

January 7, 2024: Epiphany

### 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.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.**



### GATHERING SONG *As with Gladness Men of Old* (ELW 302)



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.

## Kyrie (ELW p. 203)

The words "kyrie eleison" are an ancient prayer meaning "Lord have mercy".

**Leader**



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son

**All**



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son



Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Chri ste e - le - i - son



Ky - re - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

## Canticle of Praise (ELW p. 204)



Sing glo - ry to God, and peace on earth.

We sing glo - ry to God in the high - est.

We\_\_ wor - ship you, we\_\_ give\_\_ you thanks.

We\_\_ praise you for\_\_ your glo - ry Lord.

Sing glo - ry to God, and peace on earth.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

## Prayer of the Day

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. **Amen.**

## Word

### First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

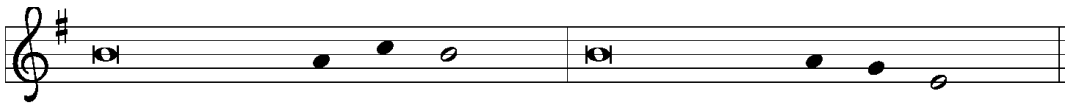
<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup>Then 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.

<sup>6</sup>A 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.

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



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<sup>1</sup>Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,

and your righteousness to | the king's son;

<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your | people righteously  
and the | poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,  
and the | hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,  
from one generation | to another.

<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,  
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the | righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.

<sup>10</sup>**May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts. R**

<sup>11</sup>May all kings bow | down before him,  
and all the nations | do him service.

<sup>12</sup>**For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**

<sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,  
and preserves the lives | of the needy.

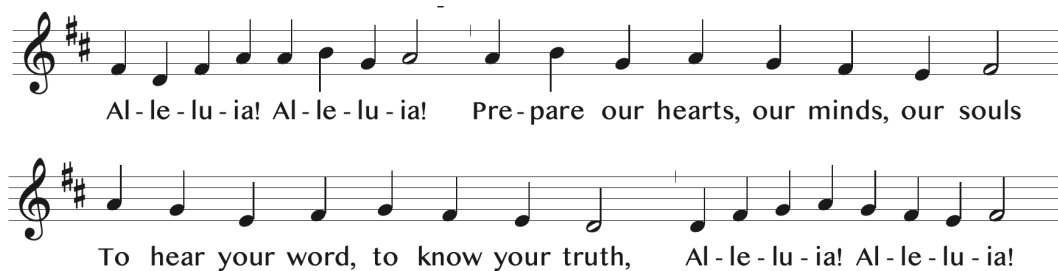
<sup>14</sup>**From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,  
and precious is their blood | in his sight. R**

## Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In 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: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of 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. <sup>8</sup>Although 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, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so 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. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

## Gospel Acclamation (Stand)



## Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, “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.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>“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.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then 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.” <sup>9</sup>When 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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On 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. <sup>12</sup>And 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.**

**Sermon**

## Hymn of the Day 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (ELW 284)



1 'Twas in the moon of win-ter-time when all the birds had fled, that  
2 With - in a lodge of bro-ken bark the ten-der babe was found; a  
3 The ear-liest moon of win-ter-time is not so round and fair as  
4 O chil-dren of the for-est free, the an-gel-song is true; the



\*God the Lord of all the earth sent an - gel choirs in - stead; be -  
rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en-wrapped his beau - ty round; but  
was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there. The  
ho - ly child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you. Come,



fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan-d'ring hunt-ers heard the hymn:  
as the hunt-er braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high:  
chiefs from far be-fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea-ver pelt.  
kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy, who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.



Je-sus your king is born! Je - sus is born, in ex - cel-sis glo-ri - a!

\* original: "mighty Gitchi Manitou"

Text: Jean de Brébeuf, 1593–1649; tr. Jesse E. Middleton, 1872–1960, alt.  
Music: UNE JEUNE PUCELLE, French folk tune, c. 16th cent.  
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## Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*Each petition ends with "Hear us, O God." and the congregational response is "Your mercy is great."*

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

## Offering Prayer

**Leader**

The Lord be\_\_ with you.

**Congregation**

And al - so\_\_ with you.

**Leader**

Lift up\_\_ your hearts.\_\_

**Congregation**

We\_\_ lift them to\_\_ the Lord.

**Leader**

Let us\_\_ give thanks to\_\_ the Lord,

**Congregation**

to the Lord our God.

**All**

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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

### Communion Song

O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

O Lamb of God you take a-way the sin\_ of the world.

Have mer cy on us O Lord. Grant us peace. Grant us peace O Lord.

### Communion Hymn: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (ELW 815)

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

## 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.**

## Blessing

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope,

and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

## Sending Song *Christ, Be Our Light* (ELW 715)

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
3 Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for  
4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for  
5 Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the  
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone  
wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,  
hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants  
your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.  
bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.  
shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.  
to one an-oth-er, signs of your king-dom come.

*Refrain*  
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
dark-ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
church gath-ered to-day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957  
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell  
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## Dismissal

The King of Kings is here! We have seen his Star! Proclaim this Good News!

**Thanks be to God.**