

**Worship Plan for Sunday, January 7, 2024**  
Epiphany of Our Lord  
ELW Holy Communion Setting Four

**PRELUDE**

*The Master Hath Come*                      arranged Kurt Kaiser

**GATHERING**

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

**GATHERING SONG #314 *Arise, Your Light Has Come!***

1 Arise, your light has come!  
The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God  
which shines on you today.

2 Arise, your light has come!  
Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captive's liberty,  
good tidings to the poor.

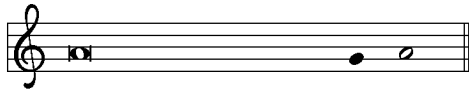
3 Arise, your light has come!  
All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the brokenhearted ones  
and comfort those who mourn.

4 Arise, your light has come!  
The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing,  
God's pow'r will make us strong.

## GREETING

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.**

## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



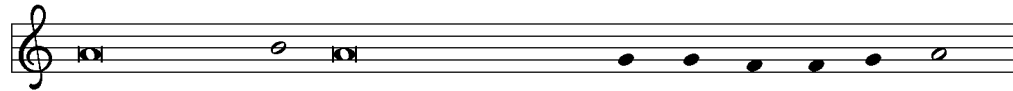
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain  
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

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 and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

*The reading may be announced:*

A reading from Isaiah.

*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>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 on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14**

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;

<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be

no more.

**<sup>10</sup>May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

<sup>11</sup>May all kings bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.

**<sup>12</sup>For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

<sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.

**<sup>14</sup>From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12**

*The reading may be announced:*

A reading from Ephesians.

*What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

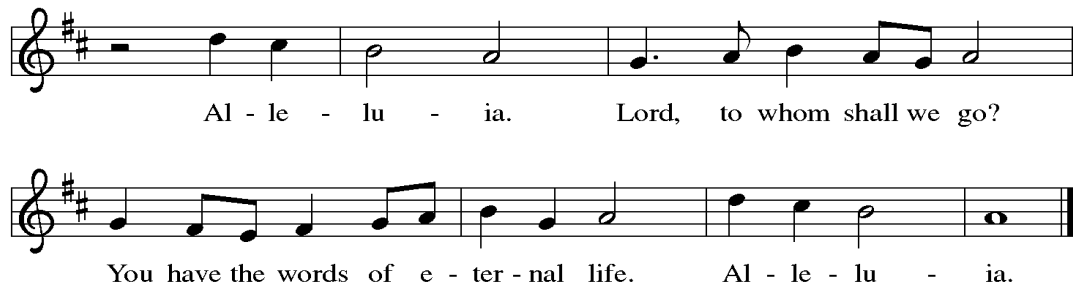
<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power.

<sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless

riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>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.’”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY #453 *Baptized and Set Free***

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.



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.

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.

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

*Assistant/Assembly stands*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and 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 to the dead.  
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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

*A brief silence.*

Humble the hearts of your faithful people, that we seek to be servants of your gospel and witnesses to your mysteries. Give us boldness in faith, that we make the good news of Christ's birth known to all people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Establish justice on earth for all its inhabitants. Lead us to protect fragile ecosystems and endangered species. Empower the work of all who research, engineer, and make accessible alternative and renewable sources of energy. Make us careful stewards of your creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nations shall come to your light and kings to your dawning. Remove corruption and fear from the hearts of leaders and authorities. Lead governments to expand policies and resources that care for refugees and all migrants. Strengthen the work of resettlement agencies (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Defend the cause of all who are in need, all facing poverty, and all who are oppressed. Come quickly to those who feel that their lives and livelihoods are fragile. Give them strength and lead them forth with hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

As the magi offered gifts to the Christ child, empower us to give generously. Prosper the work of ministry partnerships in our community (*especially*). Together, help us share what we have to ensure that our neighbors have enough food, resources, and opportunities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You have redeemed the lives of your faithful departed. Through the love of Christ, gather us into one body with them, and reveal to us the mystery hidden for ages in the One who created all things. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

**PASTOR**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## OFFERING/OFFERTORY

*The assembly stands.*

### THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

*The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.*

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. **Amen.**

*One of the following or another confession is prayed.*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **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, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.*

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive 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.  
**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

