

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
7979 Commerce Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48324
Phone: (248) 363-0741; Email: info@stmarkwb.org
Website: www.stmarkwb.org



The Epiphany of our Lord (obs.)

3 January A✠D 2021

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting III

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Feast of the Epiphany. On this day, the Church remembers the visit of the magi, rejoicing that God has made His salvation manifest to us and to the whole world (the term *epiphany* means “manifestation”). In this moment, as the magi are led to Christ, we behold God’s desire that all would come to Jesus and be saved. Therefore, we too gladly come, that we, alongside the magi, might find in Christ everlasting life.

If you are a VISITOR here, we offer you our warmest welcome! We pray that your experience among us is blessed, and that you depart filled with God’s peace and life.

Also, toward the end of our service today we will be celebrating Holy Communion, in which we will eat and drink Jesus’ body and blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26:26-28). Therefore, we ask that you would please see the statement titled “On the Sacrament of Holy Communion,” printed below, which describes our beliefs and practices regarding this sacred gift.

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter,
as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth,
I humbly pray that You would open my heart
to the preaching of Your Word so that I may
repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my
only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness.
Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

ON THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: We believe that receiving Holy Communion together is a sacred expression of Christian unity, which includes unity in doctrine (1 Cor. 10:16-17; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:5). We also believe that if we receive this sacrament in unbelief, we risk God’s judgment (1 Cor. 11:27-30).

Therefore, communion at this altar is reserved for those who believe and confess with us the teachings of our church body, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Those who have not been formally instructed in our teachings should wait to commune until completing a course of instruction with us.

If you are a VISITOR and would like to commune with us today, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you will not be communing, you are welcome to kneel at the altar with your arms folded across your chest to receive a blessing, or you may simply remain in your pew.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to COVID-19, the Sharing of the Peace that would normally take place at the beginning of the service has been temporarily suspended.

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

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

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto 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.

P 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.

C Amen.

Hymn of Invocation: 395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Stanzas 1–3



1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
 2 Come, heav'n-ly Bride-groom, Light di-vine, And deep with-in
 3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls



own truth and light, A-glow with grace and mer-cy!
 our hearts now shine; There light a flame un-dy-ing!
 from God a-bove A ray of pur-est plea-sure.



Of Ja-cob's race, King Da-vid's son, Our Lord and mas-s
 In Your one bod-y let us be As liv-ing branch-
 Your Word and Spir-it, flesh and blood Re-fresh our souls



ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on-ly!
 es of a tree, Your life our lives sup-ply-ing.
 with heav'n-ly food. You are our dear-est trea-sure!



Low-ly, ho-ly! Great and glo-rious, All vic-to-rious,
 Now, though dai-ly Earth's deep sad-ness May per-plex us
 Let Your mer-cy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!



Rich in bless-ing! Rule and might o'er all pos-sess-ing!
 And dis-tress us, Yet with heav'n-ly joy You bless us.
 For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.

Tune: Public domain

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002763

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 72:1–2, 10–11; antiphon: Liturgical Text

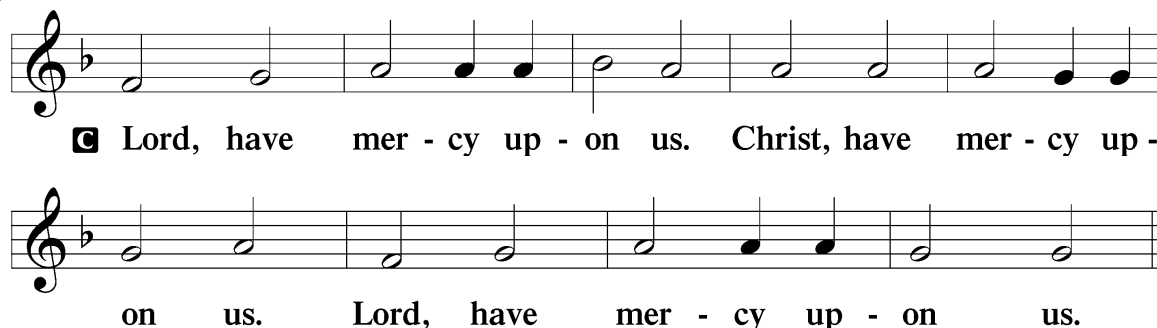
- P** Behold the Lord, the ruler, has come,
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in his hand.
- P** Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!
- C** **May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!**
- P** May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!
- C** **May all kings fall down before him,
all nations serve him!**

**All: 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.**

- P** Behold the Lord, the ruler, has come,
and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in his hand.

