

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JANUARY 4, 2026

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.

Weekly Update

1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA 20170
www.HolyCrossHerndon.org



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sunday, January 4, 2026

VISITORS: It is a joy to have you with us this morning. If you are looking for a church family, we hope you will consider Holy Cross. For more information, you can fill out a visitor form in the narthex, speak to an usher, or scan the QR code to the right.



FAMILIES: Children are always welcome at our worship services! There's also a small play area in the Narthex where you can hear the broadcasted service.

WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

For additions or updates, email admin@holycrossherndon.org
Names are removed after one month unless advised otherwise.

OUR CONGREGATION

Juliana Roe Beck | Bonnie Burton | Terry & Linda Butler
Joy Caveney | Joel Flegel | Roy Geiger | Otto Jacobson
Jared Lem | Reed Morgan | Mike Muller | Craig Reichow
Jeremy Shoop | Tuula Toney | Cherie Weatherhead

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Riley Morgan | Thomas Newcomb | Collin Reichow

RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION

Erin Barden (sister of Andrew Barden)
Randy and Shirley Beamer (friends of Pam Darby)
Debbie Bowman (niece of Betty Skelton)
Joy Brown (friend of Kate Flegel)
Symphony Calvillo & her two boys (friend of Kate Flegel)
Jane Campbell (friend of Cheryl Smith)
Don and Liz Gober (friends of Craig Reichow)
Jason Greenwalt (friend of Cheryl Smith)
Madilyn Gross (cousin of Desirae Peral)
Matt Kim (friend of John & Tammy Breene)
Georgia Kirby and Cain Mason (friends of Cherie Weatherhead)
Phyllis Krapf (wife of Dick Krapf)
Don Kress (friend of Helen and Gary Wolfe)
Dale, John, and Jeff MacPherson (friends of Jared Lem)
Sue Mason (sister of Pam Darby)
Sharon Massen & Dorie Miller (friends of Craig Reichow)
Lisa Nolf (friend of Jared Lem)
Jim Pollock (godfather of Andrew Barden)
Anne Marie Berardi Rabinowitz (friend of Tonya Elliott)
Dylan Roe (nephew of Mark and Jo Roe)
John Smith (brother-in-law of Cheryl Smith)
Steven Swancutt (brother of Lynn Russo)
Diana Todd (friend of the Russos)
Michelle White (friend and coworker of Kate Flegel)
Bernadette Stevenson Williams (friend of the Roe family)
Laizu Zaman (friend of Jared Lem)

THOSE IN MOURNING

The McElveen and Flegel families, upon the passing of
Patrick's mother, Gayle McElveen

REJOICING IN BIRTH

Arthur and Scott, upon the birth of their son, Jacob (Cecilia Howard's brother
and brother-in-law)

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Supply Pastor:	Rev. Pam Mitcham
Director of Music and Liturgy:	Jeremy Shoop
Sound Technician:	Bob Thompson
Video Technician:	Sylvia Moran

Serving January 4th: Epiphany of Our Lord

Assisting Minister:	Diana Virgo
Reader:	Nannette Lem
Acolyte:	TBD
Greeter:	TBD

Serving January 11th: Baptism of Our Lord

Assisting Minister:	Joy Heuer
Reader:	Nannette Lem
Acolyte:	TBD
Greeter:	TBD

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: JAN 4 – JAN 11

SU 4	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – Epiphany of Our Lord
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	11:30 am	Stephen Ministry Training
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH
TU 6	6:30 pm	Fiber Arts Group ~ Conference Rm
W 7	11:30 am	Lunch for the Soul ~ FH
SA 10	8:00 am	Bldg. Use: Herndon's Women AA ~ Rm 204
	11:00 am	Bldg. Use: Called2Be 7 th Day Adventist
SU 11	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – Baptism of Our Lord
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	11:15 am	H.U.G.S. Group ~ Conference Rm
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the MANY volunteers who made Christmas at Holy Cross special! Countless tasks were done by countless people. The word “holy” in Hebrew means to set apart for a specific, divine purpose. The extra time spent leading up to Christmas allowed this festival to be just that, holy. We took a short season on our calendar and set it apart for a specific divine purpose: celebrating Christ’s birth. Blessings to all who helped create this holy space. We are truly grateful to have such dedicated members at Holy Cross.

