

January 5, 2025

Welcome

The Hymn of Invocation

400 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

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| <p>1 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
 Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
 Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
 Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.</p> <p>3 Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,
 Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine,
 Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
 Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?</p> | <p>4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
 Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.
 Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
 Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.</p> <p>5 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
 Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
 Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
 Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.</p> |
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In the name of the Father,
The Creator of all things seen and unseen.

In the name of the Son,
The Redeemer of the world, Emmanuel, God with us.

In the name of the Holy Spirit,
The One who calls us to faith and helps us live as God's children.

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us,
Not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace,
We might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.
Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Hymn of Confession.....sung to: *On Jordan's Bank*

**Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
 Make straight the way for God within,
 And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.**

**Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
 And make us rise to fall no more;
 Oh, let your face upon us shine And fill the world with love divine.**

Our God saves us not because of things we have done, but because of what Jesus has done for us. Through His incarnation, holy life, sacrificial death and glorious resurrection God draws us to Himself. It is my joyful duty to announce the full forgiveness of all our sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn of Praise.....sung to: *On Jordan's Bank*
All praise to you, eternal Son, Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore, And holy Spirit, evermore.

Prayer

Almighty and ever-living God, since you have given exceedingly great and precious gifts to those who believe, grant us so perfectly and without all doubt to trust in your Son Jesus Christ that we may live with great joy; through Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament

Isaiah 60:1-3 & 6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn... bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Ephesians 3:4-7

In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse.....sung to: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

The Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

Object Lesson

Hymn of the Day

397 As with Gladness Men of Old

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| 1 As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee. | 3 As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King. |
| 2 As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat. | 4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide. |

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Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

The Prayers *[If you need information to send a card or call to someone for whom we prayed, please contact Pastor John.]*

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus
And for all people according to their needs.

After each portion of the prayer:

Lord in Your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Our offerings help to support:

Veterans Community Project

Offertory.....sung to: *What Child is This* vs 3

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

Preface.....sung to: *O Come, All You Faithful*

The Lord be with you.
And with you, His servant.

Oh, come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

With hearts uplifted

Thanks to Him we render:

With joy we come before Him,

In gratefulness implore Him,

With thankful hearts adore Him evermore!

Thanks and praise be to You, our Father, almighty Creator, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment. Of old Your faithful people waited for the day of Your appearing, manifest when the time had fully come and You sent Jesus, Your Son. Having seen His glory, we now wait for the day of consummation when He will come again as King. And so, with the church on earth and all the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus.....sung to: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!
Heaven and earth cannot contain All the glory of Your name!
Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, hosanna! Praises due Be forever, Lord, to You!

Through Jesus Christ, your beloved we give you thanks, heavenly Father for the love with which you loved the world, for the salvation you prepared for us through Jesus Christ, for the Holy Spirit sent into our hearts and into our midst, that we may receive and share our living Lord with living faith.

Amen.

Jesus' Directions for Communion

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Agnus Dei.....sung to: *From Heaven Above*

O Lamb of God, You take away The sin of all; now hear us pray.
And grant us from our sins release: Have mercy on us.
Grant us peace!

Distribution of Communion

[If your body does not tolerate alcohol, the back row of the individual cups are grape juice.]

The Distribution Hymns

811 Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices

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|---|---|
| 1 Oh, that I had a thousand voices
To praise my God with thousand tongues!
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices,
Would then proclaim in grateful songs
To all, wherever I might be,
What great things God has done for me. | 3 You forest leaves so green and tender
That dance for joy in summer air,
You meadow grasses, bright and slender,
You flow'rs so fragrant and so fair,
You live to show God's praise alone.
Join me to make His glory known. |
| 2 O all you pow'rs that He implanted,
Arise, keep silence now no more;
Put forth the strength that God has granted!
Your noblest work is to adore.
O soul and body, join to raise
With heartfelt joy our Maker's praise. | 4 All creatures that have breath and motion,
That thron'g the earth, the sea, the sky,
Come, share with me my heart's devotion,
Help me to sing God's praises high.
My utmost pow'rs can never quite
Declare the wonders of His might. |
| 5 Creator, humbly I implore You
To listen to my earthly song
Until that day when I adore You,
Together with the angel thron'g
And learn with choirs of heav'n to sing
Eternal anthems to my King. | |

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399 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here

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|---|---|
| 1 The star proclaims the King is here;
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For He who offers heav'nly birth
Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth. | 3 Within the Jordan's sacred flood
The heav'nly Lamb in meekness stood
That He, of whom no sin was known,
Might cleanse His people from their own. |
| 2 The eastern sages saw from far
And followed on His guiding star;
And, led by light, to light they trod
And by their gifts confessed their God. | 4 And oh, what miracle divine,
When water reddened into wine!
He spoke the word, and forth it flowed
In streams that nature ne'er bestowed. |
| 5 For this Thy glad epiphany
All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit evermore. | |

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The body and blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast in the faith to life everlasting. Go in peace.

Amen.

Thanksgiving & Nunc Dimitissung to: *From Heaven Above*

**Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure And steadfast love fore'er endure!
Our eyes have seen, our ears have heard, And we have tasted of His word.
As His own servants we depart With His salvation in our heart.
His saving power He has made known; His love through all the earth is shown.**

Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this good gift and we ask that, by your mercy, you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in a fervent love for one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Benediction.....sung to: *O Come, All You Faithful*

The Lord bless and keep you,
Look with love upon you,
Be gracious, and cause His face to shine with peace!

Glory to Father, Son and Holy Spirit!
The Savior close beside us,
God's love from harm to hide us,
The Spirit's power to guide us evermore!

The Final Hymn

394 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

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| 1 | Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
Manifested by the star
To the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem
In Thy birth at Bethlehem:
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest. | 5 | Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord,
Present in Thy holy Word—
Grace to imitate Thee now
And be pure, as pure art Thou;
That we might become like Thee
At Thy great epiphany
And may praise Thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest. |
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Server Schedule

	1/5	1/12	1/19
	8:30	8:30	8:30
Elder	Mike	Gordon	Greg
Reader	Nanette	Amy	Bob
PowerPoint	Amy	Dan	Gordon
Organ	Linda	Linda	Linda
Audio	Steve	Steve	Steve
Visuals	Greg	Preston	Edwin
	10:30	10:30	10:30
Elder	Herold	Bill	Dan
Reader	Delka	Cole	Rosemary
PowerPoint	Cole	Erik	Vicki
Audio/Visuals	Hayden/Donovan	Conor/Edwin	Amy/Preston
Counters	John Di/Wayne	John Da/James	Adria/Michelle
	Both	Both	Both
Altar Guild	Nancy D	Ron/Barb	Royce/Paula
Altar Flowers	Mueffelman	Bergs	Clarks

Altar flowers this week are given by Gerry Mueffelman in loving memory of Sue, and for the Lord's blessings of family and friends.

Birthdays this Week

01/06 Dan Kiser
01/07 Jeff Stamp
01/07 Delka Babiuch
01/07 Sean McBride
01/08 Ron Anderson
01/08 Monika Reitz
01/10 Jolene Ose

Anniversaries this Week

01/11 Dennis and Farideh Lutz