

JANUARY 7, 2024 | *Epiphany of Our Lord*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome to our worship service today! We are glad to have you with us as we gather before our almighty and saving God to hear His holy and powerful Word and celebrate His life-giving Sacraments, offering our prayers and praises as He strengthens our faith and brings us ever closer to our eternal home with Him.

SERVICE NOTES

Jesus appears as the Savior of the nations. The Festival of Epiphany on January 6 is the second-oldest celebration in church history, going back to the 2nd century. The Western Church remembers the day as “Gentile Christmas”, and rejoices at Jesus’ appearing as the Word for the whole world.

If you need any assistance, please ask any of our ushers for help. In inclement weather, or if walking from your car is difficult, please make use of the carport. The ushers will gladly park and/or retrieve your car for you if needed.

If you are a visitor with us today, please sign the Guest Book before you leave today. If you would like to learn more about our church or are interested in church membership, please speak with Pastor Holtz or one of the elders.

If you have small children, please note that there is a Parents’ Room at the rear of the sanctuary if you need to temporarily calm a child. From the Parents’ Room you can still see, hear, and participate in the worship service.

For your convenience today’s order of service is printed on the following pages.

Holy Communion: We hold to the ancient, biblical practice of “close communion,” communing only confirmed members of our church or churches of our fellowship (ELS and WELS). Guests, please speak with the pastor prior to the service if you wish to commune. Thank you for your courteous respect of our beliefs and practices.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Minister	Rev. Roger Holtz
Organist	Deb Meyer
Elder on Duty	Sunday: Rod Meves
Ushers on Duty	David Diestler, Charles Hartwig, Rick Schnese
Altar Guild	Julie Busse & Sandra VanderHeyden

The Order of the Holy Communion

Please stand.

OPENING HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old | 127

INVOCATION AND CONFESSION OF SINS

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

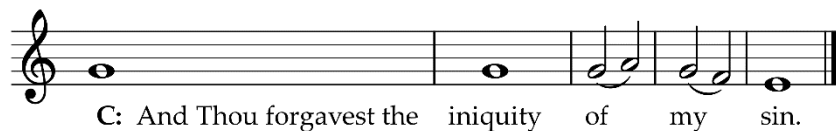


M: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.



M: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.



C: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

M: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



You may be seated.

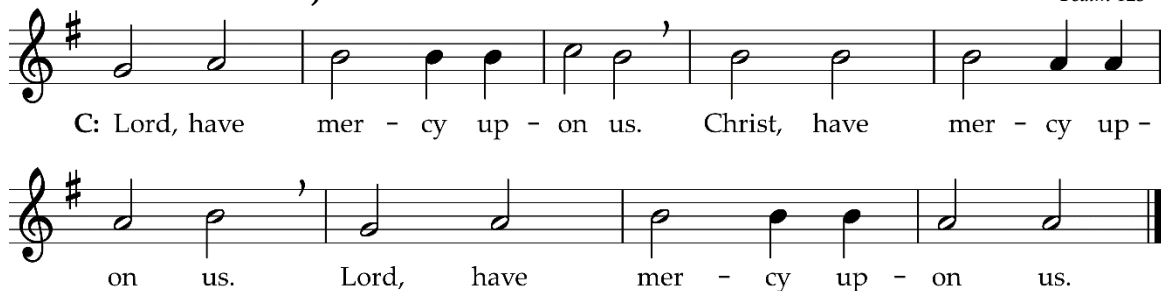
THE INTROIT & GLORIA PATRI

M: Behold, the Lord, the Ruler, has come, and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in His hand. All kings shall fall down before Him, all nations shall serve Him. Give the King Your judgments. O God, and Your righteousness to the King's Son.



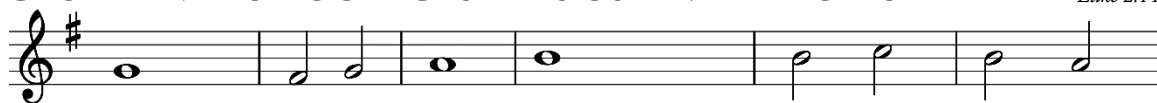
THE KYRIE—*LORD, HAVE MERCY*

Psaln 123

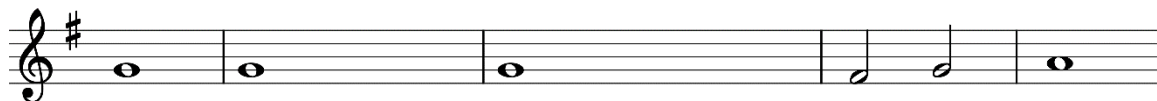


GLORIA IN EXCELSIS—"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST"

