

# The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

An ELCA, Reconciling in Christ, and Rejoicing Spirits congregation

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Epiphany  
January 4, 2026  
8:30 am

## **The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Ministry in Daily Life**

Gathered by God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
we invite and welcome all people to join us on our journey  
to become more faithful ministers of Jesus Christ  
in our homes, our communities, and the world.

**We welcome all who worship with us today.**

Visitors are invited to sign the guest register located in the lobby.

If you are interested in joining our family of faith,  
please talk with one of our Pastors or call the church office.

**Children are welcome and celebrated!**

The “Children’s Ministry” table and basket in the lobby  
contains a variety of items for children’s use during worship.  
Stop by to borrow a book or pick up some coloring sheets and crayons.

Please silence all communication devices.

Our services are live streamed and recorded. In-person attendance implies consent  
to be included in the live streamed and recorded worship service.

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**HOLY COMMUNION**

All who believe in the presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to receive the Sacrament. To facilitate flow, the ushers invite people to come forward starting with the back rows and working forward. You should come forward using the center aisle to receive the elements in a continuous style from pastor and worship assistant. Afterward you may choose to kneel or stand at the altar rail for a brief moment of prayer or return to your seat up the side aisle, depositing your empty cup in the receptacle on your way. Gluten free wafers are available. Our wine is grape juice so that all may freely receive.

Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Communion kits are available at the usher stands for those who prefer to remain in their seats, and they will be communed along with our Zoom worshippers at the beginning of distribution.

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## **Gathering Music**

Famed though the World's Great Cities Be  
Shannon Diaz, solo  
Glenn Hinderliter, percussion

Stanley/Praetorius

## **Welcome and Announcements**

*We rise in body or spirit.*

## **Confession**

O God, by the leading of a star, you revealed your love to the people of the earth.  
Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see  
your glory face to face.

**Amen**

Lord,

**when we think of those Magi, who journeyed so far under difficult circumstances  
to come and kneel before you, we are ashamed of how often we fail to make any  
effort in order to come into your presence.**

**Forgive us, and strengthen our determination to make our whole lives  
a celebration of your goodness toward us. Amen**

God does not wish that any feel left out or unwanted,  
for God calls us to stand within the circle of God's love.  
Arise! Shine! Christ the light has come, and this light will guide us well.

**Amen**

**Thanks be to God.**



- 1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
- 2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;
- 3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
- 4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;



"Glo - ry to the new-born king," Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

*Refrain*

We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

**Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

We pray.

**Lord, your glory shines as far as the east is from the west, from the north to the south, so that all people may see and be radiant, and that every heart might rejoice. Guide us on our baptismal journey in Christ. May we enter your house and pay homage to him whose infant arms were already reaching out that all might be gathered in.**

**Amen**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching and song.*

**Reading** Isaiah 60:1 - 6

Translation: NRSVue

Shine, Jesus, shine. **Shine in our hearts with grace.**

Shine, Jesus, shine. **Shine in our lives with justice.**

A reading from Isaiah.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought 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 proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Shine, Jesus, shine.

**Shine on our world with love.**

**Thanks be to God!**

*We rise in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.*

**Gospel Matthew 2:1-12**

Translation: NRSVue

The Good News from Matthew, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**Open our hearts, Lord.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying,  
“Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him,  
bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”  
When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them,  
went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place  
where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were  
overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother,  
and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests,  
they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.  
And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod,  
they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Good News!

**Thanks be to God!**

*The assembly is seated.*

*We rise in body or spirit.*

# Word in Song

## We Three Kings (Verses 1 & 5)

WOV 646



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing  
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense  
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,  
owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

## Prayers of the People

*Invitation to prayer:*

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth,  
let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*After each petition:*

Light of the world,  
**receive our prayers.**

*Pastor's closing prayer:*

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God,  
trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen**

## Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace by saying,  
"Peace be with you."*

*The assembly is seated.*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*During the Offering Song, the gifts will be brought forward. You may remain seated.  
If you wish you may leave your offering in the additional offering plates located on the  
tables in the back of the sanctuary as you leave.*



## Offering Song

As with Gladness Men of Old  
Verse 3

ELW 302



- 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 - a - ted 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.

## Offering Prayer

We pray.

