last Verses
See next page

ELW 275

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

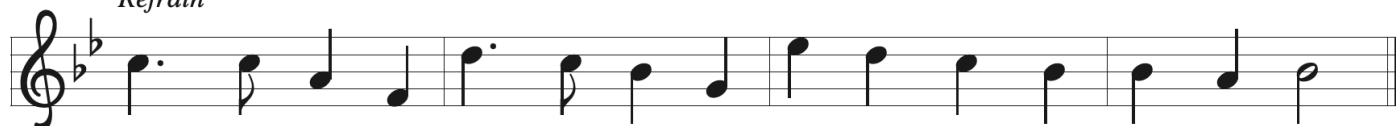


- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla - tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa -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

Refrain



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: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

WE STAND

GREETING

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: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

L: 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.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM REFRAIN: Psalm 72:11

All kings shall bow down before him.

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

- 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 hills, in righteousness.
⁴Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

Refrain

⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
⁶Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.
⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

Refrain

¹¹May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.
¹²For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.
¹³He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.
¹⁴From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.

Refrain

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

L: A READING FROM EPHESIANS

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

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

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

WE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

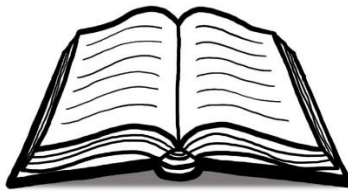
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.



WE SIT

SERMON

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

WE STAND

What Child Is This



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir-gin sings her lul-la-by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.



Nicene Creed

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.

WE SIT

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

L: Guide the whole church with your wisdom, revealing God. Nurture ecumenical and interreligious understanding around the globe, especially in places of ethnic and religious strife. We pray for Lutheran World Relief and other organizations that provide humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and health care. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Restore your glory to the earth, creating God. Protect fragile ecosystems: rain forests, coral reefs, wetlands, prairies, and shorelines. Guide us to treasure the rich variety of animals and plants that share the world with us, especially those that are endangered. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Bring the nations into the way of justice and peace, righteous God. Strengthen those who work for human rights, equality, and the protection of the most vulnerable. We pray for all in public office, that they may serve with honesty and honor. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Help those who have no helper, delivering God. Rescue any who suffer from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Deliver adults and children who are caught in cycles of poverty. Transform social systems that enable racism and discrimination of any kind. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Accompany the ministries of this congregation in the coming year, abiding God. Inspire those who lead worship, teach, visit, pray, administer, and serve. Keep us mindful of the needs of others in our communities and neighborhoods (*especially*). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Reveal your promise by the witness of those who died trusting in you, redeeming God. Receive our thanks for their witness and faith, and guide us by their example until we are gathered with them into your eternal presence. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: We call out to you seeking healing grace for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit. We especially lift up to you all who are on our prayer list and those we name before you in silence or aloud. *[PAUSE FOR RESPONSES]*. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

C: Amen.

WE STAND

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Feel free to greet your neighbor with a word of peace.

WE SIT

OFFERTORY

The offering is collected at this time. Online giving also is available at www.faithlutheransrq.com. We sincerely appreciate your generosity in support of Faith Lutheran's ministries. When the offering plates are brought forward, the congregation stands and sings.

WE STAND

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Song

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of the song features a treble and bass staff in B-flat major (two flats). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The second system continues the melody with similar note values. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The third system continues the melody. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

The fourth system continues the melody. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The fifth system concludes the song with a final cadence. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

