

Arise, shine;
For your light has come!
And the glory of the LORD
is risen upon you.

Isaiah 60:1



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As We Gather

"For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people." We often feel the oppressive weight of this gloom in our world and in our own hearts. Yet, Epiphany marks the arrival of a Light that cannot be overcome. Today, the prophet Isaiah calls us to behold the "Gravity of Glory." This is no fleeting shimmer; it is the weighty, substantive presence of the Lord that exerts a pull stronger than sin or despair. It drew the Wise Men across miles of desert, and today, it draws us into this worship service. As we prepare for worship, let us lift our eyes, eager to be caught in the gracious orbit of the Christ Child, the true Light of the World.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

773 – Rise, Shine, You People!

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 97:1, 6; 86:9; 43:3; 36:9

P The LORD reigns; Let the earth rejoice;

C **The heavens declare His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory.**

P All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You,
O Lord,

C **And shall glorify Your name.**

P Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me;

C **Let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your tabernacle.**

P For with You is the fountain of life;

C **In Your light we see light.**

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord, God dwells in unapproachable light, yet in mercy He has appeared to us in Jesus Christ. Created to shine with His light and keep Him at the center of our lives, we are often pulled away by the gravity of our sinful desires. We have preferred shadows to His brilliant truth and failed to shine as lights. Therefore, let us draw near to the throne of grace to confess our sins, trusting He is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us.

P O Almighty God,

C we confess that we have walked in darkness, drawn to the fleeting glories of this world rather than the eternal weight of Your glory. We have hidden the light of Christ in fear and shame, and have not loved You with our whole heart nor our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, the Light of the world, have mercy on us. Forgive, renew, and lead us, so that we may arise and shine with Your reflected love.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. The darkness has passed, and the true Light is already shining. In the stead and by the command of our 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.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

P In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be-ginning,
is now, and ev-er shall be for - ev-er more. A - men.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son'. The second staff continues the melody for 'and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be-ginning,'. The third staff concludes with 'is now, and ev-er shall be for - ev-er more. A - men.' The lyrics are written below the notes.


Gloria Patri
GLORY BE TO GOD THE FATHER

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

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

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple, using half and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis – 238 (1)

All glory be to God a - lone, For - ev - er more the Highest One,
Who doth our sin - ful race be - friend And grace and peace to
us ex - tend. A - mong man - kind may His good will All
hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major. The melody is more complex, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

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.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—² if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, ³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, ⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), ⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: ⁶ that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, ⁷ of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. ⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; ¹⁰ to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, ¹¹ according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

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, And abundance of peace,
C 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.

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.

Gospel Reading

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.

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!

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

126 – Arise and Shine in Splendor

Sermon Text

Isaiah 60:1-6

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.



Sermon

The Gravity of Glory

Offertory



Create 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, and take not Your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un-to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion; and up -
hold me with Your free spir-it. A - men.

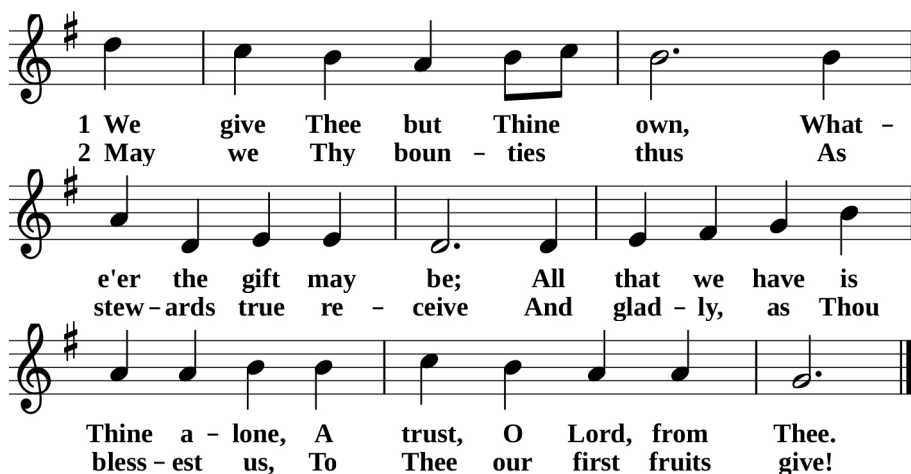
Hymn

359 – Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Offering

Offering Hymn

441 (1-2)



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What -
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As
e'er the gift may be; All that we have is
stew - ards true re - ceive And glad - ly, as Thou
Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
bless - est us, To Thee our first fruits give!

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** 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 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 laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:



Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Sab - a -
oth; Heav'n 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, Bless ed is He,
Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san-na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Peace of the Lord

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C Amen.

Lamb of God

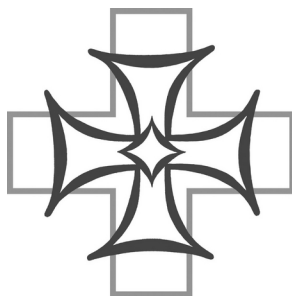
Agnus Dei

O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, the

Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world,
 have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You
 take a - way the sin of the world, grant us Your peace.
 A - - - men.

