

Introduction to the day

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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the diverse people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able and to face the baptismal font.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

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

God of life,

**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.

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

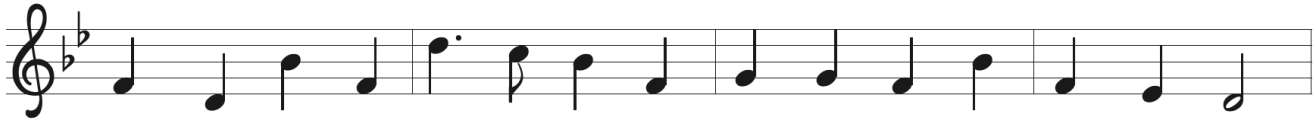
In ✝ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

Please remain standing and turn to face the altar as you are able.

GATHERING SONG *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (ELW 275)



- 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.

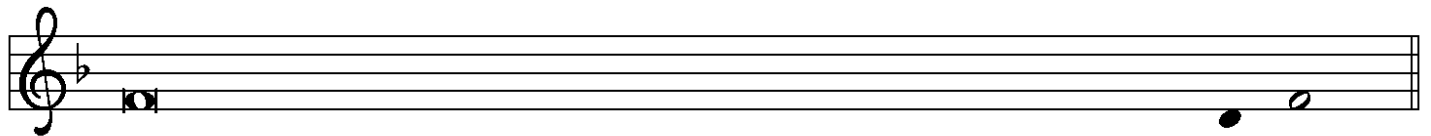
GREETING

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

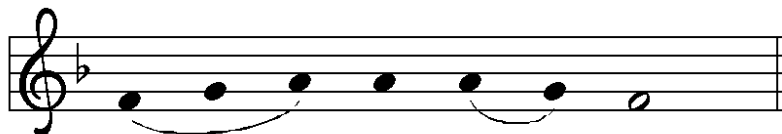
KYRIE (ELW p. 138)



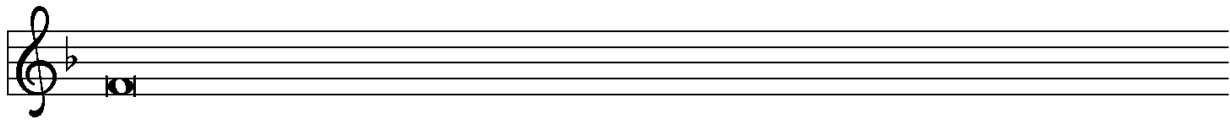
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



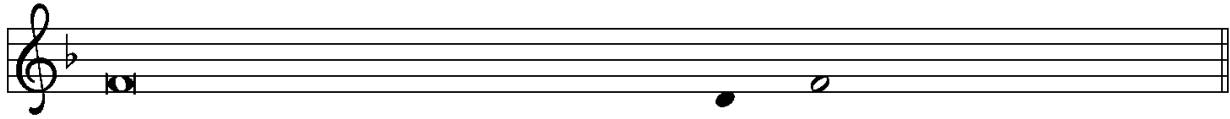
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



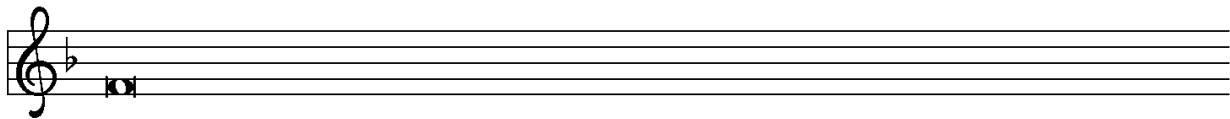
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



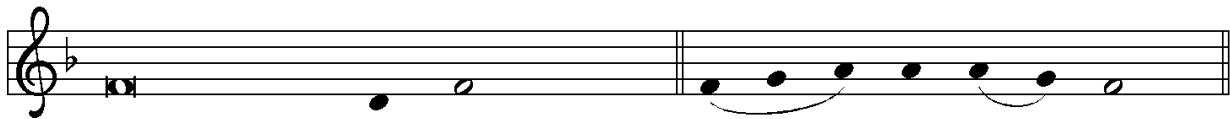
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