H.U.G.S.

Life can feel especially heavy when we find ourselves without a partner—whether through the death of a spouse, divorce, or separation from family. Those seasons of loneliness can make even everyday tasks feel overwhelming. H.U.G.S. is a new group forming at Holy Cross for people navigating life on their own, offering a caring space for support, encouragement, and shared experience. We’ll walk alongside one another, listening with open hearts and offering compassion, understanding, and plenty of hugs.

The first H.U.G.S. gathering will be **Sunday, January 11, after the worship service**, in the **conference room**. If you’re grieving, feeling alone, or simply looking for connection with others who understand this journey, you are warmly invited to join us. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS TREE THANK YOU



Thank you to Boy Scout Troup 157 for our beautiful Christmas Tree, which they donated to Holy Cross this year and several years in the past.



Beginning January 4, Adult Sunday School will begin a new session focused on *Praying with Jesus*. Sometimes prayer can seem challenging. Sometimes we think we are praying “wrong.” But prayer is just a conversation with God. Join the Adult Sunday School class in looking at several stories about Jesus that can help us pray. We meet Sunday mornings at 9:00 in the conference room. All are welcome.

LUNCH FOR THE SOUL

We need your help to serve our neighbors in need through this caring ministry! Holy Cross provides lunch on the first Wednesday of every month, and your support in cooking, serving, or cleanup is always welcome. Our next opportunity to serve is on **Wednesday, January 7**. Please consider joining us! You can sign up at: perfectpotluck.com/YEEI1717 or scan the QR code.



MLK DAY OF SERVICE – MONDAY, JAN 19

As we prepare to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., everyone is invited to participate in an **MLK Day of Service** dedicated to compassion, community, and outreach. We are grateful to once again partner with the **Herndon Woman’s Club**, whose commitment to service closely aligns with our own mission.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR MLK DAY



The Herndon Woman’s Club is looking for donations of old crayons and old socks (without holes) as part of the service projects they will be organizing on our MLK Day of Service (January 19, 2026). If you have old crayons or those pesky socks without a partner (no anklets please), please bring them to church any Sunday or contact **Helen Wolfe** (hkswolfe@gmail.com) or **Cheryl Smith** (csmith1@verizon.net).



Holy Cross Lutheran Church Blood Drive

Monday, January 19, 2026

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.



1090 Sterling Rd., Herndon, VA

The Inova Blood Donor Services Bloodmobile will be in the parking lot.

In honor of National Blood Donor Month, donors will receive a specialty sweatshirt.



Book your appointment today!

Visit <https://bit.ly/HCLC0119>

Call **1.866.256.6372**, use code **5087**

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Welcomes ALL!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church joyfully affirms and celebrates that every person is a beloved child of God. We welcome all who are seeking God's boundless love and sustaining grace into full community with us at Holy Cross. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down barriers and systems that divide God's children working to be a space committed to racial equality for God's people and to building a community where all are recognized as part of Christ's new creation.

We welcome you, and you are safe with us...
 Whatever your race, ethnicity, or heritage;
 Whatever your relationship status;
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...



Whatever your sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression;
 Whatever your socio-economic status;
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your age and life circumstance;
 Whatever your physical and mental ability.
 You are a beloved child of God, you are valued, and you are welcome here.

What to Expect in Worship

Worship services can be intimidating for newcomers. While we try to make worship as accessible as possible for everyone, we know that some aspects can be confusing. Feel free to ask an usher or someone near you for help if you have any questions today. We are happy to help and want all voices to be included in praise to God.

Our worship style is traditional at Holy Cross. A full liturgy is used to focus our praise and prayers to God. Notes are included in the side gutter of the bulletin to explain why we use the various liturgical elements. Communion is celebrated every Sunday at Holy Cross. The table (altar) is not our table, but Christ's table. Just as Christ welcomes all, all are welcome to receive communion at Holy Cross. Written instructions on how we celebrate communion are included at that point in the bulletin.