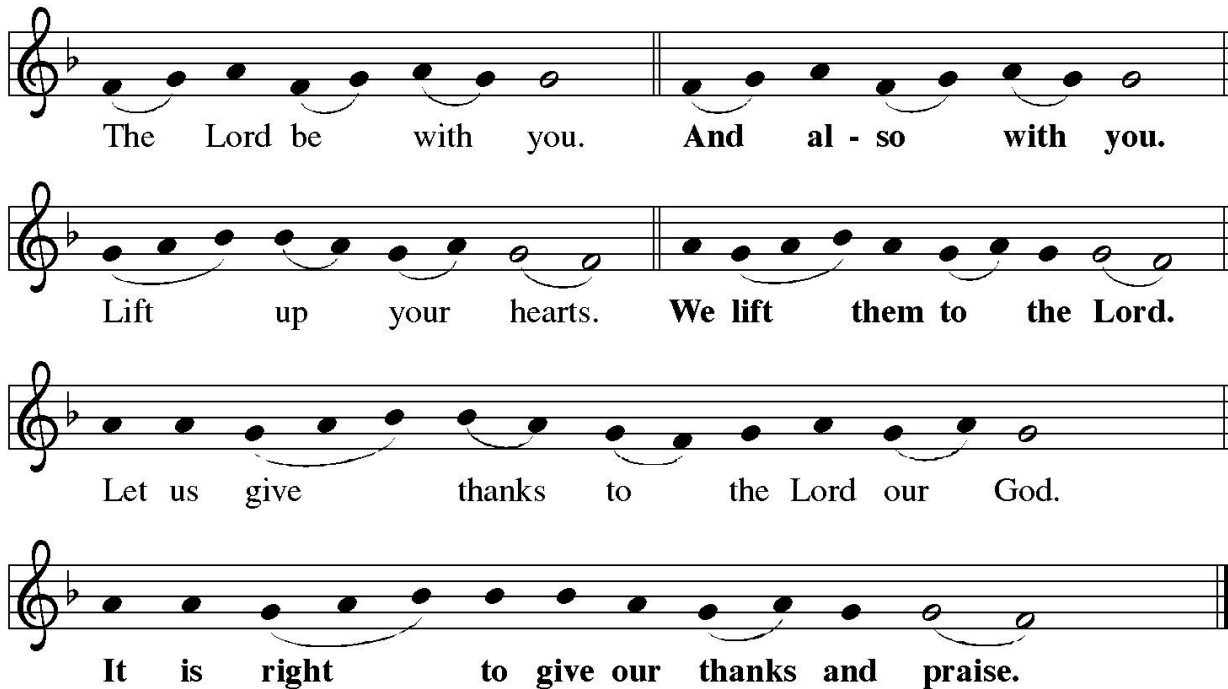
OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

C: God of abundance, 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.

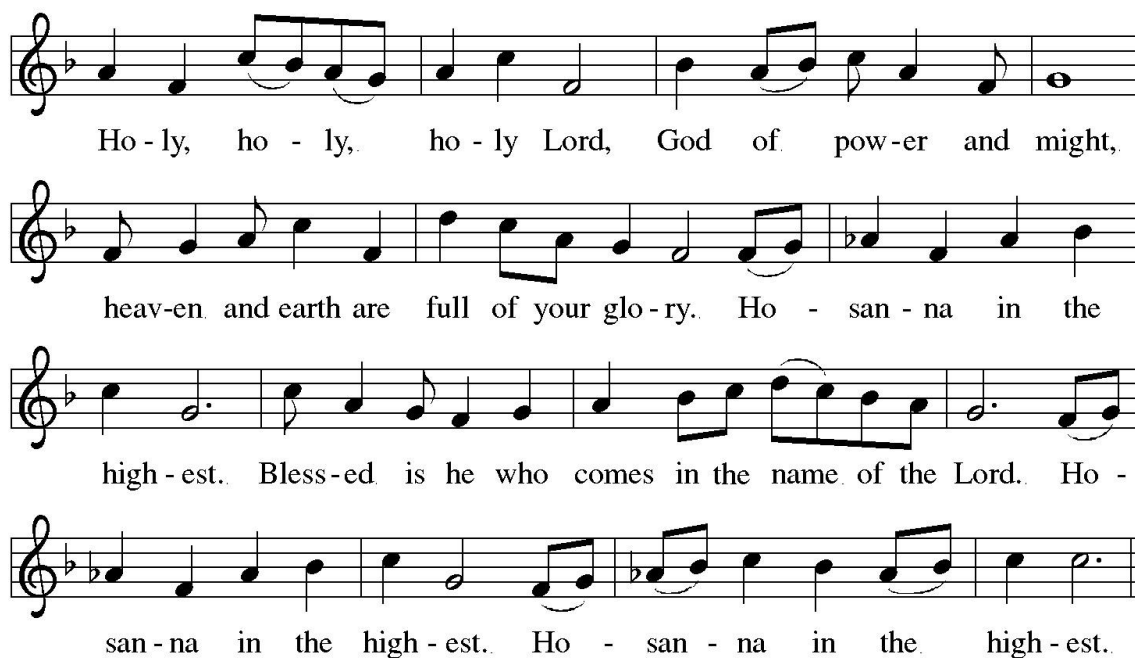
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (SPOKEN)