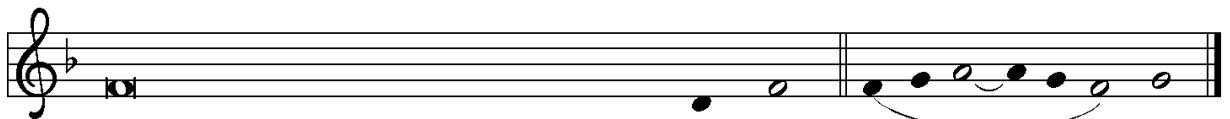
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



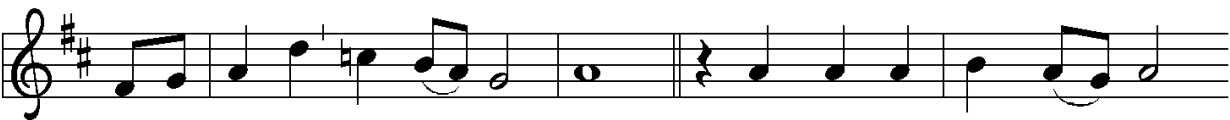
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 139)

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

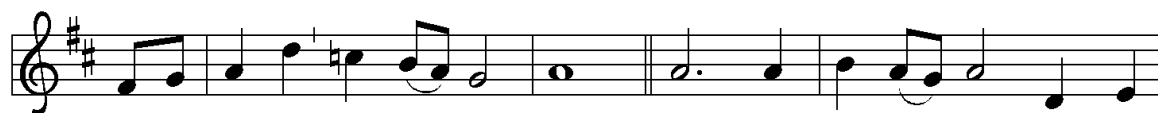


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

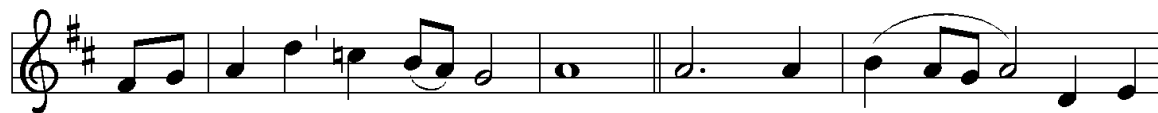


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6 (Jeff Dodge)

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.

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.

Thanks be to God.

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

(Jeff Dodge)

- ¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
²**that he may rule your people righteously
and the ¹ poor with justice;**
³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
⁶**Let 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.
¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**
¹¹May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.
¹²**For 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.
¹⁴**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

(Jeff Dodge)

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.

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.

Thanks be to God.

KIDS' MESSAGE

(Jeri Wartena)

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to welcome the Gospel

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12 (Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

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.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON (Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able

HYMN OF THE DAY *Jesus, the Light of the World* (ACS 914)

Music and Lyrics on following page



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.

Please be seated

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO THE CONGREGATION

Those being welcomed, a representative of the congregation, and pastor gather at the font or at a convenient place before the assembly.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly in these or similar words.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new *members* into the life and ministry of this congregation.

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Robert, Rachel, and Trip, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?
We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

WELCOME

Those being welcomed face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us welcome *these* Siblings in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

New members and others return to their seats; worship continues with the Prayer of Intercession.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Jeff Dodge)

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.

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,
hear our prayer.

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,
hear our prayer.

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,
hear our prayer.

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,
hear our prayer.

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,
hear our prayer.

(Prayer requests provided by congregation to be added here by Reader)

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,
hear our prayer.

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

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

*We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God
and in gratefulness we return to God a portion of
the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us.*

Thank you so much for your continued support.

OFFERING PRAYER

Liberating God,
you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,
Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all.
By your powerful word you created all things.
Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.
He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again,
we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food,
we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and taste the joy of God!

*All are welcome to join in our communion celebration.
Please follow the directions of Pastor Carolyn and the ushers.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

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

Shine, Jesus, Shine

(ELW 671)

Chorus

Shine Jesus shine
Fill this land
With the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow river flow
Flood the nations
With grace and mercy
Send forth Your word Lord
And let there be light

Verse 1

Lord the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining
Jesus Light of the world shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me shine on me
Shine on me shine on me *Chorus*

Verse 2

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story
Shine on me shine on me
Shine on me shine on me *Chorus*

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*After brief announcements related to the ministry of Bethel,
the congregation is invited to stand and face the font.*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God and we will.