Throughout the year we emphasize each liturgical season differently to mark the passage of time. Liturgical texts change to reflect aspects of that season, some elements are removed or added to reflect the mood of that season, and colors used to decorate the chancel are changed to provide visual reminders of the current season.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Transforming the world & ourselves, together in community, fellowship, and faith.

Epiphany of Our Lord January 4, 2026 ~ 10:00 AM

The celebration of Epiphany (which means in Greek the manifestation of God) was important in the Eastern church from the fourth century and was variously connected with the stories of Jesus' birth, the visit of the magi, and Jesus' baptism. In some places it was a primary occasion for baptisms. In some cultures, Epiphany, "Three Kings Day," is the date of gift-giving. According to the three-year lectionary, Epiphany concludes attention to the infancy narratives with the story of the visit of the magi to the young Jesus, who is now residing in a house. The child Jesus is lauded as a king who is already showing himself forth to the nations.

As part of our continuous efforts to make worship more inclusive and sensory friendly, we ask that you refrain from applauding during worship and after the postlude.



WE GATHER



GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

arr. Paul Manz

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of
Peace.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Pastor: Reconciling God,
Assembly: **we yearn for your presence to transform our
grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we
have not always prepared room in our hearts
for your love; we have not always recognized
your presence among us; we have not always
embraced your message of peace.**

We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

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

Assembly: Amen.

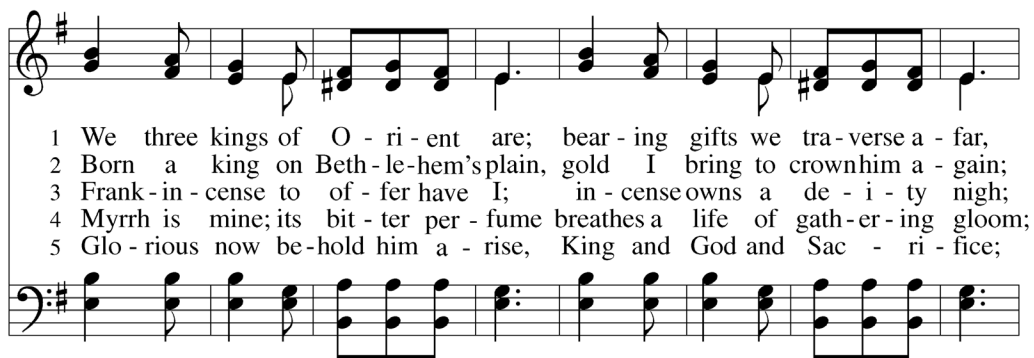


The carol was first published in 1884 while its author, Rev. Dr. John Hopkins, was Rector of a parish in Williamsport, PA. Hopkins is the composer of both text and tune for this hymn. It is interesting to note that Hopkins was very specific that there was to be no slowing down on the "O..." that starts each refrain, a request that has been clearly thrown out by modern culture. Hopkins has been criticized by Bible scholars that the first people to visit Christ from Eastern lands were not kings; nor were there three of them. Yet so many people who learn this carol at a young age carry this misconception into adult life. The Bible simply calls these men "magi." It is believed that this term refers to a caste of Persian priests or sorcerers who were experts in astrology, divination, and the interpretation of dreams. While they could have been rulers of a sort, there is no reason to believe they had great wealth.

GATHERING HYMN

(WOV 646)

We Three Kings of Orient Are

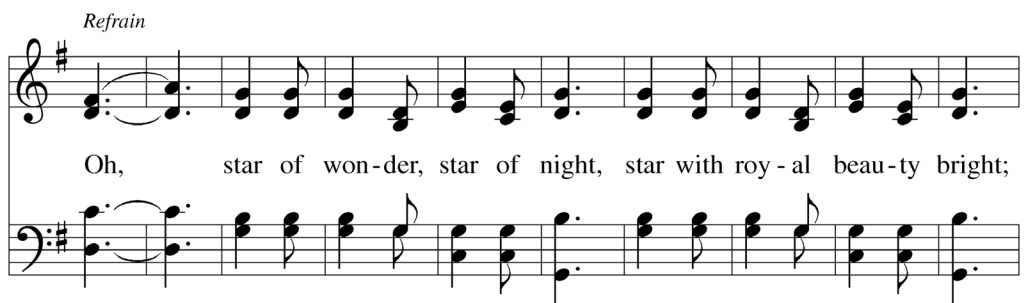


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty night;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