PREFACE

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.
In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened
the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vis - ion of your glo - ry,
that be - holding the God made vis - i - ble,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we can - not see.
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

COMMUNION SONG (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.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

WE STAND

TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's Grace.

C: Amen.



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.

**C: God our redeemer,
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.**

BLESSING

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

SENDING SONG

We Three Kings of Orient Are
First and Last Verses
See Next Page

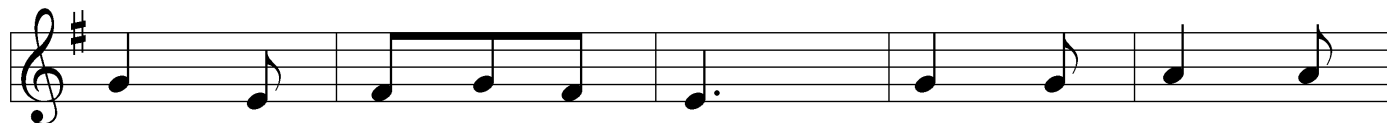
WOV 646



We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
 owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.

Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

DISMISSAL

P: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Hornpipe in D

John S. Dixon

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FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Worship Services

Sundays at 8 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.*
In-Person & *Live-Streamed at
www.faithlutheransrq.com/live-service

Sunday, Jan. 1, Online views: 37
Sunday, Jan. 1, Attendance: 90

Next: Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023

Second Sunday after Epiphany Lectionary 2, Year A

Isaiah 49:1-7

The servant brings light to the nations

Psalms 40:1-11

I love to do your will, O my God. (Ps. 40:8)

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul's greeting to the church at Corinth

John 1:29-42

Revelation of Christ as the Lamb of God

This Week at Faith

Tuesday, Jan. 10

10:00 a.m. Men of Faith Bible Study, chapel
1:00 p.m. School Committee
4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, library
6:00 p.m. Diversity: Voices of Sarasota Choir, sanctuary

Wednesday, Jan. 11

9:30 a.m. Bible Study: Signs and Wonders
9:30 a.m. Executive Committee
10:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting & Communion, chapel
1 p.m. Bereavement Group, chapel

Thursday, Jan. 12

1 p.m. Stitch 'n' Chatter
6 p.m. Jazzercise, gym

Friday, Jan. 13

8:30 a.m. Jazzercise, gym

Saturday, Jan. 14

Refugee Day

Sunday, Jan. 15

9:10 a.m. Adult Forum, conference room
9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, choir room

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship. **Please let us know that you visited by filling out a Visitor Card**, located on the table near the entrance. Kindly give the card to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

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.

Adult Forum resumes meeting **TODAY, January 8th**

We will resume meeting **TODAY, Sunday, January 8th**.

We will also start this study with an 8–10-minute segment about the Stewardship Theme for the week "Building Relationships".

