

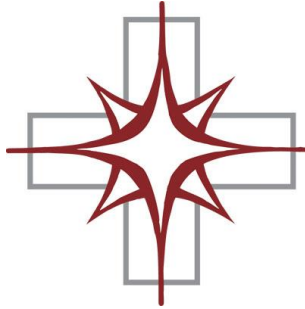


# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

+ The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord +

**THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**  
**+ January 9, 2022 +**  
**(Observed)**

***“Your Light Has Come”***



We welcome our members and guests to Christ Lutheran today,  
and pray God’s richest blessings upon you during this time of worship!

*All members and our guests are asked to complete the  
worship attendance pads which can be found on each pew.  
Guests are also asked to sign the guest register found in the Narthex.  
We are so glad to have you worshipping with us today!*

*LARGE PRINT worship folders are available  
at the usher stand at the back of the nave.*

**WELCOME:**

“Creation, interpreted by the Scriptures, speaks to humanity again. In describing the wise men’s reaction, Matthew reaches for superlatives: *‘When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.’* It is the joy of one whose heart has received a ray of God’s light and who can now see that his hope has been realized—the joy of one who has found what he sought, and has himself been found.”

– Joseph Ratzinger, *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*

# THE LORD'S SUPPER

In preparation for reception of the Lord's Supper (*Holy Communion*), it is important that we review and understand what the Bible teaches regarding this sacrament:

The Bible teaches that Jesus gives us His very body and blood along with bread and wine in Holy Communion<sup>1</sup>, and that these are means by which He forgives our sins<sup>2</sup>, and strengthens us for daily living, and draws us into closer fellowship with Him and other believers. The Bible also teaches us to examine ourselves prior to receiving the meal<sup>3</sup>. For those receiving Holy Communion, examine yourself with these questions:

**Do I believe that I am a sinner and I am sorry for my sins?**

**Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior?**

**Do I believe that Christ's true body and blood are present in this holy meal for my forgiveness?**

**Do I truly intend with the help of God to correct my sinful life?**

According to Christ's Word in the Holy Scriptures, and in confession with the true Christian faith, at Christ Lutheran we observe the practice of closed communion. We believe that all who commune must confess the same holy faith, as Holy Scripture teaches. Since one's church affiliation indicates an individual's confession of faith, we ask that only those who have been instructed in the above teaching **and** are confirmed members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod commune. If you have not been instructed in this teaching on Holy Communion, are in doubt, or hold a different confession of faith<sup>4</sup>, you are still welcome to come forward and cross your arms to indicate that you would like a blessing.

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 26:28; 1 John 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19

<sup>3</sup> 1 Corinthians 11:28-32

<sup>4</sup> 1 Corinthians 10:17; 1 Corinthians 11:26

# DIVINE SERVICE I

## PRESERVICE MUSIC

*The congregation may use this time for prayer and meditation.*

## OPENING HYMN

**Arise and Shine in Splendor**

**#396**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

*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** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

PSALM: DEUS, IUDICIUM

*Psalm 72:1-15; Ant. Psalm 72:18*



Blessed be the LORD, the God of | Israel,\*  
who alone does | wondrous things.

**Give the king your justice, | O God,\*  
and your righteousness to the | royal son!  
May he judge your people with | righteousness,\*  
and your poor with | justice!**

Let the mountains bear prosperity for the | people,\*  
and the hills, in | righteousness!

May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children  
of the | needy,\*  
and crush the op- | pressor!

**May they fear you while the | sun endures,\*  
and as long as the moon, throughout all gener- | ations!  
May he be like rain that falls on the | mown grass,\*  
like showers that wa- | ter the earth!**

In his days may the righteous | flourish,\*  
and peace abound, till the moon | be no more!

May he have dominion from | sea to sea,\*  
and from the River to the ends | of the earth!

**May desert tribes bow down be- | fore him\*  
and his enemies | lick the dust!**

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him | tribute;\*  
may the kings of Sheba and Seba | bring gifts!**

May all kings fall down be- | fore him,\*  
all nations | serve him!

For he delivers the needy | when he calls,\*  
the poor and him who has no | helper.

