

LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR EPIPHANY

December 31, 2023

9:00 am

SILENT PRAYER

PRELUDE: *I Wonder As I Wander*

Niles

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

ENTRANCE HYMN: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*
Printed on the next page.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

DIALOGUE

- P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
- C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- P** Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
- C** **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**
- P** For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
- C** **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. Lord 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.
- C** **Amen**

Sit

LESSONS AND CAROLS

LESSON:

John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

HYMN: *He Came Down*

Printed on the next page.

He Came Down

- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have joy;

Acc. © 1986 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A735208. All rights reserved.

LESSON:

John 1:18-25

¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

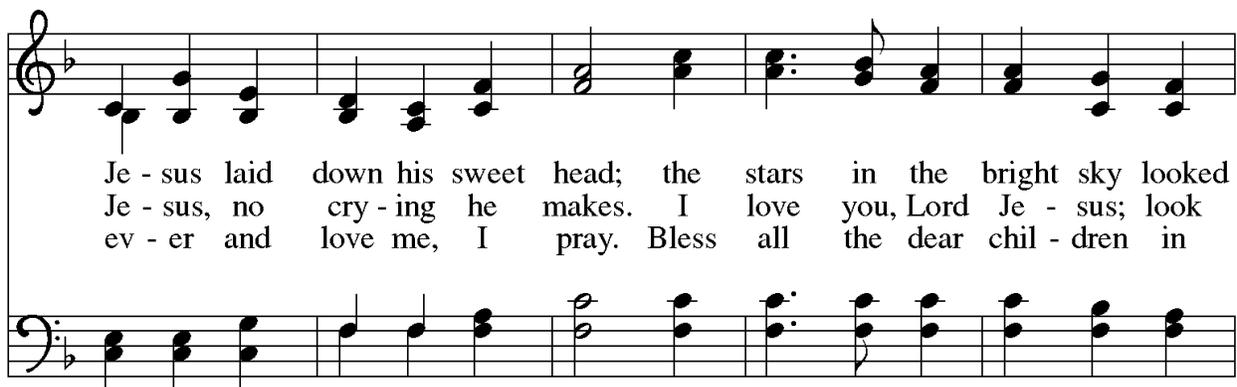
HYMN: *Away in a Manger*

Printed on the next page.

Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low-ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

LESSON:

Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “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.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

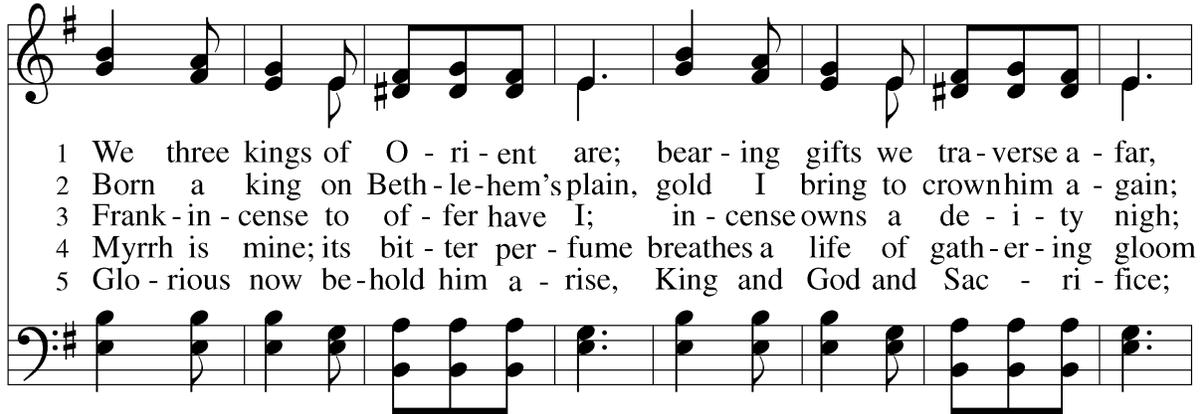
⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.” ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

HYMN: *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Printed on the next page.

We Three Kings of Orient Are

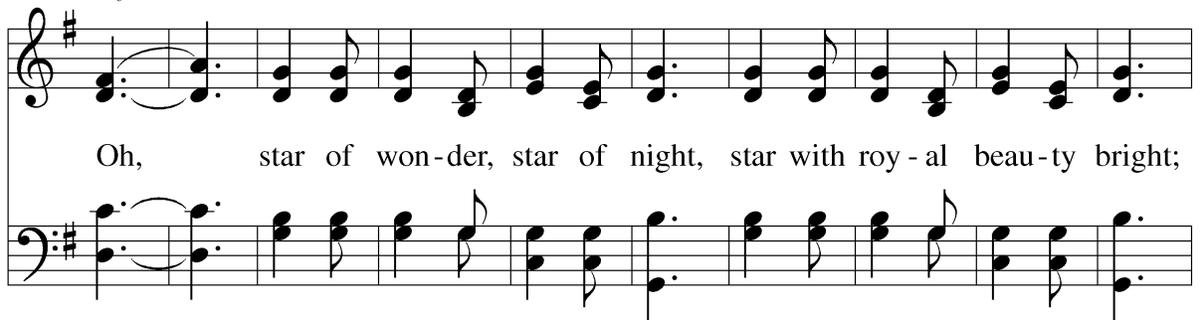


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty night;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

