

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

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As We Gather

The visit of the wise men is so familiar that we might breeze by it figuring we already know it well enough. Or we become sidetracked with unanswerable questions: How many wise men were there? Where did they come from? How did they know what the star meant? What exactly was the star? Today we revisit this familiar account. As we do so, we are not going to speculate on those unanswerable questions. What we are going to do is see how much wisdom we can still gain as we contemplate these familiar events and apply them to our lives, putting them into practice. May God open our hearts and minds that we may learn wisdom from the wise men.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

134 – Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.
- C** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**
- P** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Introit

liturgical text; Psalm 72:1

- P** Behold, the Lord, the Ruler, has come
- C** **And the kingdom and the power and the glory are in His hand.**
- P** Give the king Your judgments, O God,
- C** **And Your righteousness to the king's Son.**
- P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son
- C** **And to the Holy Spirit**
- P** As it was in the beginning
- C** **Is now and will be forever. Amen.**

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text: "Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text: "on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.". The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.


Kyrie Eleison
LORD, HAVE MERCY

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis



Glo - ry to God, we give you thanks and praise; Of
Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son, You
A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord, At



heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing. We wor - ship
bore for us the load of this world's sin. O Lamb of
God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high: Who, with the



You, to You our hearts we raise, Lord God, al -
God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won, Re - ceive our
Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored, With all the



might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray...

... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-11

¹ Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. ² For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will

be seen upon you. ³ The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴ “Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side. ⁵ Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. ⁶ The multitude of camels shall cover your land, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD. ⁷ All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, The rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; They shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, And I will glorify the house of My glory. ⁸ “Who are these who fly like a cloud, And like doves to their roosts? ⁹ Surely the coastlands shall wait for Me; And the ships of Tarshish will come first, To bring your sons from afar, Their silver and their gold with them, To the name of the LORD your God, And to the Holy One of Israel, Because He has glorified you. ¹⁰ “The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, And their kings shall minister to you; For in My wrath I struck you, But in My favor I have had mercy on you. ¹¹ Therefore your gates shall be open continually; They shall not be shut day or night, That men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles, And their kings in procession.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 72:1-11

- P** Give the king Your judgments, O God,
- C** **And Your righteousness to the king's Son.**
- P** He will judge Your people with righteousness,
- C** **And Your poor with justice.**
- P** The mountains will bring peace to the people,
- C** **And the little hills, by righteousness.**
- P** He will bring justice to the poor of the people;
- C** **He will save the children of the needy, And will break in pieces the oppressor.**
- P** They shall fear You As long as the sun and moon endure,
- C** **Throughout all generations.**
- P** He shall come down like rain upon the grass before mowing,
- C** **Like showers that water the earth.**
- P** In His days the righteous shall flourish,
- C** **And abundance of peace, Until the moon is no more.**
- P** He shall have dominion also from sea to sea,
- C** **And from the River to the ends of the earth.**
- P** Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him,
- C** **And His enemies will lick the dust.**

- P** The kings of Tarshish and of the isles Will bring presents;
C **The kings of Sheba and Seba Will offer gifts.**
P Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him;
C **All nations shall serve Him.**

Second Reading

Acts 8:26-39

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is desert. ²⁷ So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.” ³⁰ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² The place in the Scripture which he read was this: “He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth. ³³ In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth.” ³⁴ So the eunuch answered Philip and said, “I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. ³⁶ Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” ³⁷ Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” ³⁸ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. ³⁹ Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.



Alleluia

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia! These words are
writ - ten that we may believe that Je-sus is the Christ, the
Son of God. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia!

Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

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

127 – As with Gladness Men of Old

Sermon Text

Matthew 2:1-12

¹ 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, ² saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ⁶ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ” ⁷ Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.” ⁹ When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. ¹¹ And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

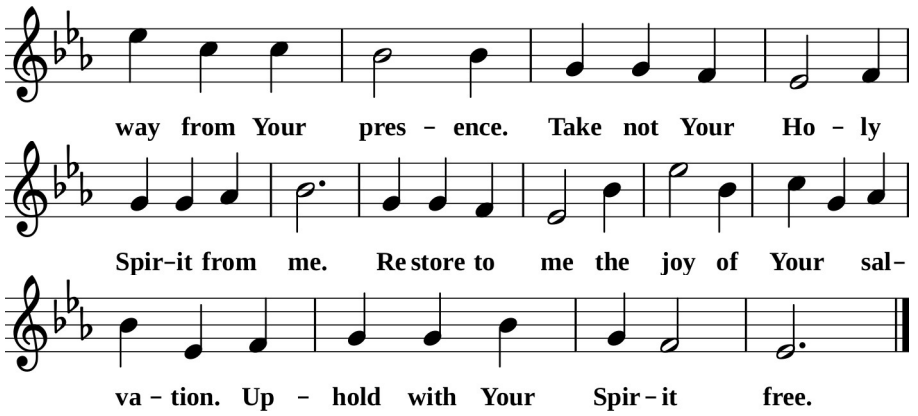


Sermon

Who is Wise?

Offertory

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 Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly
Spir - it from me. Re store to me the joy of Your sal -
va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

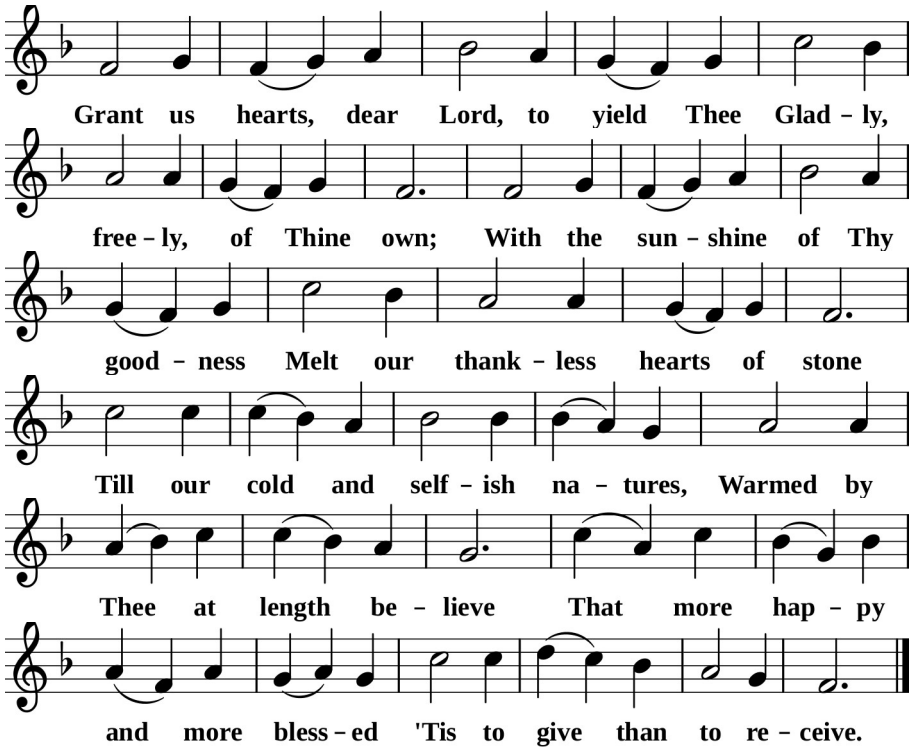
Hymn

718 – O Jesus, King of Glory

Offering

Offering Hymn

442 (2)



Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee Glad - ly,
free - ly, of Thine own; With the sun - shine of Thy
good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by
Thee at length be - lieve That more hap - py
and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.