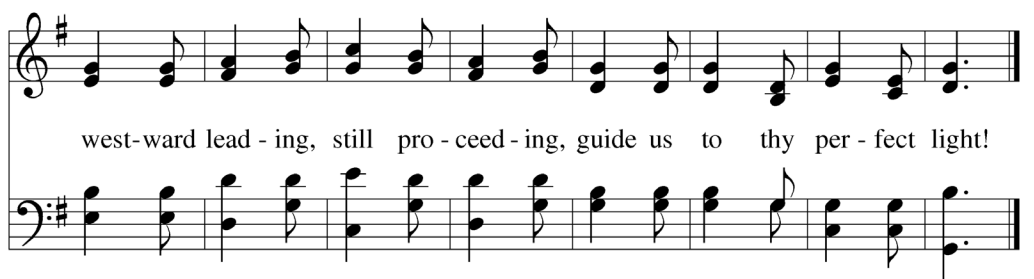


field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 heav'n sings al - le - 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

GREETING

Pastor:

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

Assembly:

And also with you.

KYRIE

(Setting 12)

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

HYMN OF PRAISE

(Setting 12)

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

The prayer of the day is based on collect #87 in the Gregorian Sacramentary and uses the image of the star as a call to faithfulness. Christ is present not only for the ancient magi, but also for us now, a brilliant light in our darkness.

The lectionary appoints this poem from Isaiah because it served as a backdrop for Matthew as he wrote of the meaning of the birth of Jesus. The light becomes for Matthew the star, and the gold and frankincense are gifts that the magi present. Thus for Matthew the gifts of the magi affirm that Christ is the light that the poem from Isaiah described.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

Assembly: Amen.

Please sit.



WE HEAR GOD'S WORD



LISTENING WITH CHILDREN'S EARS

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

Reader: A reading from the prophet 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.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.
 Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

The reading is appropriate for Epiphany because it speaks of the revelation of the mystery of Christ. The magi saw the light, and now believers also see the wisdom of God revealed in the life of Christ. We celebrate that light in our worship, and we see Christ in the scriptures, in the bread and wine, and in one another.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

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

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the 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.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.
 Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Setting 12)



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.

This reading proclaims that even as a young child, Jesus is recognized as a king of the Jews who has significance for the entire globe. Even the sky shows new light. Not only Jews, but also people from other religions see God's light in Jesus. Christians have seen their gifts to the poor and to the church as like the gifts of the magi. Herod's threat is a down payment on the cross.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

Pastor: The Gospel according to Matthew the 2nd chapter.
 Assembly: **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.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.
 Assembly: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Epiphany marks the end of the Christmas season. "Jesus, the Light of the World" includes the Christmas text "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" with a reminder that Jesus is the light of the world.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

(ACS #914)

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;

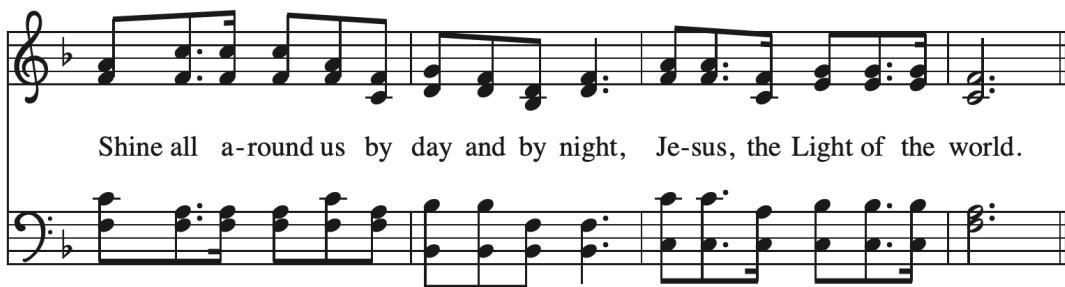


"Glo - ry to the new-born king," Je-sus, the Light of the world.
 join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.
 Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.
 Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

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.

