



Matthew 2:11

Complete Worship Folder

January 5, 2025 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

January 8, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Julie Bailey, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday Worship 7:00pm

## Epiphany of Our Lord

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### Welcome and Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**God-with-us, ...we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

**C: Amen**

Hymn: "The First Noel" (ELW 300)

The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**Refrain**        Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. **Refrain**

And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. **Refrain**

This star drew near to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay. **Refrain**

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full rev'rently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. **Refrain**

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Greeting

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

**C: And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P: 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. Amen.**

Children's Message (10:30 a.m.) & Dismiss to Children's Church

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 in 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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14 (Read Responsively)

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, 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 among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**  
<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 water 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.**  
<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 lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.  
<sup>14</sup> **From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.**

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 in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation: "Thy Word" (CCLI 14301 *Chorus Only*)

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi 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 in the east 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 magi 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 in the east, 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.

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Brightest and Best of the Stars" (ELW 303, *verses 1-3*)

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.  
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

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.

What shall we give him, in costly devotion?  
Shall we bring incense and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?

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Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

The Prayers of the Children of God

Each petition ends...God of grace,

**Congregation responds...receive our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

Offering

Offering Song: "Arise, Your Light Has Come!" (ELW 314, *verses 1,4*)

Arise, your light has come!  
The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God  
which shines on you today.

Arise, your light has come!  
The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing,  
God's pow'r will make us strong.

### Offering Prayer

A: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

**C: Amen.**

### Thanksgiving

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.

### Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray

**C: 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 / Distribution of Holy Communion

P: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

Communion Songs: "What Feast of Love" (ELW 487)

What feast of love is offered here,  
what banquet come from heaven?  
What food of everlasting life,  
what gracious gift is given?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
the bread come down from heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing!  
How sweet the manna given!

What light of truth is offered here,  
what covenant from heaven?  
What hope of everlasting life,  
what wondrous word is given?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
the sun come down from heaven.  
Oh, see and hear and sing!  
The Word of God is given!

What wine of love is offered here,  
what crimson drink from heaven?  
What stream of everlasting life,  
what precious blood is given?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
the sweetest wine of heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing!  
The Son of God is given!

“This Little Light of Mine” (ELW 677)

This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Post-Communion Blessing

P: And now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

**C: Amen**

Blessing

P: The God of love, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Song: "My Lighthouse" (CCLI 7002032) (*video*)

In my wrestling and in my doubts  
In my failures You won't walk out  
Your great love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh  
You are the peace in my troubled sea

In the silence You won't let go  
In the questions Your truth will hold  
Your great love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh  
You are the peace in my troubled sea

**Chorus** My Lighthouse my Lighthouse  
Shining in the darkness  
I will follow You oh  
My Lighthouse my Lighthouse  
I will trust the promise  
You will carry me safe to shore  
Safe to shore safe to shore safe to shore

I won't fear what tomorrow brings  
With each morning I'll rise and sing  
My God's love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh  
You are the peace in my troubled sea **Chorus**

Fire before us  
You're the brightest  
You will lead us  
Through the storms (hey)  
(REPEAT 3X)  
**Chorus**

### Dismissal

**A:** We work together to spread Christ's love with our community

**C: Through an Open Heart, Open Mind, and an Open Table.**

**A:** Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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