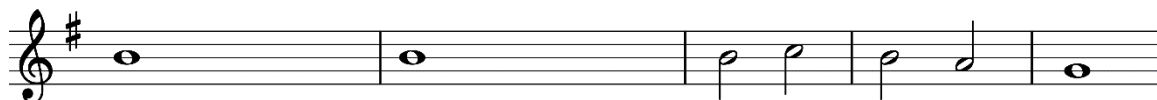
Luke 2:14



C: Glory be to God on high: And on earth peace, good will toward



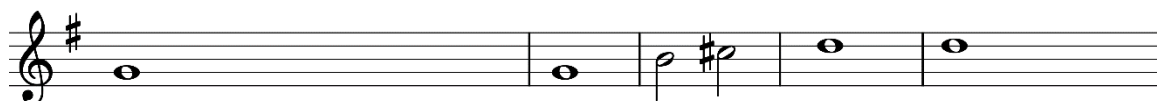
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



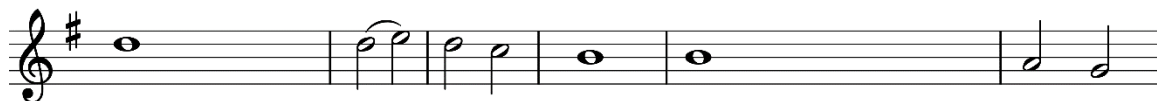
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God,



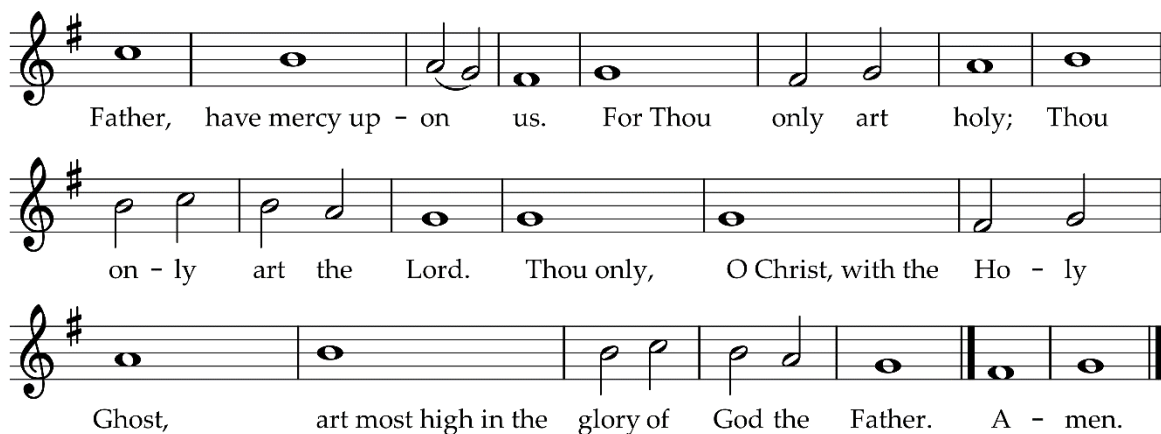
Lamb of God, Son of the Father, That takest away the sin of the



world, have mercy up - on us. Thou that takest away the sin of the



world, re - ceive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the



PSALM 72

M: Give the king Your judgments, O God, And Your righteousness to the king's Son.

C: He will judge Your people with righteousness, And Your poor with justice.

M: The mountains will bring peace to the people, And the little hills, by righteousness.

C: He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, And will ^{1a}break in pieces the oppressor.

M: ^{1b}They shall fear You As long as the sun and moon endure,

C: Throughout all generations.

M: He shall come down like rain upon the grass before mowing, Like showers *that* water the earth.

C: In His days the righteous shall flourish, And abundance of peace, Until the moon is no more.

M: He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.

C: Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him, And His enemies will lick the dust.

M: The kings of Tarshish and of the isles will bring presents; The kings of Sheba and Seba will offer gifts.

C: Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; All nations shall serve Him.

M: For He will deliver the needy when he cries, The poor also, and *him* who has no helper.

C: He will spare the poor and needy, And will save the souls of the needy.

M: He will redeem their life from oppression and violence;

C: And precious shall be their blood in His sight.

M: And He shall live; And the gold of Sheba will be given to Him;

C: Prayer also will be made for Him continually, And daily He shall be praised.

M: There will be an abundance of grain in the earth, On the top of the mountains;

C: Its fruit shall wave like Lebanon; And *those* of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth.

M: His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun.

C: And *men* shall be blessed in Him; All nations shall call Him blessed.

M: Blessed *be* the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things!

**C: And blessed *be* His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled *with* His glory.
Amen and Amen.**

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And with thy spir - it.

Please stand.

M: Let us pray: Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

You may be seated.

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 60:1-6

Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. ²For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. ³The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴"Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at *your* side. ⁵Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.

⁶The multitude of camels shall cover your *land*, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD.

SECOND LESSON: EPHESIANS 3:2-12

²if indeed you have heard of the ^[a]dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, ³how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, ⁴by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of

Christ), ⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: ⁶ that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, ⁷ of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make all see what *is* the [b]fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things [t]hrough Jesus Christ; ¹⁰ to the intent that now the [d]manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the [e]principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, ¹¹ according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

GRADUAL

M: Alleluia! Oh, praise the Lord, all you nations! Laud Him, all you peoples! For His merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endures forever. Alleluia!