Kyrie

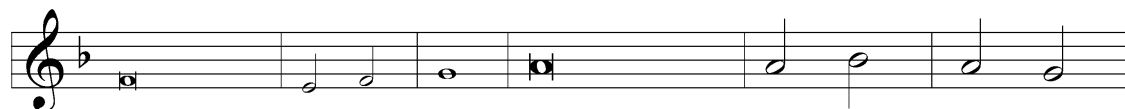
LSB 186



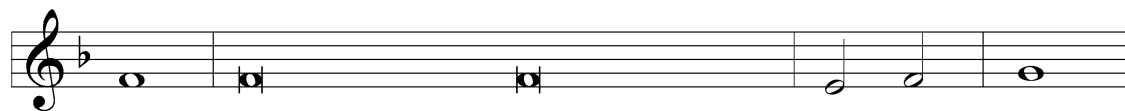
C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

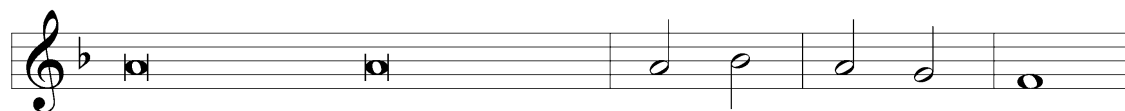
LSB 187



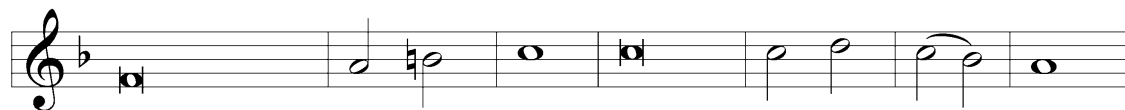
P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



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



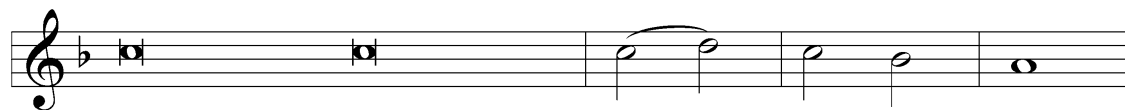
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



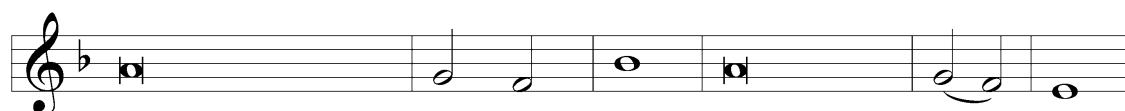
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



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



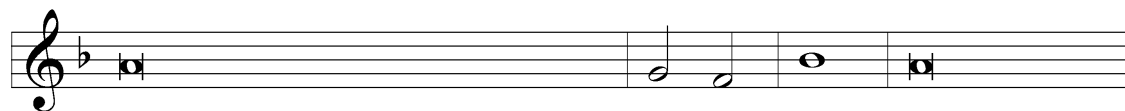
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



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



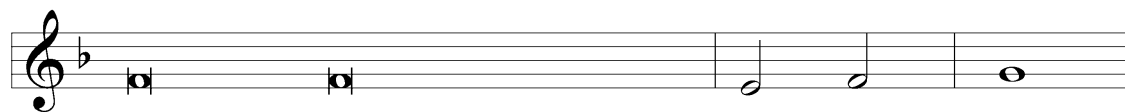
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

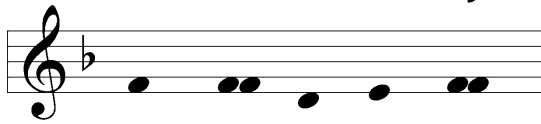


Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
²For 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.
³And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
⁴Lift 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.
⁵Then 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.
⁶A 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Isaiah 60:6b, 1

[P] Those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

C Arise, shine, for your light has come,

and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

Epistle

Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—

²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.

⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which 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. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

[P] This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

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



© Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “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.”

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

⁶“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.”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And 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.” ⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And 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. ¹²And 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 the Lord.



