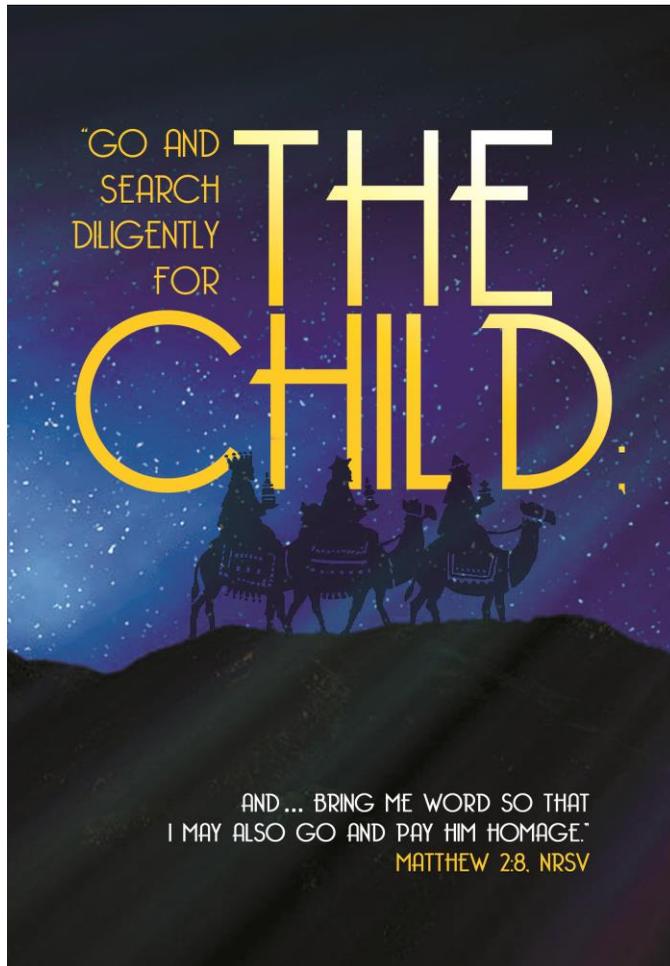


IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 11, 2019



Offering will be received at both doors

TO SET YOU FREE FROM ALL YOUR SORROW

Ignorance is bliss. Our excuses for remaining uninformed, even when supported by an aphorism, fall apart in the light of the truth. Willful ignorance is not a virtue. Indeed, it goes hand in hand with unbelief.

That is among the lessons flowing from the Magi and Herod. The Magi follow the star, knowing what is true. The One who has been born is King, worthy of being worshiped. Herod, on the other hand, gets the right information from others about where the birth of the King took place, but he remains aloof to the truth. Instead of paying homage, he plots to kill.

Ignorance is not bliss. It destroys faith because faith feeds on the truth. Ignorance also robs us of joy, especially when it comes to the truth of who Christ is. The Magi know who He is, so they rejoice greatly.

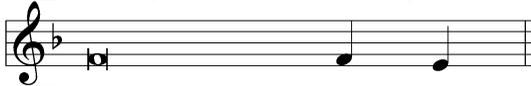
We join them in rejoicing because the truth has been given us. Jesus comes,
Lying helpless in a manger, poor and bare and lowly,
To set you free from all your sorrow wholly.

Service of Light

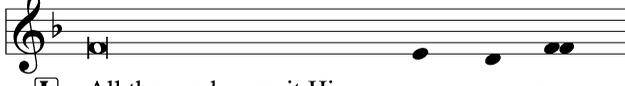
Stand if able



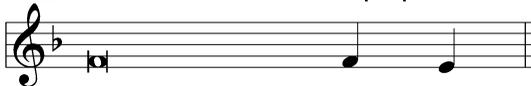
L The Spirit and the Church cry out:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



L All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



L The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.