Please stand.

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 2:1-12



Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, [a]wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ⁶ 'But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

⁷Then Herod, when he had secretly called the ⁸wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

⁹When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. ¹¹And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹²Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

THE NICENE CREED

C: 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 Ghost 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 sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe 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.

You may be seated.

HYMN

Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning | 128

Please stand for the singing of the final stanza.

SERMON – MATTHEW 2:1-12

Copy the Wise Men's Worship

1. Overcomes obstacles
2. Gives generously
3. Lives lovingly

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Thy pres-ence, and
take not Thy Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re - store un-to me the joy of
Thy sal - va - tion; and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

You may be seated.

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

We hold to the ancient, biblical practice of “close communion.” This means that we commune only confirmed members of our church or churches of our fellowship (ELS and WELS). If you are a guest who is interested in communing, please speak with the pastor prior to the service. Thank you for your courteous respect of our beliefs and practices.

THE PREFACES & THE SANCTUS (“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”)

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And with thy spir - it.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.



C: It is meet and right so to do.

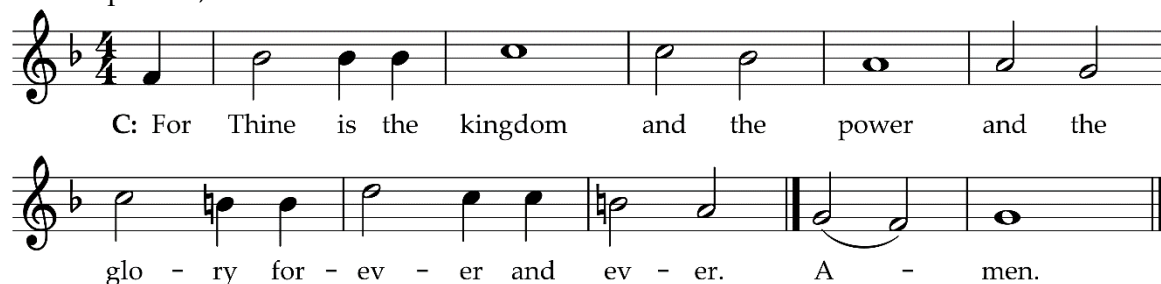
M: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; and now do we praise You that You sent unto us Thine only begotten Son and that in Him, being found in fashion as a man, You manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry; Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is He, Bless - ed is He, Bless - ed is He that com - eth in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

M: 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.



C: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the
 glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do in remembrance of Me."

THE PAX DOMINI (Peace of the Lord)

The peace of the Lord be with you always!



THE LAMB OF GOD (*Agnus Dei*)

Musical notation for the Agnus Dei. It consists of five staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The lyrics are written below the staves. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (half). A slur covers the last three notes (B4, C5, D5), with the word 'men.' written below the D5. The first note 'A' is written below the A4.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world,

have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that

tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world,

grant us Thy peace. A - - - men.

You may be seated.

THE DISTRIBUTION

During the distribution of the sacrament, communicants may come forward at the direction of the ushers.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star | 343

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (“Now Dismiss”)

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in_ peace ac - cord-ing to Thy

word, For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation: which Thou hast pre -

pared_ be - fore the face of all people,

a Light_ to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

people Is - ra-el. Glo - ry_ be to the Father and to the

Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; As it_ was in the beginning is now, and

ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: O, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.



C: And His mercy en - dureth for - ev - er.

M: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through these salutary gifts, and we implore You that of Your Mercy You would strengthen us through them 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 true God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

THE BENEDICTION

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And with thy spir - it.

M: Let us bless the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS - If you'd like to donate altar flowers for one of our worship services, please sign up and find details on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Thank you!

FELLOWSHIP SNACKS – Thanks to Rick and Barb Schnese for serving snacks today. If you'd like to serve snacks on Sunday mornings, please sign up in the fellowship hall. Thank you!

COUNCIL AND ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – The church Council meets today at 10:30 p.m. after Bible study in preparation for the annual congregational and voters meeting scheduled Sunday, January 14, after the worship service. Year-end reports will be given, and voters will approve the 2024 budget. All members are welcome to attend. Voters especially are encouraged to participate.

TAKING DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS – As the Christmas season draws to a close, it is time to take down our decorations. We need volunteers to help. We are meeting at church on Saturday, January 13, at 9:00 a.m. Thank you in advance!

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST THE KING	
SUNDAY (1/07)	Divine Service w/Holy Comm., 9:00 a.m. Choir Practice after service Education Hour, 10:30 a.m. Church Council Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
TUESDAY (1/09)	Women on a Mission Mtg., 6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY (1/10)	Emerald Bay Service, 4:00 p.m.
SUNDAY (1/14)	Divine Service, 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 a.m. Annual Congregational Mtg.

OUR MISSION

Christ the King Ev. Lutheran Church gives all praise and thanks to the Triune God for His grace received through Word and Sacrament by sharing the saving Gospel of Christ with the people of this community and the world.