Adult Forum will meet this coming Sunday, January 8th with Volume 4 Lesson 5 "City of the Great King-Jerusalem" of "That the World May Know" video series. We will meet in the conference room between the two morning worship services from 9:10 – 9:50am.



Pack your bags! We're going on a journey with Ray Vander Laan, a Biblical scholar. A quest to uncover Scripture and its meaning across history. Filmed on location in Israel and throughout the Middle East, the Faith Lessons Digital series is an adventure in biblical learning. You will discover why Jesus turned the world upside down with his compelling call to follow Him. The insights you gain will transform your reading of the Gospels and inspire a deeper faith commitment.

Please Help Us Put Away Christmas Decorations **TODAY**



We are taking down the Christmas decorations and putting them away **TODAY** after the 10:15 a.m. service.

We welcome your assistance.

Confirmation Class

Our class time is **4:30-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays**. Our next class is **Jan. 10th**.

This comprehensive confirmation program is more than just a class. It seeks to provide experiences and opportunities in which the individual can grow in faith as a Christian (i.e., worship, relationships with peers and mentors, small group experiences, and ministry opportunities).



Men of Faith



Please join us on **Tuesday 1/10** for another exciting study of the book of Judges!

Don't let their size fool you, these short books pack a serious spiritual punch! Join us at 10 am in the Chapel. No prior bible study experience necessary! Consider inviting a friend or two as well!

Refugee Day

On **Saturday, January 14th** Faith Lutheran in Partnership with Lutheran Services Florida will sponsor a Refugee Day that will provide medical screening, immigration assistance, networking, and other resources. If you are interested in serving as a Faith Ambassador of Hospitality at the event, please call the church office.



Ladies of Faith



Please consider joining us at our January Mary Circle meeting. We will meet on **Tuesday, January 17** at 12 pm. Please bring your own lunch: dessert will be provided. This month we are very pleased to offer a presentation by Joan Zabor. Joan is a very talented artist who uses shells as her medium of expression. Joan graciously gifted the church with the shell cross in the office entryway. Come out and hear Joan talk about where she gets her inspiration and how she actually creates her stunning pieces. For questions, contact Janet Petersen at luvstitches55@gmail.com

G.I.F.T.S. Resumes meeting on Jan. 17

G.I.F.T.S. (Growing In Faith Through Scripture) will resume studying "Be Still and Know" by Deb Burma at **9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17**, in the conference room. We look forward to continuing our exploration of Psalm 46.



Faith's Food Pantry



Finally, all of our renovations and preparations are complete! We are ready to commence training and to begin our service as a partner with All Faith's Food Bank. If you are interested in volunteering in our Food Pantry, please join us on **Tuesday, January 17th** at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Hannah Mazkour from All Faith's Food Bank will be our instructor. Please contact the office with questions.

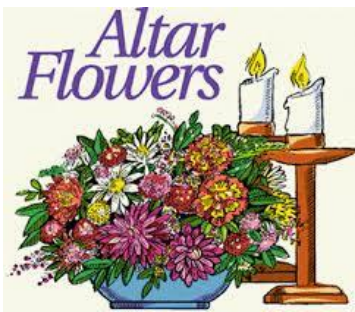
Bereavement Group Lunch at Olive Garden

Join our Bereavement Group for lunch at Olive Garden. If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, then you are invited to join us as we break bread and share meaningful conversation. Please RSVP by calling the church office. We will meet at Olive Garden at 12:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, January 18th**.



You are also welcomed to join Faith's Bereavement Group during the regular weekly meetings at **1 p.m. Wednesdays** (except 1/18) in the chapel. If you or a friend can use some help bearing the burden of grief, this group is for you. There is strength in community. Help spread the word of hope.

Altar Flowers: A Beautiful Way to Honor People and Events



Please consider donating altar flowers in honor of a special occasion, in memory of a loved one or to glorify God. The price is \$30 for one vase or \$60 for two vases. The next available Sunday is **Jan. 22**.

