



### AS WE GATHER

Israel's fate seemed dark in Isaiah's day, but he provided a vision of the future: God would shed on them His glory and light, bright enough to attract other nations with their wealth and treasures. Likewise, until it dawned on Saul/Paul, God had sent the Messiah only to Israel. But Paul's ministry was to bring to light for everyone the mystery of Christ, that the Gentiles be partakers in the Gospel. The Magi saw a physical light in a certain portion of the sky and realized they should find the King it announced. And now our light has come, the light of God's love in Christ shining in our hearts. Today is a day to celebrate that God has left no one out of the Gospel message. We thank God and tell one another and all we meet, "Your light has come."

### INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### OPENING SENTENCES

Isaiah 60:1, 5–6; Matthew 2:2, 10–11

**P** Arise, shine, for your light has come.

**C** We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.

**P** You shall see and be radiant.

**C** They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

**P** They shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

**C** And they fell down and worshiped Him.

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalms 124:8; 130:3, adapt.; Ephesians 3:11–12

**P** Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**P** Although God has graciously showered the light of His love on us, we have not responded in lives of total devotion. But because He has graciously promised to forgive, let us go to Him in the name of "Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him."

**C** Gracious heavenly Father, we confess that we have let the distractions of this world turn our eyes from seeing the true Light. We have not loved You with our whole hearts. Forgive us and renew in us hearts to see, follow, and worship You alone.

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, our heavenly Father sent His Son to take to His cross all our sins, and His Holy Spirit has graciously shined the light of faith in Christ into our hearts. I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C** Amen.

### HYMN: "AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD"

LSB 397



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.

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## KYRIE - LORD HAVE MERCY

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For peace shining down on us from above and for the salvation of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For peace so that the Church of God would more brightly shine the light of the Gospel in the nations of the world, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For all who join us here to thank God for the unsearchable riches of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

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

**C** Amen.

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29 LSB 154*

**P** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray together:

**C** O God, You led the Magi to see in the star the news of Christ's birth. We give thanks that You have enabled us to see Him as our Savior. Grant us strength of faith to follow where He leads and to worship Him with all that we are and have; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT

*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 behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.  
<sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.  
<sup>4</sup>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 carried on the hip.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## NEW TESTAMENT

*Ephesians 3:1–12*

<sup>1</sup>For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you,<sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.<sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,<sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.<sup>6</sup> This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and exult,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned 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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 2:1–12*

<sup>1</sup>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,<sup>2</sup> 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.”<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;<sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.<sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>“‘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.’”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.<sup>8</sup> 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.”<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

**P** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## 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 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.

# HYMN: "BRIGHTEST AND BEST OF THE STARS OF THE MORNING"

LSB 400



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
 2 Cold on His cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;  
 3 Shall we not yield Him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,  
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,  
 5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;  
 Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;  
 Fra - grance of E - dom and of - f'rings di - vine,  
 Vain - ly with gifts would His fa - vor se - cure.  
 Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;



Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
 An - gels a - dore Him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
 Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
 Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;  
 Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.  
 Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.  
 Myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?  
 Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
 Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

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## SERMON

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Ephesians 3:6–7, 10

## OFFERING

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

**TO OUR VISITORS:** The **Lord's Supper** is celebrated at St. John in the confession that not only bread and wine, but Jesus Christ's very body and blood are given to us to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins and to strengthen our faith in Him and our union (*communion*) with one another. Our Lord invites to His table all those who believe His words, repent of all sin, and set aside all refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. *If this is your first time at St John or have not been instructed about the Lord's Supper, we ask that you speak to the Pastor before participating in the Lord's Supper.*

## PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

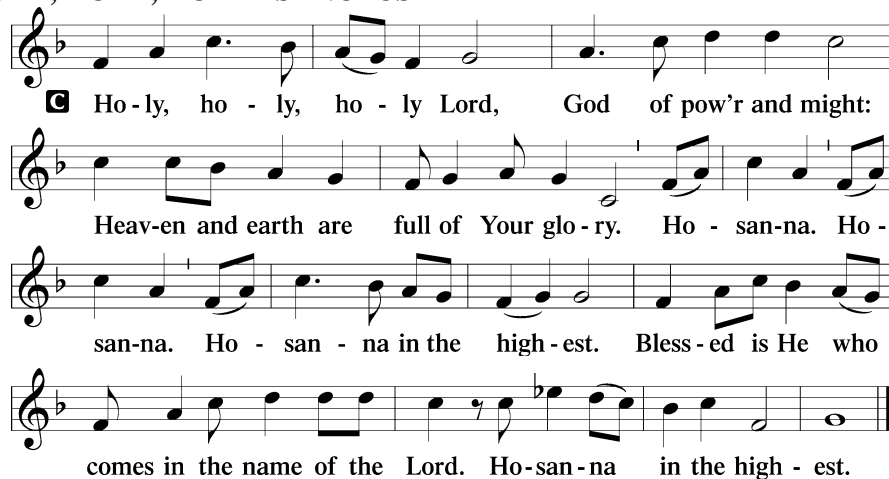
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**P** 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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose birth was announced by a star seen by the Magi, whose coming was foretold in Scripture and followed by those Wise Men, and who was worshiped by them with gifts and great joy. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - SANCTUS

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9 LSB 161*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

### LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\cdot\ddagger$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\cdot\ddagger$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

### PEACE OF THE LORD - PAX DOMINI

*John 20:19*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### LAMB OF GOD - AGNUS DEI

*John 1:29 LSB 163*



**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



## DISTRIBUTION

### HYMN: "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

LSB 361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
 While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.  
 So God im-parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.  
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.  
 And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!  
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

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### NUNC DIMITTIS

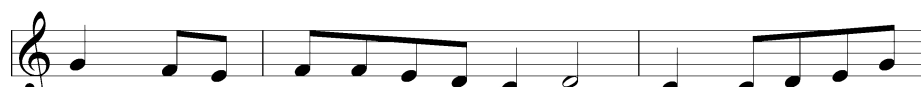
Luke 2:29–32 LSB 165



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P** My soul, give thanks to the Lord; all my being, bless His holy name.  
**C** **My soul, give thanks to the Lord, and never forget all His blessings.**  
**P** It is He who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion, who fills your life with good things, renewing your youth like an eagle's. Give thanks to the Lord, all His works, in every place where He rules.  
**C** **My soul, give thanks to the Lord! Give praise to the Father Almighty; to His Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord; to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts, both now and forever. Amen.**

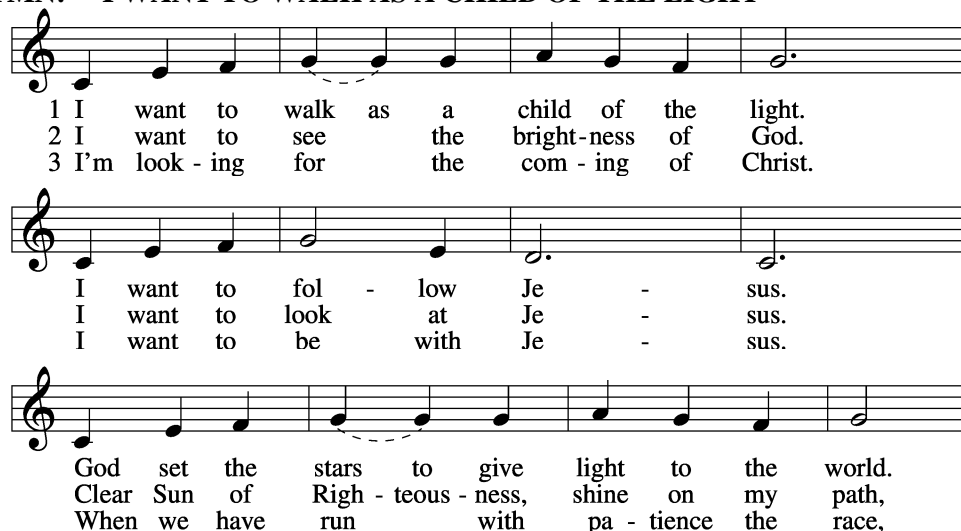
## BENEDICTION

- P** 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.  
**C** **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## HYMN: "I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT"

LSB 411



The star of my life is Je - sus.  
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 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.

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**OAR:** One and All Rejoice hymnal (multicolored)

**LSB:** Lutheran Service Book hymnal (red)