APOSTLES' CREED

Assisting Minister: With the whole church let us profess our faith,

Assembly: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our
Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assisting Minister: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us
pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who
are in need.

*We pray for the greater
church.*

Assisting Minister: Repairer of the breach, you separate us from our
sin and unite us with one another. Heal the
animosity in our hearts, and bind us together in
love. Hear us, O God.

Assembly: **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for creation.

Assisting Minister: Author of life, you sent your spirit over the
waters, your breath into your children, and
guiding stars across the sky. Awaken us to the
plight of the planet and send us to care for your
creation. Hear us, O God.

Assembly: **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for justice.

Assisting Minister: Light that leads the way, you make yourself known to the nations. Illuminate just paths and guide leaders in the church and the world in your holy will. Hear us, O God.

Assembly: Your mercy is great.

We pray for those in need.

Assisting Minister: Voice of the silenced, you cast the mighty from their thrones and fill the hungry with good things. Grant those in need the courage to demand equality and those with abundance the wisdom to share. Respond to any who call out in need this day, including those we name before you now (*the assembly offers names*). Hear us, O God.

Assembly: Your mercy is great.

We pray for this congregation.

Assisting Minister: Proclaimer of promises, you raise up prophets and messengers in the places we least expect. Equip Holy Cross Lutheran Church to listen well to those who bring both good news and painful truths. Hear us, O God.

Assembly: Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for the saints.

Assisting Minister: Redeemer of the saints, you gift us with many people throughout our lives who point the way to you. We give you thanks for the recently departed and all who have loved us. Hear us, O God.

Assembly: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

The sharing of THE PEACE is an ancient ritual that puts us right with our neighbors before we offer our gifts to God.

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Assembly: And also with you.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

Christmas Light
Gathering Choir

by Chris Krunk

OFFERTORY

(Stanza 3)

As with Gladness Men of Old

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;

as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
 and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;

so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

Assembly: Amen.



WE COME TO GOD'S TABLE



GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: We lift them to the Lord.

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

Assembly: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PREFACE

Pastor: It is our duty and delight.... and join their unending hymn.

SANCTUS

(Setting 12)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and

God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: Jesus was always the guest.

In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, he was always the guest.

At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest.

But here, at this table, he is the host. Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him. Those who want to follow him must first be fed by him. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished.

This is the table where we who are broken are made whole. So, come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

On the night in which he was betrayed, and as they were sitting at a meal, Jesus gave thanks, took a piece of bread and broke it. He gave it to the disciples saying, "This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me.

Later, after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine, gave thanks and said, "This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me."

So now we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and wine, the produce of the earth and fruit of human labor. In these, Jesus has promised to be present; through these, Christ can make us whole.

We ask, merciful God, that you send, in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus.



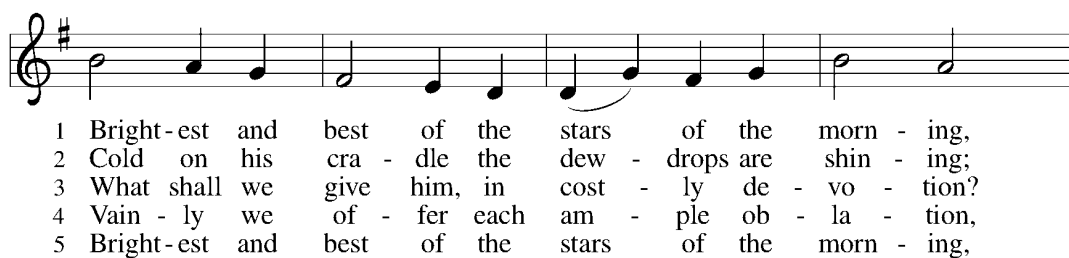
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The same first and last stanzas frame this hymn. It drives to the fourth stanza, where the heart's adoration and the prayers of the poor count for more than any gifts we could bring with securing God's favor in mind.