**He has pity on the weak and the | needy,\*  
and saves the lives of the | needy.  
From oppression and violence he re- | deems their life,\*  
and precious is their blood | in his sight.**

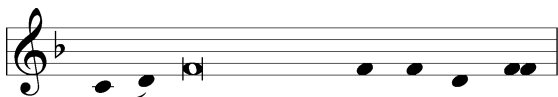
Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be giv- | en to him!\*  
May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him | all the  
day!

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Blessed be the LORD, the God of | Israel,\*  
who alone does | wondrous things.

## KYRIE

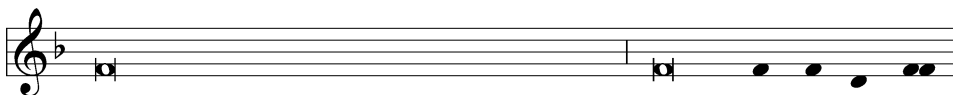
*Mark 10:47*



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



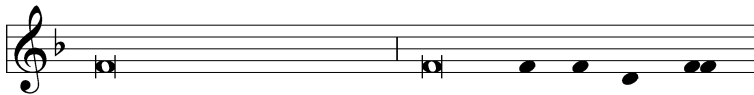
**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



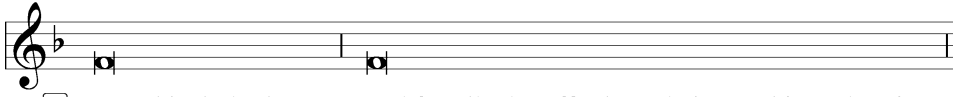
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



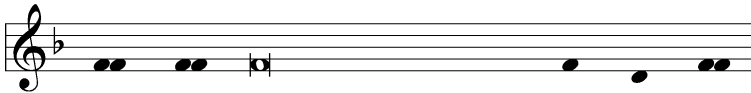
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



**C** A - men.

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple 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.

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**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.



*Please be seated*

## OLD TESTAMENT

*Isaiah 60:1-6*

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
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.  
And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.  
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.  
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.  
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.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL***Psalm 117:1-2; 96:8*

Praise the LORD, all | nations!\*

Extol him, all | peoples!

**For great is his steadfast | love toward us,\***  
**and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.**

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;\***  
**bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!**

**EPISTLE***Ephesians 3:1-12*

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 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. 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.

Of 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. To 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, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## GOSPEL PROCESSION

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. 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.

**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

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.

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



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

*Please be seated*

**OFFICE HYMN**                    **Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning**                    **#400**

**SERMON**                    *Cynics, Nativity Sets, and the Meaning of Epiphany*

*Please stand*

**NICENE CREED**

**C** **I believe in one God,** (Rom 10:10; Deut 6:4)  
    **the Father Almighty,** (Mt 6:9; Ex 6:3)  
    **maker of heaven and earth** (Gen 1:1; Jn 1:1)  
    **and of all things visible and invisible.** (Col 1:16)  
**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,** (Rom 10:9)  
    **the only-begotten Son of God,** (Jn 3:16; Mt 16:16)  
    **begotten of His Father before all worlds,** (Jn 1:2)  
    **God of God, Light of Light,** (Jn 17:22; Jn 8:12; Jn 1:1)  
    **very God of very God,** (Col 2:9) **begotten, not made,** (Jn 1:2)  
    **being of one substance with the Father,** (Jn 10:30)  
    **by whom all things were made;** (Heb 1:2; Jn 1:3)  
    **who for us men and for our salvation** (1 Tim 2:4; Rom 3:23)  
    **came down from heaven** (Jn 6:41; Lk 15:20)  
    **and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary** (Lk 1:34-35)  
    **and was made man;** (Jn 1:14)  
    **and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.** (Mk 15:25; Jn 19:16-18)  
    **He suffered and was buried.** (Jn 19:1-3; Lk 23:53)  
    **And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures** (1 Cor 15:4; Lk 24:6)  
    **and ascended into heaven** (Acts 1:9)  
    **and sits at the right hand of the Father.** (Acts 7:55)  
    **And He will come again with glory** (Mt 26:64)  
    **to judge both the living and the dead,** (Acts 10:42; Mt 3:12)  
    **whose kingdom will have no end.** (2 Pt 1:11)  
**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,** (Jn 14:26; Gen 1:2; Acts 2:38)  
    **the Lord and giver of life,** (Gen 1:2; Jn 3:6)

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,** (Jn 15:26)  
**who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,** (Mt 3:16-17)  
**who spoke by the prophets.** (Eze 11:5)  
**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,** (1 Pt 2:5; Eph 2:19-22)  
**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,** (Eph 4:5)  
**and I look for the resurrection of the dead** (1 Cor 15:35-49; 1 Thess 4:13-18)  
**and the life ✠ of the world to come.** (Mk 10:29-30; Mt 10:40-42)

**Amen.** (Ps 106:48)

*Us men* means all people.