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.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 398 Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, Great Da - vid's great - er Son!
2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer wrong,
3 He shall come down like show - ers Up - on the fruit - ful earth;
4 Kings shall fall down be - fore Him And gold and in - cense bring;
5 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, He on His throne shall rest,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!
To help the poor and need - y And bid the weak be strong;
Love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, Spring in His path to birth.
All na - tions shall a - dore Him, His praise all peo - ple sing.
From age to age more glo - rious, All bless - ing and all - blest.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, To set the cap - tive free,
To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their dark - ness turn to light,
Be - fore Him on the moun - tains Shall peace, the her - ald, go;
To Him shall prayer un - ceas - ing And dai - ly vows as - cend;
The tide of time shall nev - er His cov - e - nant re - move;



To take a - way trans - gres - sion And rule in eq - ui - ty.
Whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, Were pre - cious in His sight.
And righ - teous - ness in foun - tains From hill to val - ley flow.
His king - dom still in - creas - ing, A kingdom with - out end.
His name shall stand for - ev - er— That name to us is Love.

Sermon

NOTE REGARDING THE OFFERING – Offering plates are located at the sanctuary exit doors where you may leave your weekly offering as you depart today.

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192



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.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P 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.

P For this holy house and for all who in faith, piety and love come to receive His gifts and praise His name, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For Matthew, our Synod president; David, our district president; Terry, our circuit visitor; all pastors and congregations; and our parish, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all families and homes, that one generation may tell to the next the wonderful works of God in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For Donald, our president; Gretchen, our governor; all our leaders; our legislature and Congress; those elected and preparing to begin service to our nation; and our military, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all women with child and all mothers with infant children, that they would be filled with joy and protected from harm, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the sick and sorrowful, for those who mourn, and for all who stand in need of our prayers, [*especially* _____,] that the Lord would deal mercifully with them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who commune this day, that they would receive our Lord's body and blood in repentance and faith for the forgiveness of sins, and in the unity of a true confession, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, 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; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have 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:

Sanctus

LSB 195

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.

Lord's Prayer (*spoken together*)

LSB 196

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

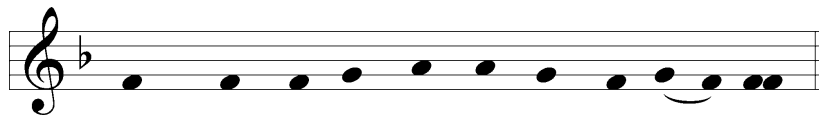
LSB 197

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 ✠ 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 ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



G A - men.

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.

Sit

Distribution

Visitors – Please see note on the inside front cover of this service folder regarding our practice of Holy Communion.

Directions for Holy Communion:

- *Ushers will release you in small groups to approach the altar*
- *Please wear a mask as you approach the altar and as you depart (masks may be removed at the communion rail)*
- *Please space yourselves out at the communion rail (households may remain together)*
- *Please temporarily receive the host (wafer) in your hands rather than your mouth*
- *Use of the common cup will be temporarily suspended*
- *When you take an individual cup, please be careful not to touch any adjacent cups*
- *Hand sanitizer will be available on pedestals as you depart the Lord's Table*

Distribution Hymn: 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.

Tune and text: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 399 The Star Proclaims the King Is Here



1 The star pro-claims the King is here; But, Her-od,
 2 The east-ern sa-ges saw from far And fol-lowed
 3 With-in the Jor-dan's sa-cred flood The heav'n-ly
 4 And oh, what mir-a-cle di-vine, When wa-ter
 △ 5 For this Thy glad e-piph-a-ny All glo-ry,



why this sense-less fear? For He who of-fers heav'n-ly
 on His guid-ing star; And, led by light, to light they
 Lamb in meek-ness stood That He, of whom no sin was
 red-dened in-to wine! He spoke the word, and forth it
 Je-sus, be to Thee, Whom with the Fa-ther we a-