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

Lord, now let Your servant de - part in peace ac -
cording to Your word, For my eyes have seen Your Salvation:
which You have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a Light to light - en the Gen - tiles
and the Glo - ry of Your people Is - ra-el. Glo - ry
be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
As it was in the be - ginning, is now, and ev-er shall be, for -
ev - er - more. A - men.


Nunc Dimittis
SONG OF SIMEON

Thanksgiving

P Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!

C For His mercy endures forever.

P O God the Father, Fount and Source of all goodness, in loving-kindness You 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. We implore You not to forsake Your children, but evermore to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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 4	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Annual Voters' Meeting
January 11	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
January 18	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service

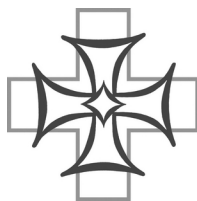
Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **January 4** – Annual Voters' Meeting
- **February 1** – Education/Elders
- **March 1** – Trustees/Church Council

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Johanna Jaehnigen, David & Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Being buried alive sounds like a scene from a horror movie, a nightmare we hope never to experience. Yet, the Apostle Paul describes this seemingly terrifying scenario as the Christian's greatest comfort! Next Sunday, on the Festival of the Baptism of our Lord, we turn to Romans 6:1–11 to explore the theme: "Buried Alive!" We will see how, through the waters of Holy Baptism, we were "buried with Him... into death" that we "should walk in newness of life." Come and rediscover the daily power of your baptism, where the Old Adam is drowned, and you are raised to life eternal in Christ Jesus.

Southeastern Women's Retreat: Registration is now open for the Southeastern Women's Retreat, to be held in Sherrills Ford, NC, February 13-15, 2026. The theme this year is "Sisters in Christ". To register, please head over to women'sretreat.clclutheran.net, click on SOUTHEAST, and scroll down to the link for the online form. If you would like to register over email or you have any questions, reach out to southeasternwomensretreat@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!



National Women's Retreat Coming in January!: Before your 2026 calendar begins to fill up, we want you to mark your calendars and get ready to Press Pause with women across the country!

- **What:** Press Pause for the National Women's (Virtual) Retreat 2026
- **When:** Saturday, January 31, 2026 // 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- **How:** Join us virtually via Zoom
- **Cost:** Free event – all are welcome!
- **Register now:** <https://tinyurl.com/PressPause26>

2026 CLC Mission Helper Trip: The CLC Mission Helper Program is making preparations for another Mission Trip to Africa for the summer of 2026. The main focus of this trip will be presenting the Gospel, through a series of child evangelism lessons, to member and non-member children in village congregations. Possible areas of evangelism include the CLC–Tanzania, CLC–Kenya, CLC–Zambia, and CLC–Uganda. CLC members are welcome and encouraged to apply. For more information and to apply, visit www.mht.lutheranmissions.org.

Nominations for ILC Professor and ILC President: The Board of Regents announces the following nominations to fill the professorship vacated by the resignation of Professor David Schaller prior to the 2025-26 academic year: Paul Krause, David Reim, Dan Sullivan, and David Ude. In addition, the following and only person has been nominated for the office of President of Immanuel Lutheran College: Daniel Schierenbeck. The term of the ILC President's call is for two years, extending to the end of Academic Year 2028. All comments from members of CLC congregations regarding these candidates are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight January 17, 2026 (letters postmarked January 7, 2026) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: jeb6217@yahoo.com.

CLC Call News: Mr. Peter Reim has received the vacancy call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, has received the part-time call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Cory Drehle of Berea Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD, has returned the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has returned the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Joe Naumann of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ.

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

January 5 – January 10, 2026

Monday - 1 Peter 4:12-19

The work of the Savior who was sent for us involves suffering, and those who share in His suffering may rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed (verse 13), entrusting their souls to Him (verse 19).

Tuesday - Matthew 2:13-23

As the child Jesus' glory is seen in the wise men's worship, so also is it seen in God's protection from Herod's murderous plans. The hand of God is seen again in the return from Egypt.

Wednesday - Isaiah 42:1-9

The Lord God upholds and delights in His servant, placing His Spirit upon Him. And what blessings are found in this servant, who is appointed a covenant for the people, a light for the nations!

Thursday - Matthew 3:13-17

When Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan, the Father shows His delight in Him by a voice from the heavens, and the Spirit descends on Him like a dove. Thus we behold His glory!

Friday - Psalm 110

The LORD Jehovah decrees that King Messiah will triumph over His enemies, and that He will also be a priest forever. The reconciliation that He brings about will have no end!

Saturday - Psalm 85

The LORD has graciously redeemed and forgiven us, so we can be confident that He will revive us in present distresses. He also remains our true hope for future righteousness and peace (verse 10).