General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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 Service of the Sacrament ✠

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

P It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God...
...Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

The musical score is written on four staves of a single treble clef. The melody is simple and rhythmic, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of Sa-ba-oth, a-dored; Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name. Sing ho-san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord; Tru-ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of Sa-ba-oth, a-dored; Heav'n and
earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name. Sing ho -
san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san-na to the Lord; Tru-ly
blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Words of Institution

Peace of the Lord

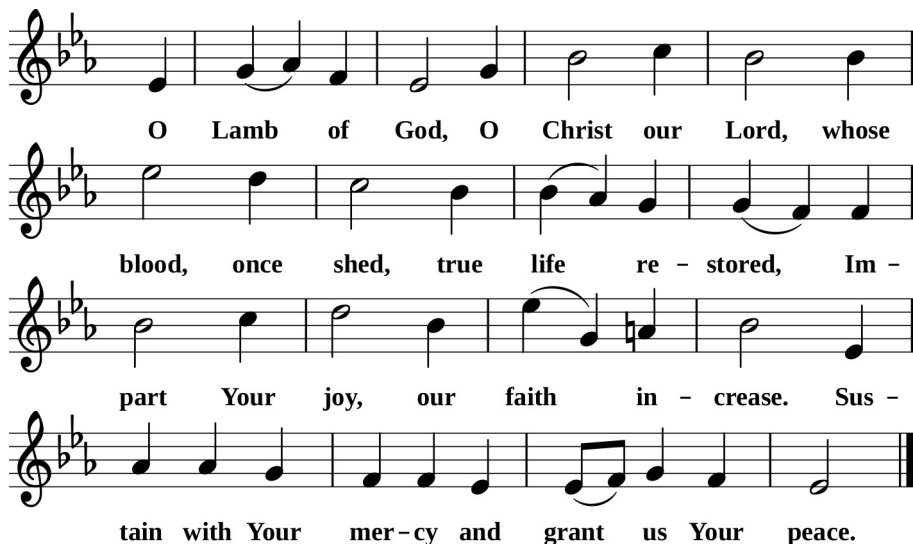
Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C Amen.

Lamb of God

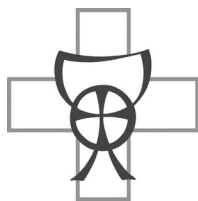
Agnus Dei



O Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose
blood, once shed, true life re - stored, Im -
part Your joy, our faith in - crease. Sus -
tain with Your mer - cy and grant us Your peace.

Distribution

Holy Communion is rightly called a ‘Sacrament’ because it is a “Sacred act;” not in what WE do for Christ, but in what Christ does for US! Because God’s Word presents the reception of this Sacrament as a most intimate expression of spiritual and confessional unity (1 Corinthians 1:10; 10:16-17 Romans 16:17-18), we ask only those who have publicly professed such oneness of faith and belief with us by membership here or another CLC church come forward at this time. This is not a judgment of anyone’s faith, but rather an expression of ours. Please speak with pastor if you are seeking a church home or have any questions. We’d love to have you!



O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

Nunc Dimittis

O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De - part in heav'n-ly
All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All glo - ry to the
peace, For I have seen the glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing
Son, All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in -
grace: A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un - to Your ho - ly
One; For as in the be - gin - ning, Is now, shall ev - er
hill, The glo - ry of Your peo - ple, Your
be, God's tri - une name re - sound - ing Through
cho - sen Is - ra - el.
all e - ter - ni - ty.

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

Thanksgiving

My heart has now be come Your dwell ing, O bless ed ho - ly Trin - i -
ty. With an - gels I, Your prais - es tell - ing, Shall live in
joy e - ter - nal - ly. Lord, may Your bod - y and Your

blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Hymn

129 – Hail, Thou Source of Every Blessing

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule

January 7	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Annual Voters’ Meeting
January 14	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
January 21	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service

Daily Devotion: A new daily devotion will be available on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/www.winterhavenlutheran.org/>. These devotions are a great way to start your day. They’re also great to share with others as a way to introduce them to our congregation.

Installation of Officers: The installation of church officers will take place on January 21st during the worship service.