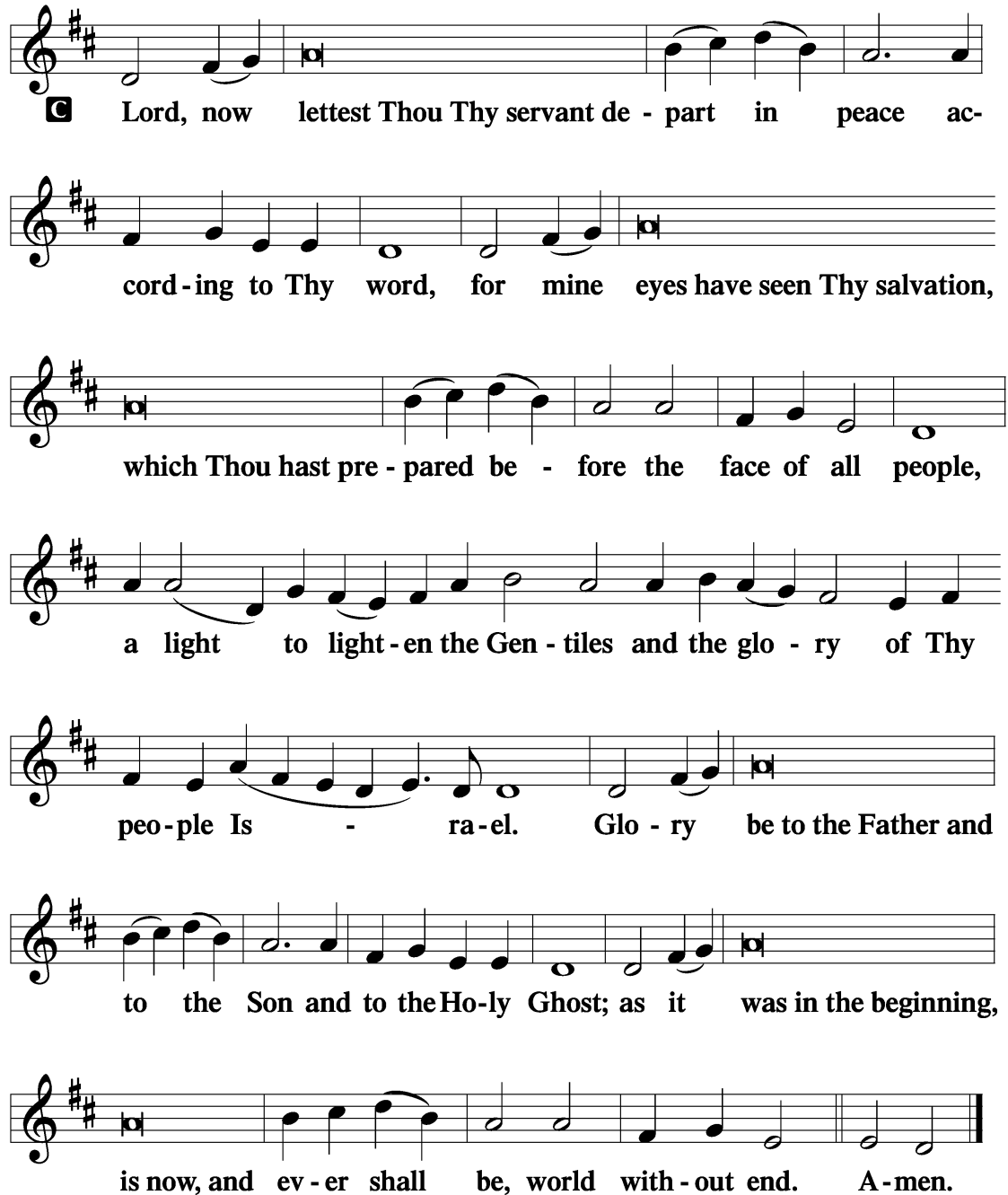


birth Seeks not the king-doms of this earth.
 trod And by their gifts con-fessed their God.
 known, Might cleanse His peo-ple from their own.
 flowed In streams that na-ture ne'er be-stowed.
 dore, And Ho-ly Spir-it ev-er-more.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

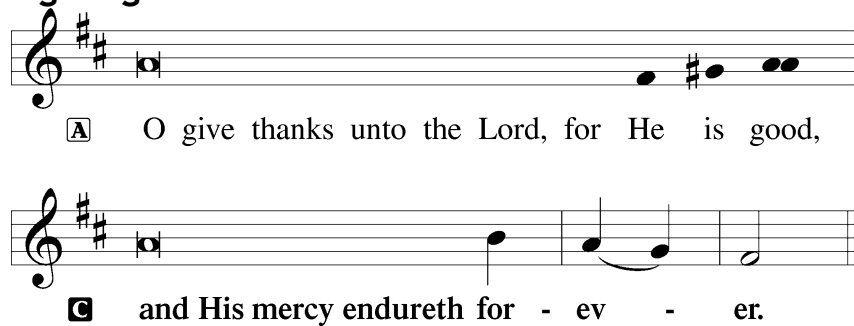
LSB 199



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
peo-ple 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.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200



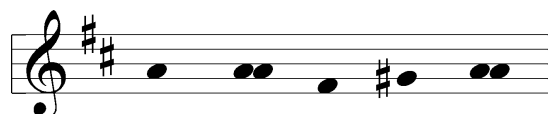
A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same 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 God, now and forever.