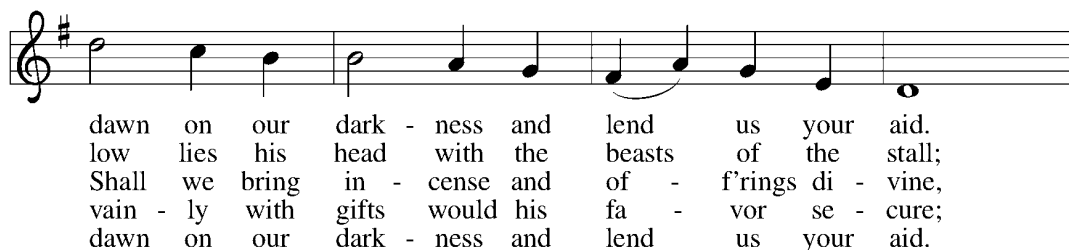
DISTRIBUTION HYMN

(ELW 303)

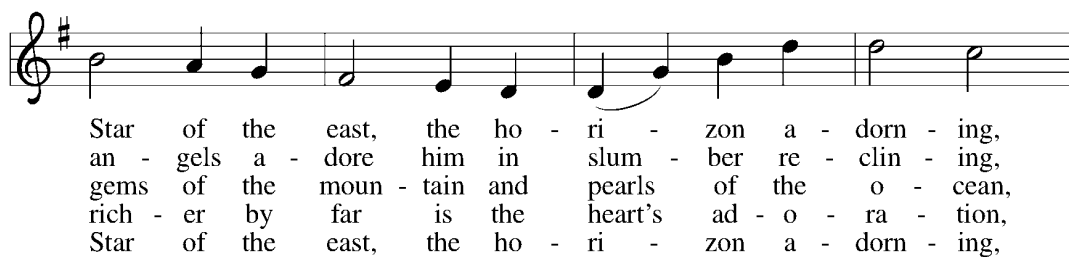
Brightest and Best of the Stars



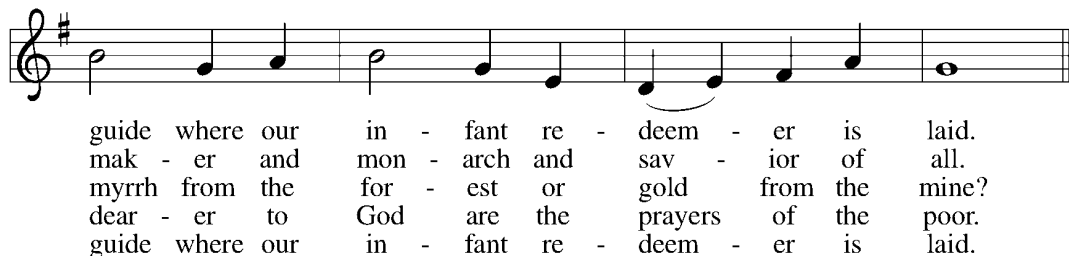
1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



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



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

(ELW 308)

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 -
 3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
 4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



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!
 falls from God a - bove; a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
 when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



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
 Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with
 Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
 of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
 heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your
 and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
 dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
 mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
 lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
 dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
 you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
 for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

- 5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
 Our joy be all with music crowned,
 our voices gaily blending!
 For Christ goes with us all the way—
 today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
 His love is never ending!
 Sing out! Ring out!
 Jubilation!
 Exultation!
 Tell the story!
 Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!
- 6 What joy to know, when life is past,
 the Lord we love is first and last,
 the end and the beginning!
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
 transport us to that happy place
 beyond all tears and sinning!
 Amen! Amen!
 Come, Lord Jesus!
 Crown of gladness!
 We are yearning
 for the day of your returning.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Assembly: **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

Assembly: **Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Pastor: Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and sacrament to our siblings in their homes and in hospitals. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life. May we all recognize that we have a place and a home in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Assembly: **Amen.**





WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE



“Shine, Jesus, Shine” captures the heart of Epiphany: Christ revealed as light for the whole world. The opening plea, “Lord, the light of your love is shining” names Jesus as the radiant presence that breaks into human darkness, echoing the Epiphany themes of manifestation, guidance, and transformation.