Church Workday: A church workday is scheduled for Saturday, January 27th beginning at 9:00 am. We will have all of the supplies you need, and lunch will be provided. Please join us as we beautify our church and enjoy fellowship together.

National Women's Retreat: You're Invited! Join your Christian sisters near and far at the next virtual retreat held via Zoom on Saturday, January 20th @ noon Eastern. This year's theme is "Press Pause: God Made Me..." and will highlight the differing gifts that God gave each of us to use to His glory. Register at: <http://tinyurl.com/NatRetreat24> Questions? Contact teichstadt@gmail.com or 651-398-2386.

BELC Cyclone Aid: In early December, Cyclone Michaung struck the eastern coast of India and damaged and flooded churches of the BELC as well as the Martin Luther Bible School (MLBS) pastor training center. Eleven of the fourteen districts of the BELC were affected. A total of 55 churches, as well as the MLBS, were damaged by the cyclone and are in need of repair. The Board of Missions has approved \$12,000 of disaster relief to be sent from Kinship to assist with building repair and reconstruction. Please remember our brethren of the BELC in your prayers, and consider supporting this effort through offerings to Kinship.

ILC Tour Choir: For many years the ILC Tour Choir has been granted a special rate for using a charter bus during their yearly tour in holding concerts at various CLC congregations. This year that rate is being discontinued. After comparing the cost of using various bus companies, the common rate would be approximately \$11,000 higher than expected for budgetary reasons. Normally an offering is collected during the tour which will still happen. But this year CLC President Michael Wilke is authorizing this synod-wide announcement to allow others to share in their support of the Tour Choir. This offering would help offset the extra expense needed for the bus. Therefore, if members of CLC congregations wish to support this, please designate your offering to & "ILC Tour Choir."

2024 CLC Mission Helper Trip: Applications are being accepted for the 2024 Mission Helper Trip to Africa. Find more information and apply online: www.mht.lutheranmissions.org

CLC News: Pastor Thomas Schuetze of St. Paul Lutheran of Lakewood, CO is still considering the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI. <> Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Rapid City, SD is still considering the call from Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN.

Fruits of Faith	December 25, 2023	WH: 32
Immanuel Home		\$207.00
Total		\$207.00

Fruits of Faith	December 31, 2023	WH: 29
Immanuel Home		\$809.00
Property Improvement		\$100.00
ILC Scholarship		\$50.00
Total		\$959.00

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

January 8-13, 2024

Monday: Matthew 3:13-17 – The glory of the Child of Bethlehem was revealed many times throughout His life. Here at the beginning of His ministry He came to John for baptism, not because He needed to repent but because it was the right thing for those He came to represent. The Spirit and the Father testified to His divine glory.

Tuesday: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 – The apostle Paul also proclaimed the gospel which revealed “the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (v. 4). Through the gospel proclamation God has also shined in our hearts, giving us the gift of beholding God’s glory in the face of Jesus Christ (v. 6).

Wednesday: Isaiah 2:2-5 – Isaiah looks forward to the “latter days,” when people from all over the world come to worship in spirit and in truth. Truly these are the days of glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to men. Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Thursday: John 1:35-42 – John declares that Jesus is “the Lamb of God,” and two disciples of John follow Jesus, not because He looked so glorious, but because they heard John’s testimony. Jesus invites them to come with Him, and one of them, Andrew, goes and brings his brother to Jesus also.

Friday: 2 Corinthians 6:14 – 7:1 – To come and see Jesus (Jn 1:39) is to be with God and to be His people. It is a wonderful thing that the Lord Almighty wants to be a Father to us, and this moves us to behave as His own children and to cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit.

Saturday: Psalm 122 – “Let us go to the house of the Lord” has a wonderful sound because of whose house it is! He brings people together in thanksgiving and praise. In His house there is peace – peace with God and peace with one another. It is the peace of God that “will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”(Ph 4:7).