*Christian:* the ancient text reads “catholic,” meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*After each petition of the prayer:*

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*For comfort, health, recovery, and safety:* **Michele (Cookston) Fowler, Sabrina Goodlett, Krista Hansford, Eric Hearon, Peggy Lucky, Jerri Parker, Jane Rudsenske, Christian Schultz, Eloise Springer, Steven Tatum, Janet Wells;**

*For those who mourn:* The family and friends of **Ed Bunker;**

*For those who are ill or distressed:* **Stan Acey, Jenalee Adams, Layne Bagley, Rose Bagley, Shirley Bagley, W.L. Bagley, Sarah Bowman, Mimi Bradley, Richard Bradley, Deloris Brent, Martha Brown, Nathan Brown, Tina Burke, Wayne Burke, Paula Burkhalter, Bobby Carroll, Arthur Collins, James E. Cookston, Joan Cowards, Belinda Cowards-Gonzales, Robert (Andy) Evers, Michele Rae Fowler, Randy Fowler, Parker Haines, Dan Hansen, Paul Hansen, Tim Hansen, Valerie Henderson, Sharon Holleman, Beth Jarratt, Elaine Johnson, Joslyn Jones, Steve Kennedy, Arlene Kleinschmidt, John Koster, Sandra Landers, Katelyn Lawing, Peggy Lucky, Paul McCullough, Jerry McIntyre, Jerry McMahan, Edlia Miller, Elaine Monaghan, Don Ochs, Mildred Odom, Deborah-Annette Ried, Jon Sandberg, Noah Schultz, Johnnie Pearl Smiley, Bob Smith, Sherri Smith, Deborah Springer, Leonard Watson, Dana Weaver, Cynthia Widlitze, Carol Wright, Jimmy Wright, Marshall Wright, Barbara Zeigler;**

*For college and graduate students:* **Sara Fields, Will Nelson;**

*For military servants and their families:* **Greg Adams, Gabriel Escude, James (Glen) Hansford, Holden Hathcock, Christopher Martin, William Nelson, Steven Tatum, John Weidner Jr.;**

*For foreign missionaries:* **especially those serving in Spain;**

*This week's prayer family:* The **Ramsey Family** and their loved ones.

*Please be seated*

## OFFERING

*Please stand*

## OFFERTORY

*Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19*



**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa-lem.

# SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

## PREFACE

*2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]*



**P** The Lord be with you.



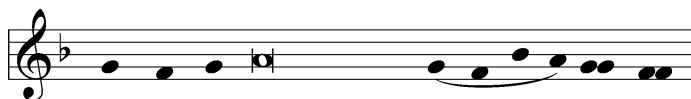
**C** And al - so with you.



**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; 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

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



**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.

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. 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. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

*Matthew 26:26–28*

**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**

*John 20:19*

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



**C** A - men.

**AGNUS DEI**

*John 1:29*



**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



sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Please be seated*

### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT**

*All who are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and have introduced themselves to one of the pastors are welcome to partake of the Holy Communion at Christ Lutheran. If you have not spoken to a pastor, but would like to receive the Lord's blessing, you may still come to the rail and kneel, crossing one arm over the other in the shape of an 'X'. This symbolizes that one is marked by the cross and Triune name of Almighty God.*