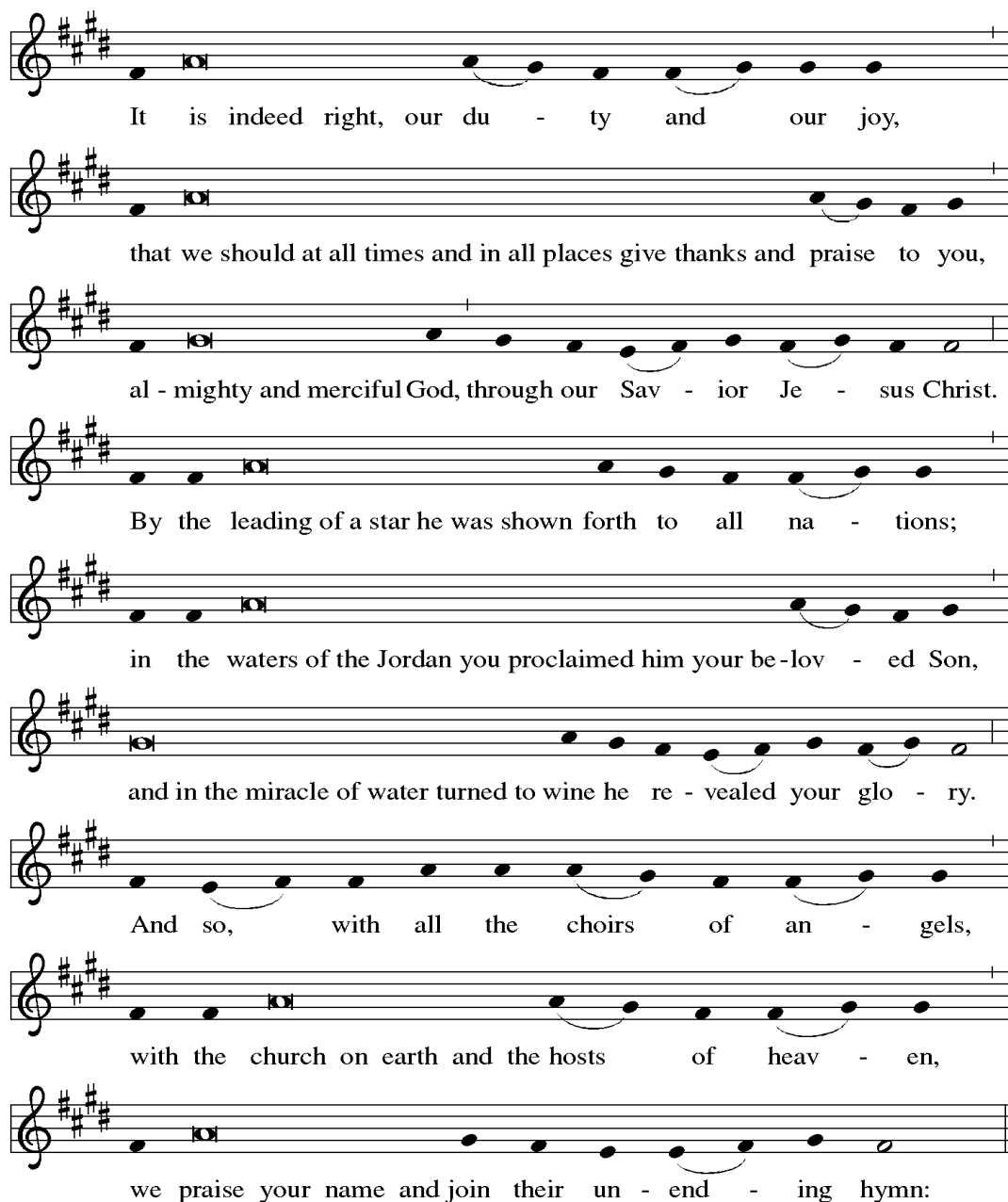
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

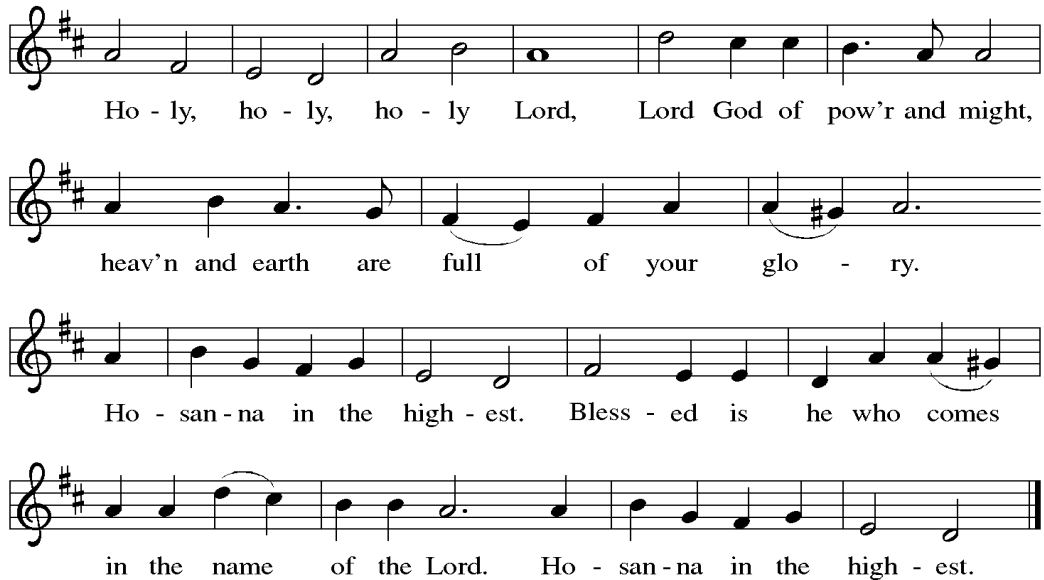
The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