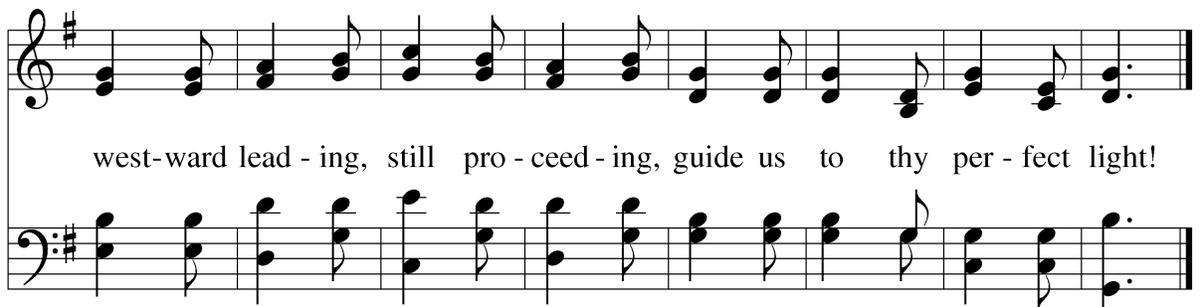


field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain



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!

LESSON:

Matthew 2:13-23

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸”A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead. ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

HYMN: *A Child Is Born in Bethlehem**Printed on the next page.*

A Child Is Born in Bethlehem

1 A child is born in Beth - le - hem, Beth - le -
 2 His moth - er is the vir - gin maid, vir - gin
 3 The kings from She - ba jour - ney there, jour - ney
 4 With - in the house they greet the child, greet the

hem, the joy of all Je - ru - sa - lem.
 maid, who gave him birth with no man's aid.
 there, gold, frank - in - cense, and myrrh they bear.
 child, at - tend - ed by his moth - er mild.

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 Then low they kneel in rev'rent fear,
 rev'rent fear,
 exclaiming, "God and man is here!"
 Alleluia, alleluia!

7 All filled with joy at Jesus' birth,
 Jesus' birth,
 we bless the Lord who came to earth.
 Alleluia, alleluia!

6 For such a season, rich in grace,
 rich in grace,
 to God forevermore be praise!
 Alleluia, alleluia!

8 All praise the Holy Trinity,
 Trinity,
 from now unto eternity!
 Alleluia, alleluia!

Text: (sts. 1,2,3,6,8) © 2014 Christopher J. Neuendorf, adm. Northwestern Publishing House; (sts. 4,5,7) © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A735208. All rights reserved.

LESSON:

Luke 2:41-51

⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

HYMN: *Once in Royal David's City**Printed on the next page.*

Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

LESSON:

Matthew 3:13-17

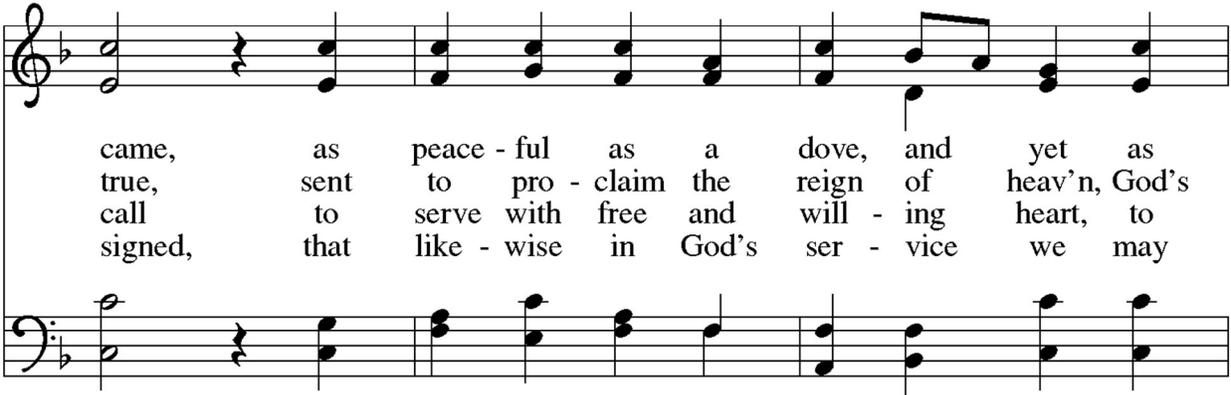
¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

HYMN: *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized**Printed on the next page.*