C A - men.



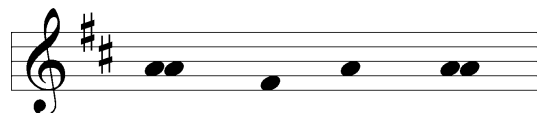
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



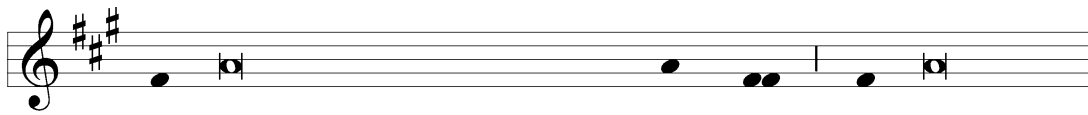
A Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

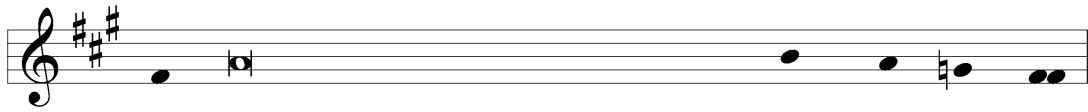
LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



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



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

Closing Hymn: 395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Stanzas 4–6

4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in Your Son You loved us when
5 O let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all
6 What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love

not yet be - gun Was this old earth's foun - da - tion!
with mu - sic crowned, Our voic - es glad - ly blend - ing!
is first and last, The end and the be - gin - ning!

Your Son has ran - somed us in love To live in Him
For Christ goes with us all the way— To - day, to - mor -
He will one day, oh, glo - rious grace, Trans - port us to

here and a - bove: This is Your great sal - va - tion.
row, ev - 'ry day! His love is nev - er end - ing!
that hap - py place Be - yond all tears and sin - ning!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, To us giv - ing
Sing out! Ring out! Ju - bi - la - tion! Ex - ul - ta - tion!
A - men! A - men! Come, Lord Je - sus! Crown of glad - ness!

Life for - ev - er, Keeps us Yours and fails us nev - er!
Tell the sto - ry! Great is He, the King of Glo - ry!
We are yearn - ing For the day of Your re - turn - ing!

Tune: Public domain

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002763

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2020 Concordia Publishing House.

THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 1/3** **The Epiphany of our Lord (obs.)**
• **Divine Services** at 8:30 & 10 a.m.
- Mon. 1/4** **Pastor's Day Off**
- Tue. 1/5** **Pastor out of office in p.m.**
Board of Elders' Mtg. 7 p.m.
- Wed. 1/6** **The Epiphany of our Lord**
Adult Bible Class 7 p.m.
- Sat. 1/9** **Men's Bible Study** 9 a.m.
- Sun. 1/10** **The Baptism of our Lord**
• **Divine Services** at 8:30 & 10 a.m.

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR EFFORTS TO HELP MITIGATE CORONAVIRUS – Here's what you can expect for each of our Divine Services:

1. Hand sanitizer will be distributed at the entryway, as well as before and after Communion.
2. We ask that people wear masks when moving about the building.
3. Certain pews will be closed to maintain spacing between congregants.
4. The "Sharing of the Peace," the passing of offering plates, and the common cup will be temporarily suspended.
5. Holy Communion will be distributed at the altar, but in smaller groups (the Pastor and elder will wear masks during distribution).

Please note that due to technology and time limitations, our online services will now be recorded **on Sundays**, so the services will not be available online until later Sunday afternoon or early the next week. Thank you for your gracious cooperation and your flexibility!

NOTE REGARDING OUR CURRENT WORSHIP SERVICES: During this time of COVID-19, some of our church members might feel it's better in their personal situations to wait a bit longer before returning to church. And we totally understand. Because of this, Pastor Vergin will continue to post an abbreviated version of our worship service online. Pastor is also available for private pastoral visits where Holy Communion will be given individually and COVID-19 safety precautions will be used (these can be held either at your home or at the church). Please call the church office if you would like to schedule a private visit with Pastor.

WEDNESDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS RESUMES – Our weekly, Wednesday evening Adult Bible Class will resume starting this **Wednesday, January 6**, at 7 p.m., and all are welcome to attend! Pastor will continue teaching on the book of Genesis. Please join him for this interesting and educational study!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Our Men's Bible Study will take place this month on Saturday, January 9 from 9 – 10:30 a.m. Breakfast will be provided, and attendees will continue studying the book of Acts. This is a great opportunity to be formed together as men of God in the image of Christ!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING FESTIVAL SERVICES – This month contains 3 special festival days: The Epiphany of our Lord (on January 6, but **being observed today**); The Baptism of our Lord (**Sunday, January 10**); and The Transfiguration of our Lord (**Sunday, January 24**). These festival days will be celebrated at both worship services on the above Sundays. Please make plans now to attend and celebrate these milestones in the life of Jesus!

INSTALLATION OF 2021 SERVANTS – Everyone is invited to attend our Divine Services on Sunday, January 17, where we will joyfully install our 2021 servants into their church positions. If you will be serving God's people here in any capacity in 2021—usher, elder, board member, officer, musician, altar guild, offering counter, etc.—we hope you will attend either service as Pastor will use a special rite asking for the Lord's blessing upon you and your church work. We are grateful to those who have volunteered to serve at St. Mark's for 2021.

NEEDED: SUBSTITUTE SNOW PLOW DRIVERS FOR ST. MARK'S! We are now seeking back-up snow plowers for St. Mark's parking lot this winter. Please advise as to when you would be available to plow—daytime, evenings and/or weekends. Training will be provided! If you'd like to be part of St. Mark's snow plowing team, please contact Jim O'Brien at (248) 872-2922.

IF YOU SHOP AT A KROGER STORE, please consider participating in their Community Rewards program and **link your shopper's bonus card to St. Mark's** so that our congregation will receive free cash each quarter! There is no cost to you! Kroger will send a percentage of what you spend to our congregation as a way of supporting the community. If interested (and we hope you will be!), please click on this URL below to see how you can link your Shopper's Bonus Card to our congregation: <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>. In order to locate St. Mark's Lutheran Church, search for business # 82449. Thanks so much!

WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT used postage stamps for Wycliffe Bible Translation Ministries, and used eyeglasses for MOST Ministries in the two plastic bins on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs. Wycliffe sells the stamps to stamp collectors and then uses the proceeds to fund Bible translation projects throughout the world. MOST Ministries repairs/refurbishes used eyeglasses and distributes them via eyeglass clinics to the needy around the world. If you donate postage stamps, please be sure to leave ¼" of the envelope paper around the stamp so that the stamp isn't damaged. Thank you.

INVISIBLE DAD LUNCH PROGRAM AT KEITH ELEM. – Although area schools will not be resuming in-person classes until sometime down the road, St. Mark's will continue to receive coin donations to help support Keith Elementary's "Invisible Dad" lunch program. This helpful program, started by a dad at Keith, keeps extra money in the school's Invisible Dad Lunch Fund so that if a student's personal lunch account falls too low, or if a student forgets to bring a lunch (or can't afford to bring a lunch), money is available for them to have the same lunch as other students at no cost. This saves the student the embarrassment of being offered only a sandwich wrap and/or cheese/cracker package (the state mandated free items that the school can provide). A clear, glass jar will be located on the table at the back of the sanctuary in early January where you can continue to deposit any spare change you might have in order to help support this program. When school starts up again, the contents of the jar will be brought to the principal's office at Keith Elementary. Thanks in advance for your support!

TOILETRY/HYGIENE DONATIONS FOR THE OPEN DOOR OUTREACH CENTER – We continue to receive hygiene & toiletry products year around for the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford. There are two bins located on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs where you can place product donations. The Open Door is a non-profit organization that assists needy families in the Lakes Area. They are ALWAYS in need of toiletry and hygiene items, so **if you can provide any of these throughout the year, it would be appreciated.**



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Aaron Vergin

Acolyte (*either service*)

Jay Anderson

Altar Guild

Barb Allen

Elder on Duty (*both services*)

Darryl Swainson

Greeters (*either service*)

Jennie & Karen Kaufman

Offering Counters (*after late service*)

Mary Lockwood & Jean Swainson

Organist (*both services*)

Rob Wheeler

Trumpeter (*either service*)

Chris Gerard

Ushers (*see right*)

Matt Maier

Video Technician (*either service*)

John Sidelinker