As the Magi brought their gifts of gold, frankincense,  
and myrrh to the Christ Child,

so we offer ourselves and our gifts for the advancement of your kingdom.

**Amen**

*We rise in body or spirit.*

## Great Thanksgiving

Come to the table of grace. **All are welcome here.**

Come to the table of love. **This is the feast of God's compassion for all.**

Come to the table of joy. **Christ invites us to celebrate his presence.**

## Words of Institution

### Word in Meal

Send the power of your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, O God, that we may experience the presence of the Word-made-flesh – Jesus Christ.

Breathe your Spirit in us that we may be one body with him – living out his ministry in the world today and every day. This we pray in Jesus' name.

**Amen**

### Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

### Invitation to the Table

This is God's table, and God welcomes all.

God welcomes even those we might not anticipate,  
even those who might not expect the invitation.

*The assembly is seated.*

### Distribution of Communion



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, o'er . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

*Refrain*

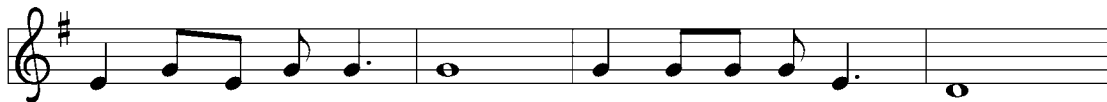
night that was so deep.  
 tin-ued both day and night.  
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
 place where Je - sus lay.  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



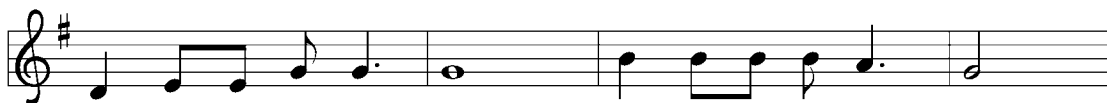
el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

*We rise in body or spirit.*

### Prayer after communion

We pray.

God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

**Amen**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **Blessing**

We have followed a star to find the newborn child.

God tells us that the light now shines within us.

We are the light of the world.

Let your light shine before all that they may see your good works,  
and give glory to God who is in heaven; in the name of God who creates,  
redeems and makes us holy.

**Amen**

**Sending Song** *Please see next page.*

## **Dismissal**

Arise, shine, as you go into the world!

**We will shine as we go into the world!**

Shine with love and justice.

**We will shine for all the world.**

*Refrain*

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa-ther's glo - ry;

blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;

send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the  
 2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -

dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,  
 play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,

set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
 mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

*Refrain*

Shine on me, shine on me:  
 Shine on me, shine on me:

Please join in supporting our church's ministries using your preferred method of giving:



venmo

- Enroll in our on-line giving program, Simply Giving (recommended);
- Mail your offering check to the church;
- Text your offering to 610-981-1312;
- Download our mobile app for recurring or one-time gifts;
- Establish automatic contributions to the church using your bank's bill pay service.

Additional information is located in the Stewardship section of the church's website at: [lchsemmaus.org](http://lchsemmaus.org).

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## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastor Shari Duminy, Senior Pastor  
Pastor Tami K. Reichley, Associate Pastor  
Pastor Cindy Camp, Associate Pastor  
Deacon Melanie Werley, Director of Liturgy  
Deacon Reylene Starego, Director of Music  
Karin Kahler, Director Faith Formation for Children

## **WORSHIP HELPERS**

### **Assisting Minister**

Carole Wetherhold

### **Reader**

Jimmy Lee Werley

### **Communion Assistants**

Linda Devine, Angie Niland

### **Greeter**

Carol Walrod

### **Usher**

Don Walrod

### **Production/Technology Team**

Al Bauernschmidt, Chuck Coe, Max H., Glenn Hinderliter, Jeff Gross, Eric Kahler,  
Craig Kauffman, Bill Keane, Paige Mathieu, Tom Moessner, Bob Neitz, Bill Newill,  
Kristen Newill, Carol Osenbach, John Osenbach, Chris Pirrotta, Ev Reggie,  
Bob Stevens, and Jimmy Lee Werley

### **Altar Care**

Bob Rice, Carolyn Rice, Julie Timmcke, Brenda Brookover, Terri Hinderliter, Cindy Clark,  
Nancy Shoemaker, Jennifer Wetzel