Phos Hilaron



L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



C of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bles - sed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:



You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -

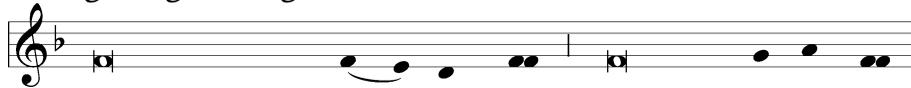


ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:



the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

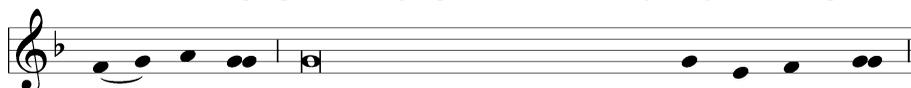
Thanksgiving for Light



L Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,



who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of



fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;

may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;
 for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion
 and we, Your creatures, glo - ri - fy You, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it.
C A - men.

Sit

Psalmody

Psalm 141 (I - Men, II - Women)

Psalm 141:1-4, 8

C Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,
 the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.
I O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice
 when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,
 the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.
II Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

I Let not my heart in-cline to an-y e-vil thing;
let me not be oc-cu-pied in wick-ed-ness with e-vil-do-ers.

II But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref-u-ge.
Strip me not of my life. C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in
the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.
Let my prayer rise be-fore You as in-cense,
the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.

L Let us pray.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

C Amen.

Psalm

Psalm 72:1–19

L Give the king Your justice, O God,
and Your righteousness to the royal son!

C May He judge your people with righteousness,
and Your poor with justice!

L Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!

- C** May He defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor!
- L** May they fear You while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- C** May He be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!
- L** In His days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
- C** May He have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth!
- L** May desert tribes bow down before Him,
and His enemies lick the dust!
- C** May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands
render Him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!
- L** May all kings fall down before Him,
all nations serve Him!
- C** For He delivers the needy when he calls,
the poor and him who has no helper.
- L** He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.
- C** From oppression and violence He redeems their life,
and precious is their blood in His sight.
- L** Long may He live; may gold of Sheba be given to Him!
May prayer be made for Him continually,
and blessings invoked for Him all the day!
- C** May there be abundance of grain in the land;
on the tops of the mountains may it wave;
may its fruit be like Lebanon;
and may people blossom in the cities
like the grass of the field!
- L** May His name endure forever,
His fame continue as long as the sun!
May people be blessed in Him,
all nations call Him blessèd!
- C** Blessèd be the LORD, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
- L** Blessèd be His glorious name for- | ever;
may the whole earth be filled with His glory!
Amen and Amen!
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

397 As with Gladness Men of Old



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-at-ed 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.

Readings

Old Testament Reading:

Micah 5:2–5a

L A reading from Micah, chapter 5.

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
 who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to be ruler in Israel,
 whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.
 Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has given birth;
 then the rest of his brothers shall return
 to the people of Israel.
 And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
 And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth.
 And he shall be their peace.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle:

1 Peter 1:3–9

L A reading from 1 Peter, chapter 1.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand if able

Holy Gospel:

Matthew 2:1–12

L A reading from Matthew, chapter 2.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

L In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Sit

Sermon

Canticle

Stand if able

933 My Soul Rejoices



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Tune: Public domain

Prayer

Kneel/Sit

Litany

The congregation's response may begin just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.



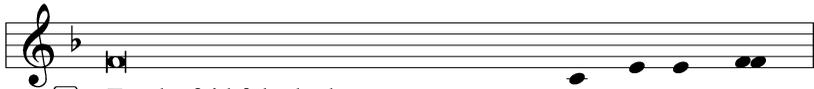
L In peace let us pray to the Lord:



C Lord, have mer - cy.

- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** 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:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For [*names of synodical and district presidents*], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

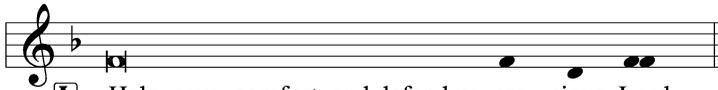
The prayers then continue:



L For the faithful who have gone
before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

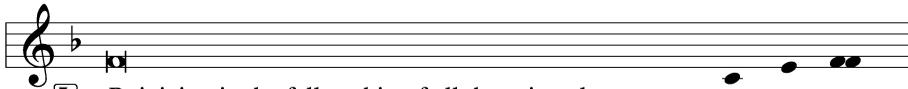


C Al - le - lu - ia.



L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.



L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us
commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:



C To You, O Lord.

Collect For Peace

L O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.**

Stand if able

Benedicamus

[Psalm 103:1]

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

333 Once He Came in Blessing



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

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