After the second service on Sunday, you may take your flowers home or donate them to a person or place of your choice. Indicate your wish on the flower donation board in the fellowship hall or on our webpage.

Next Faith Lutheran Blood Drive at Church!

Sunday, January 22, 2023, from 8 a.m. to 1 p. m.

Watch for the schedule and sign up!



Readers Club



Readers Club meets at 2 p.m. on the last Monday of the month in the church library. **Jan. 30**, they will discuss *Haven Point* by Virginia Hume.

For more information, contact Kathy Schilio, schilmo@yahoo.com. **Please join!**

Choir News to Note!

The Voices of Faith Choir has scheduled the following Wednesday evening rehearsals:

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

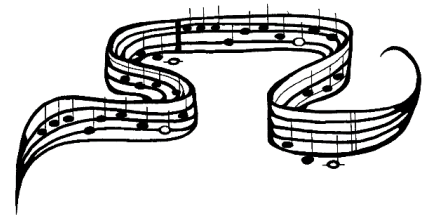
Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

All rehearsals are held in the Choir Room from 6:30P to 8:00P. We also rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:15A.

We have room for you!



Let's Pray!



Looking for a time to pray with members of our Faith family? Join us at **10:30 a.m. Wednesdays** in the chapel.

We will pray for ourselves, loved ones, those in need, our church community, the larger community that we serve, our nation and the world. Bring your concerns and your desire to connect with our loving heavenly Father! We will conclude with Holy Communion. Can't attend in person? NOTE: If you need the sacrament brought to your house, please let us know or take consecrated elements home with you on Sunday if you are in town.

Please join us via Zoom. Join Zoom Meeting: **Meeting ID: 871 4720 3661, Passcode: 041291**

Fulfilling God's Purpose!

The theme for the first week of Fulfilling God's Purpose! is "Building Relationships." God's Word tells us, "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). All meaningful relationships are based on love. Jesus' relationship with his heavenly Father, his relationship with the disciples, our relationships with him, and our relationships with others are made possible through love. God's love for us compels us to show that love through what we do and say to others (2 Corinthians 5:14). Please join us this Sunday in worship and Bible study as we focus on "Building Relationships."



Pastor's Discretionary Fund Needs Your Help



Pastor Eric often is in conversation with members of the congregation or the community about specific needs and aid they might require. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund provides him the means to help financially, when necessary.

Thank you for the strong congregational response thus far! If you are able, please consider a donation so vulnerable members of our community can continue to receive emergency assistance.

Following Hurricane Ian, [requests for assistance have grown substantially.](#)

Christmas Poinsettias: Donations & Dedications

Donor

Virginia Link-Pease
Virginia and James Pease

Dedication

In memory of my son Darren
In memory of our mothers Dot and Millie



Joan's Soup Freezer



The soup fridge is filling up! Please consider making a donation or simply taking one of the delicious soups found in the fridge labeled Joan's Soup in the kitchen. Please help us keep this Ministry, founded by Joan March, going. If making a contribution, please label with the type of soup and when it was made. Thanks so much!



Faith Financial Corner



Thank you for your contributions to our Church and Faith Family. Each of you has allowed us to sustain our mission in making a difference in the community of Our Lord God and Savior! The financial status of Faith through your giving to the General Operating Fund, the special outreach causes such as the Refuge Support, the fabulous giving for Hurricane Ian Relief, and all the many improvements made to our beautiful building are just some examples of your love and commitment to our Lord and church family. Your goodness, gifts of time, talent, and money are deeply appreciated!

Giving Envelopes for 2023: If you didn't receive a packet and want one, please sign on the form on the narthex table. Indicate if you wish for a full packet or just special offering packet.

Year End Giving Statements: They will be sent out in bulk to all via email or USPS mail as you have indicated, AFTER January 11, but before January 23, 2023. However, requests for individual statements will be honored as received.

