

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

¹“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. ²See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. ³Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴“Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. ⁵Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. ⁶Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation: “Thy Word” *(stand as you are able)*

**Chorus: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path.**

**Vs 1: When I feel afraid, and I think I’ve lost my way, still You’re there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as You are near. Please be near me to the end. [chorus]**

**Vs 2: I will not forget your love for me, and yet my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side; I will love You to the end.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi[a] from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”” ⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” ⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Children’s Message: Pastor Eric Hanson *(you may be seated)***Hymn: “Lord, I Want To Be A Christian”**

**Vs 1: Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

**Vs 2: Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.**

**Vs 3: Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.**

**Vs 4: Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.**

Sermon: Pastor Eric Hanson**Hymn of the Day & Offering:**

Offerings will be collected during the hymn of the day. Thank you also to those who give online. If you’d like to sign up for online giving please visit <http://www.stlukegoodhue.org/online-giving.html>. Children’s coin offering will go toward ELCA Good Gifts serving communities in need around the world.

“Baptized And Set Free” #453

Vs 1: We are people created, chosen by God. Then we’re washed, ever gently, in mercy and love. Sin has power no more. Jesus opened the door to a fountain bringing healing, and wholeness and more.

Vs 2: We are fed and we’re nourished, filled and refreshed. Then our hunger returns and again we are blessed. For whatever the need, God is greater indeed: endless ocean, always deeper than all of our need.

Vs 3: We are nourished by water, all living things, and by life that the Spirit abundantly brings. As we journey toward home, may your presence be known: precious river, ever flowing, now carry us home.

Vs 4: Now with praise and thanksgiving, we join the song. All are welcome! We gather to sing loud & strong. Not enslaved, but set free! From now on, all will be one in Jesus, one in water, baptized and set free!

Offertory Response: “Give Thanks” *(ushers bring offerings forward)*

**Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**And now let the weak say, “I am strong”.
Let the poor say, “I am rich Because of what the Lord has done for us”. Give thanks.**

Offertory Prayer: P: Let us pray.

**C: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek & follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Apostles’ Creed: *(please stand as you are able)*

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven & earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers: *(call and response)*

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.* Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity & healing. Grant them discernment & compassion as they lead in love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering especially for Keith Brown, Dolly Mensink, Judy Carpenter, Jan Benidt, Dave (Pud) Gnotke, Geri Lindholm, Shawn Fredrixon, and Marc Bode. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God’s care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace: P: The peace of Christ be with you always, **C: And also with you.**

The Great Thanksgiving:

P: The Lord be with you **C: And also 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 & praise.**

The Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer: 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.

Meal and Hymns: *(you may be seated)*

All are welcome at this meal. We believe in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection experienced in bread and wine.

Please move forward via the center aisle. Bread is received in the hands. Wine is received by dipping the bread into the wine chalice and consuming both together. All ages are welcome to commune. Those not communing may receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded or extending your arms over your chest in the sign of a cross inviting blessing. For those unable to consume either wine or bread, communion is received fully in either element alone, for Christ is fully present in the meal. You may return to your seats via the side aisles after communing. Gluten-free is available, simply make the server aware of your need. Also, if you cannot come forward, but wish for communion or blessing, let the usher know it will come to you at the end.

"Spirit Of God Descend Upon My Heart" #800

Vs. 1: Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth, through all its pulses move; stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart, and make me love you as I ought to love.

Vs. 2: I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies, no sudden rending of the veil of clay, no angel visitant, no op'ning skies; but take the dimness of my soul away.

Vs. 3: Have you not bid me love you, God & King; all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind? I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling. Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!

Vs. 4: Teach me to love you as your angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame: the baptism of the heav'n-descended dove, my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

"Spirit, Open My Heart"

Refrain: Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.

Vs 1: God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. [Refrain]

Vs 2: Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory. [Refrain]

Vs 3: May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of friend and neighbor.
As I live from day to day, love will be my finest labor. [Refrain]

Communion Prayer: *(please stand as you are able)*

P: Let us pray together.

C: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing: P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon you with favor + and give you peace. Amen.

Sending: *"Go Tell It On The Mountain" #290*

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

Verse 1: While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. [Refrain]

Verse 2: The shepherds feared and trembled When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

Verse 3: Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

Dismissal: P: Go in peace to love the Lord and serve your neighbor. C: Thanks be to God!

Epiphany of our Lord Sunday

St. Luke Lutheran Church • Pastor Eric Hanson
9:30AM • January 7, 2024

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Greeting:

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

C: And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness: *(stand as you are able)*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, & uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live & serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: *"We Three Kings"*

Vs 1: We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night! Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

Vs 2: Born a King on Bethlehem's plain. Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign. (Refrain)

Vs 3: Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, gladly raising, Worshiping God Most High. (Refrain)

Prayer of the Day: *(you may be seated)*

P: Let us pray together

C: O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives & reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.