As the hymn unfolds, the imagery widens from personal illumination to global mission. God’s glory is no private glow; it spills outward, calling the church to reflect Christ’s light “to the nations.” The energetic refrain functions almost like a sending; an invitation to live as people shaped and propelled by divine light.

SENDING HYMN

Shine, Jesus, Shine

ELW 671

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

Assembly: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Glory to God in the Highest!

Assembly: **And peace to God’s people on earth!**

Assisting Minister: Go in joy. Embody God’s redeeming grace.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning arr. Wayne Wold

As part of our continuous efforts to make worship more inclusive and sensory friendly, we ask that you refrain from applauding during worship and after the postlude.

ATTRIBUTIONS:

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THIS WEEK'S COMMEMORATIONS

Adrian of Canterbury, teacher

Sun., January 9, 2022, died around 710

African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England. He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.

Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society

Sat., January 15, 2022, martyr, died 1968

An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356

Saturday, January 17, 2026

One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit. Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor.

Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346

Saturday, January 17, 2026

Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier. He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.

FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

[Ambrose, in The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers, trans. and ed. M. F. Toal (Chicago: Henry Regnery, 1955), I, 213.]

The star is seen by the magi; where Herod is, it is not seen; it is seen again where Christ is, and it shows the magi the way. Therefore this star is the way, and the way is Christ: for in the mystery of the incarnation, Christ is a star. For he himself is the bright and morning star. He shows us himself therefore by his own light.

—Ambrose

An 1890 tapestry designed by the Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Burne Jones is interesting especially because the magi are not depicted as kings. Mary is still wearing medieval royal red, and, as was traditional, Joseph is depicted as an old man.





Poinsettia Dedications

In Memory of:

Teresa Hale Edwards, Jack and JoAnn Hale, Bob and Betty Edwards,
 and Ellen Hale, by Marie Edwards Nelson
 Scott Shaffer, by Ray and Carol Shaffer
 Max and Phyllis Swancutt, Hilda and Vince Russo, and Jim Shilket,
 by Lynn and Vince Russo
 Bill Smith and Sherri Smith, by Cheryl Smith
 Arthur Laemmerzahl and Jean Bural, by Ina Laemmerzahl and Glenn Reges
 Tonya's parents, Ed and Lois Idzak, by Tonya Elliott
 Grace Bush, by Catherine Taylor
 Our parents, by Dave and Pat Manzel
 Joe Baggett, Gene Bain, and Jeanne Maysonett, by Ellen Atwell
 Jill Reichow, by Craig Reichow
 Loved Ones, by Carol Petersen and Richard Smullen
 LaJean Koentopf, by the family of LaJean Koentopf
 Our parents, by Kathy & Joe Makowski
 Leroy and Louise Ireland, Solange Gignac and Alan Huggins,
 by Lois Ireland and Pierre Huggins
 Helen and Charlie Steele, Jeanne Wolfe, and Olive and Arthur Wolfe,
 by Helen and Gary Wolfe
 Loved Ones, by Ned and Fran Johnson
 Gene Bain, by Katy Bain

In Honor of:

Brian Russo; Alan, Jill, Rebecca, and Caleb Russo; Frank, Diane, Vincent, Caitlin, and
 Harper Russo; Max and Nancy Swancutt; Nancy Jean Swancutt; Sharon and Ike
 Eichten; Steve and Barb Swancutt; by Lynn and Vince Russo
 Quinn, Jack, Dylan, and Mayeli, by Dick and Diana Virgo
 Our children and grandchildren, by Craig and Patricia Swanson
 Our children and grandchildren, by Kathy and Joe Makowski

There is a hearing-assistance system (induction loop) in the Sanctuary for those with hearing impairments. Please ask an usher for instructions.

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