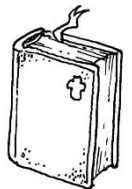
Speaking of Year End...Year End Giving: Have you considered Win-Win Ways to Give? That is, Giving Options that benefit not only the recipient, but also the donor in a Tax-Advantaged Way! Consult with your tax advisor to be fully informed. Wonder where you are regarding your 2022-23 Pledge to Faith? I can help!

Contact pattymckee15@gmail.com or 941-921-3709 home or 941-228-1192 cell; or the church office 941-924-4664.

Adult Bible Study to Resume Its Winter Session

"Signs and Wonders" - A study of Jesus' Miracles

Ever wonder about the stories of Jesus' miracles? Believers are very familiar with Jesus' feeding of the 5,000, and the stilling of the storm. What do we make of these accounts? Actual happenings? Metaphorical stories? Let's explore these questions together. Perhaps the big question is not "did this happen?" but "what does it mean?" Both questions deserve our faithful deliberation and interpretation!



Our theologian in residence, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, will by DVD lecture and student book provide grist for our mill, featuring 6 selected miracle stories. Our Faith Endowment Fund will provide a student book for each who registers for the class.

Pastor Larry will lead this Six-Week study **beginning Wednesday, January 11th**, and continuing each Wednesday **through February 15th**. Each one-hour session begins at 9:30 a.m. and meets in the second-floor classroom in the Community Center across from the elevator.

BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX THIS MORNING. THOSE BOOKS STILL REMAINING WILL BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR PICK-UP.

**It's not too late to register for this class.
Welcome all! Refreshments! Great discussion! Fellowship!**



Prayer List



Please remember in your prayers this week:

Jeff & Nancy Arntsen
Kevin Beard, friend of Jim Winemiller
Tommy Bright
Charles Budreau
Dee Burlingame
Michael O. Cannon, father of Kay Cannon
Cheryl Cook
Joan Cotton
Eloise Dettmer
Megan Fairlie
Family & Friends of Marlene Falconer
Elizabeth Farmer
John Gallo, friend of April Shettler
Andrea Gamboa
Elaine Graham
Dottie Gustafson, friend of Patricia Lawrence
Jon Hale
Alyssa Hansen, cousin of Lisa Olsen
Jeff Hansen, nephew of Joan Searles
Christiana Holmes
Kevin Hooks, son-in-law of Anita and Jon Wooton
Mary Janice Holt
Jesus & Rita Jimenez

Family & Friends Howard King,
friend of Powrie's and others
Paul & Debby Maresch
Kathryn McLaughlin
Judi Melander
Ed Miller
Kristin Mohammed
Jeremy & Yvonne Mullins
Family & Friends of Dennis Pappalardo
Doris Anne Prieur-Lucia
Fritz Rappold
Family & Friends of Deacon Sue Rice
Gabriel Rockwell
Beverly & Floyd Ryder
Family & Friends of Dick Sanks
Ken Schell, brother of Mike (Gwen) Schell
Rev. John Spittal
Dieter Smirnow
Cathy Stubenvoll
Michelle Terrell, niece of Kay Cannon
Colette Thornbloom
Evie Webb
Marlene Wiest
Jon Wooton

Jeremiah 29:12 "Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you."

Contact the church office if:

- You or someone you know would like a **communion visit, hospital or home visit, or to be contacted.**
- You know of someone who would appreciate **receiving a card in the mail.**
- You would like to **serve as a Eucharistic Minister.**
- You have an addition to the Prayer List. Please send an email with the individual's name to officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com. Please send updates when prayers are answered

ABOUT US

Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others.

OUR VISION

To be an ELCA congregation that displays the true, unending love of Christ. To promote peace, social justice and grace throughout all we do.

THE ELCA

Faith Lutheran Church is part of the greater Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are ecumenical, saved by grace and love Jesus.

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www.faithlutheransrq.com

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or email us at officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com.