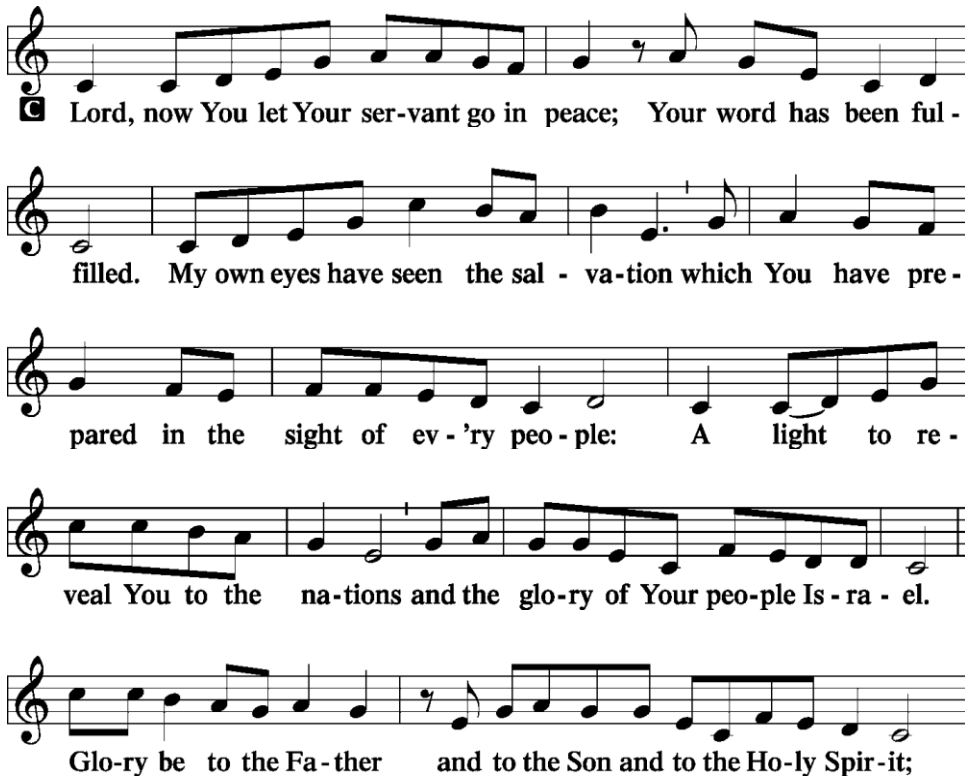
### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

<b>The Star Proclaims the King Is Here</b>	<b>#399</b>
<b>O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright</b>	<b>#395</b>
<b>O Savoir of Our Fallen Race</b>	<b>#403</b>

*Please stand following distribution of communion*

### **NUNC DIMITTIS**

*Luke 2:29-32*



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to reveal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. 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.

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

**A** Let us pray.

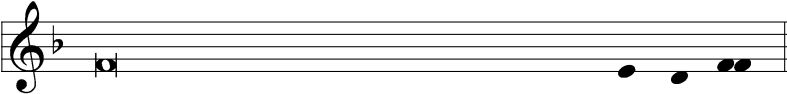
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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.

**BENEDICTION**

*Numbers 6:24–26*



**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** A - men.

**CLOSING HYMN**

**As with Gladness Men of Old**

**#397**

**Acknowledgments**  
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## Serving Today:

**Celebrant:** Rev. George Fields

**Acolyte:** Nathan Burkhalter

**Interpreter:** Denee Smith

**Altar Guild:** Sabrina Goodlett

**Elder:** Gary Atchley

**Organist:** Sr. Sara Fields

**Cantor:** Kitty Fields

**Flower Sign-Up:** Sign up for the new year! Flowers have a long history of adorning the Lord's altar, and you can help to continue this beautiful tradition. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

**Thank you!** Many thanks to all who came yesterday to clean the church for the Epiphany season!

**Thank you** to all our musicians who participated in yesterday's recital! We are grateful for God's many musical blessings to this congregation. Thanks also to all who attended and to those who helped make the recital possible!

## Readings for next Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, the Second Sunday after the Epiphany:

Introit Ps. 36:5-9; Psalm 128; Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11.

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### *This week at Christ Lutheran Church: January 10 – January 16*

**Tuesday**      **6:15 p.m.** Council Meeting

**Friday**        **6:30 a.m.** Bible Study @ Christ Lutheran, Breakfast @ Broadstreet

**Sunday**        **9:00 a.m.** Sunday School for All Ages

**10:30 a.m. Divine Service – The Second Sunday after the Epiphany**



**Issues, Etc.**<sup>™</sup>

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