

January 4, 2026

Welcome

The Hymn of Invocation

400 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

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|---|---|---|--|
| 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. | 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? |
| 2 | Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all. | 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. |
| | 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. |

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Invocation and Confession of Sins.....(pg. 151 in Lutheran Service Book)

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

Let us then confess all our sins to God our Father.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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.

Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I therefore announce the full forgiveness of all our sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Kyrie.....(pg. 152 in Lutheran Service Book)

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

♪ **Lord, have mercy.**

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

♪ **Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

♪ **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

♪ **Amen.**

Hymn Of Praise.....(pg. 155 in Lutheran Service Book)

This is the Feast of Victory

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

♪ **And also with you.**

Let us Pray: 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 believe 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 60:1-6

“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.

“Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 15:7-10, 13 (excerpts)

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant...so that the promises made...might be confirmed and...that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name.”

Again, it says, “Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Verse.....(pg. 156 in Lutheran Service Book)

♪ **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**The Gospel
Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

The 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. | 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. |
| 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. | |

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Sermon

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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 prayers:

Lord in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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:
COS Youth

The Offertory.....*(sung to #955 in the Lutheran Service Book)*

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

The Preface.....(pg. 160 in Lutheran Service Book)

The Lord be with you.

♪ **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

♪ **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

♪ **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us children of men and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts that he may establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to remember our Redeemer and receive him who comes to us in his body and blood.

Jesus' Instruction for Holy Communion

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The Agnus Dei.....(pg. 163 in Lutheran Service Book)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

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

The Distribution Hymns

389 Let All Together Praise Our God

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|--|--|
| 1 Let all together praise our God
Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son. | 4 He undertakes a great exchange,
Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name. |
| 2 He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall. | 5 He is a servant, I a lord:
How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He. |
| 3 Within an earthborn form He hides
His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks
The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might. | 6 He is the key and He the door
To blessèd paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise. |
- 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

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.

Text: Public domain

924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

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|---|--|
| 1 Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing,
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us,
Trav'ling through this wilderness. | 2 Thanks we give and adoration
For Your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation
In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To Your truth may we be found. |
|---|--|
- 3 Savior, when Your love shall call us
From our struggling pilgrim way,
Let not fear of death appall us,
Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
Reign with You in endless day.

Text: Public domain

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

Amen.

The Post Communion Canticle.....(pg. 164 in Lutheran Service Book)

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.

He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy

With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this good gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward 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

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

♪ **Amen.**

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. | 4 | Sun and moon shall darkened be,
Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
Christ will then like lightning shine,
All will see His glorious sign;
All will then the trumpet hear,
All will see the Judge appear;
Thou by all wilt be confessed,
God in man made manifest. |
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Text: Public domain

Server Schedule

	1/4	1/11	1/18
	8:30	8:30	8:30
Elder	Herold	Bill	Dan
Reader	Amy	Nanette	Amy
PowerPoint	Shirley	Gordon	Lisa
Organ	Linda	Linda	Linda
Audio	Steve	Steve	Steve
Visuals	Benjamin	Greg	Preston
	10:30	10:30	10:30
Elder	Gordon	Mike	Greg
Reader	Kathy	Christi	Kathy
PowerPoint	Lisa	Vicki	Cole
Audio/Visuals	Hayden/Donovan	Conor/Logan	Hayden/Donovan
Counters	John Di/Wayne	Adria/Michelle	John Da/Vicki
	Both	Both	Both
Altar Guild	Dan/Amy	Royce/Paula	Williams/Koob
Altar Flowers	Inge Reitz	Bergs	Clarks

Altar flowers this morning are donated by Inge Reitz in celebration of her daughter Monika's birthday on the 8th. She is grateful the Lord has blessed her with a loving & supportive daughter.

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

None on record