## PREFACE



It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.  
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all na - tions;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your be - lov - ed Son,  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he re - vealed your glo - ry.  
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,  
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.*

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

## COMMUNION

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

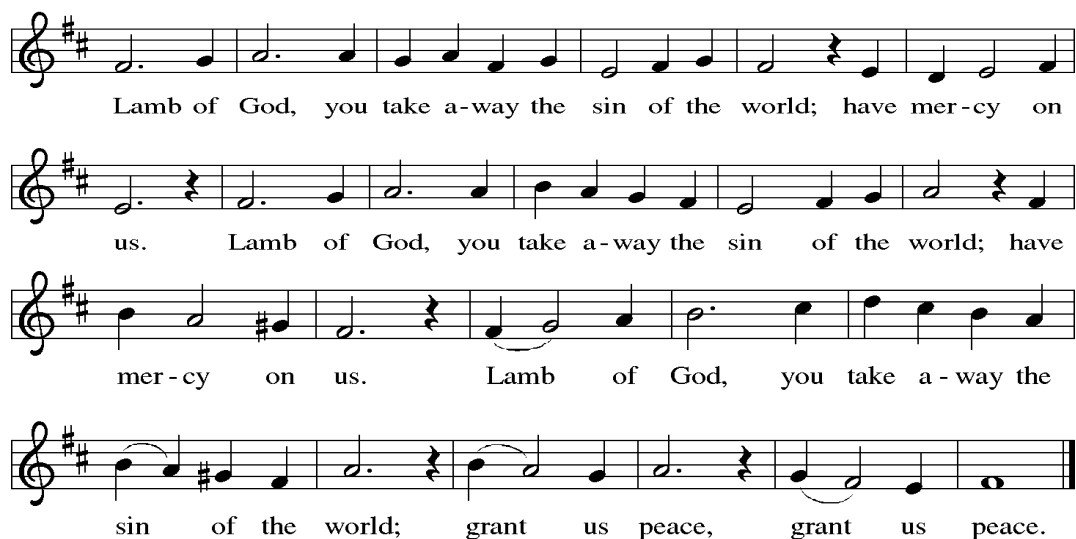
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond*

Amen.

*The ministers commune either after or before others commune.*

## LAMB OF GOD



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, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMN #459 *Wade in the Water*

Refrain

Wade in the water,

wade in the water, children,

wade in the water,

God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

1 (See that host all dressed in white,)

God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

(the leader looks like the Israelite.)

God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. Refrain

2 (See that band all dressed in red,)



God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.  
(looks like the band that Moses led.)  
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. Refrain

3 (Look over yonder, what do I see?)  
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.  
(the Holy Ghost a-coming on me.)  
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. Refrain

4 (If you don't believe I've been redeemed,)  
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.  
(just follow me down to Jordan's stream.)  
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. Refrain

*Pastor*

### **HOME COMMUNION**

Those of you communing at home, You may take and eat the bread, it is the body of Christ, given for you. You may drink the cup, it is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

### **SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*Assistant*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy,

send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

This morning we will have refreshments after worship. Thank you to the ladies who brought the cookies.

The deadline for the February STAFF Newsletter is tomorrow. Please get your submissions to Courtney.

The staff has a staff meeting tomorrow at 10 AM.

Church Council will meet on Tuesday this week at 10:30 AM.

The Memorial Service for Elaine Ongstad will be on Saturday, January 13 at 10 AM here is SKLC.

The Olmos Ensemble will present their first concert in 2024...German Music of the Last Three Centuries with pianist John Novacek, on Monday, January 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Our Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 28 after the worship service. We will vote on the budget, elect and install the 2024 Church Council. Chairmen should have their 2023 reports to Courtney by January 15.

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG**

### **#310 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise Vs 1 & 4**

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
manifested by the star  
to the sages from afar,  
branch of royal David's stem  
in thy birth at Bethlehem:  
anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in flesh made manifest.

4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,  
present in thy holy word;  
grace to imitate thee now  
and be pure, as pure art thou;  
that we might become like thee  
at thy great epiphany,  
and may praise thee, ever blest,  
God in flesh made manifest.

## **DISMISSAL**

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

arranged Cindy Berry

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.