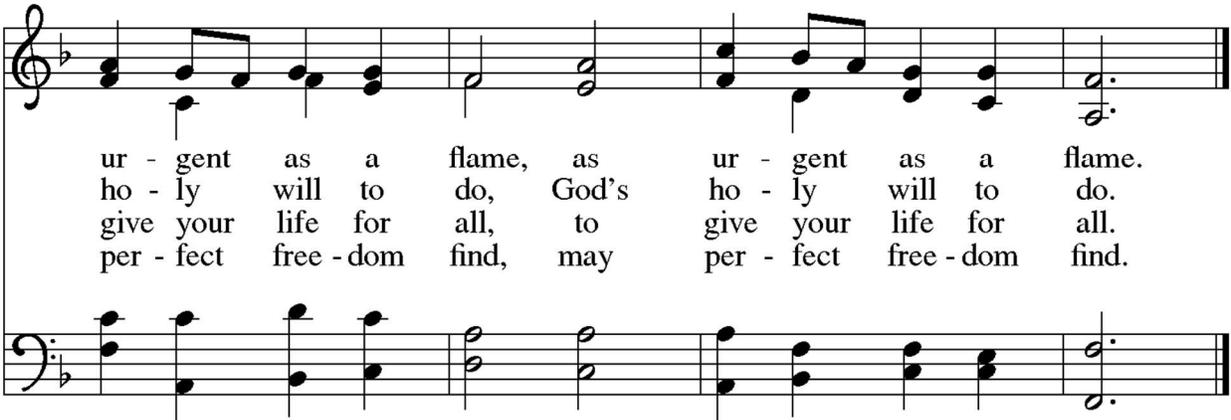
Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
 2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
 3 Straight - way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
 4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
 true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
 call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
 signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
 ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
 give your life for all, to give your life for all.
 per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text © 1985 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A735208. All rights reserved.

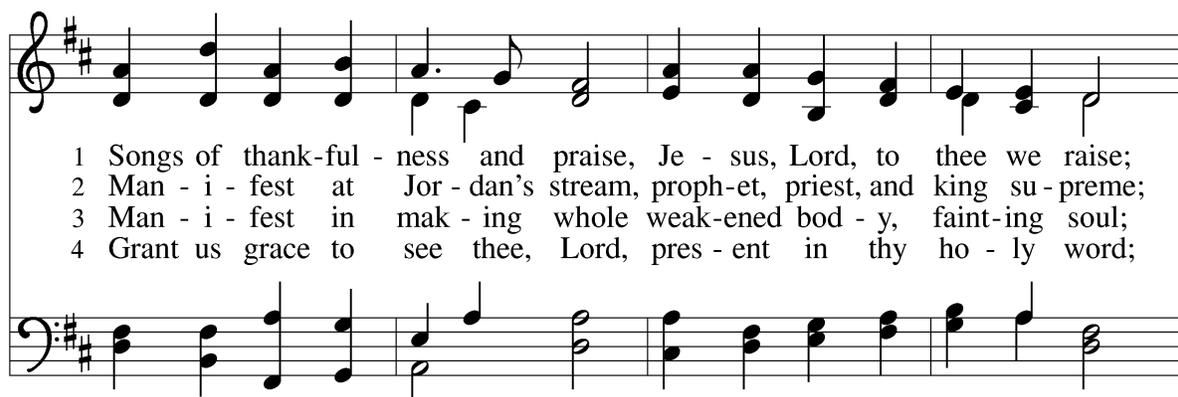
LESSON:

John 2:1-11

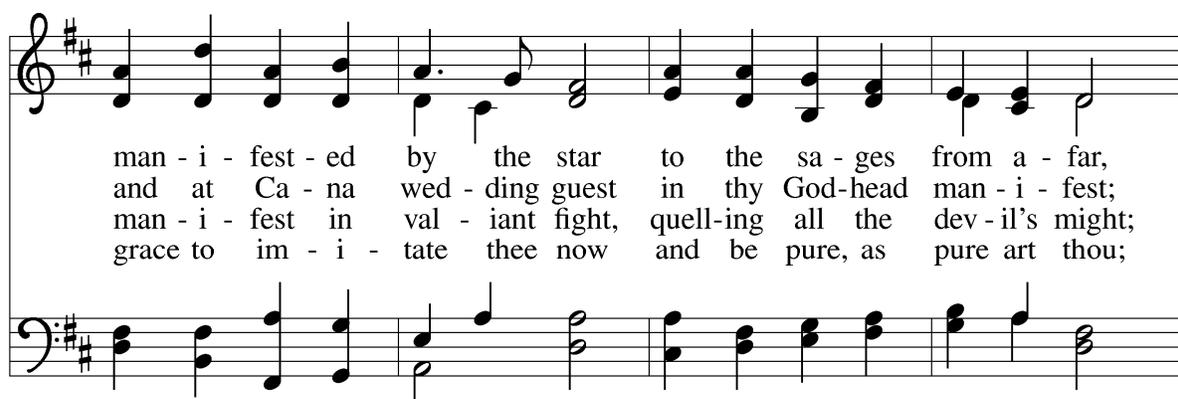
¹On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

HYMN: *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise**Printed on the next page.*

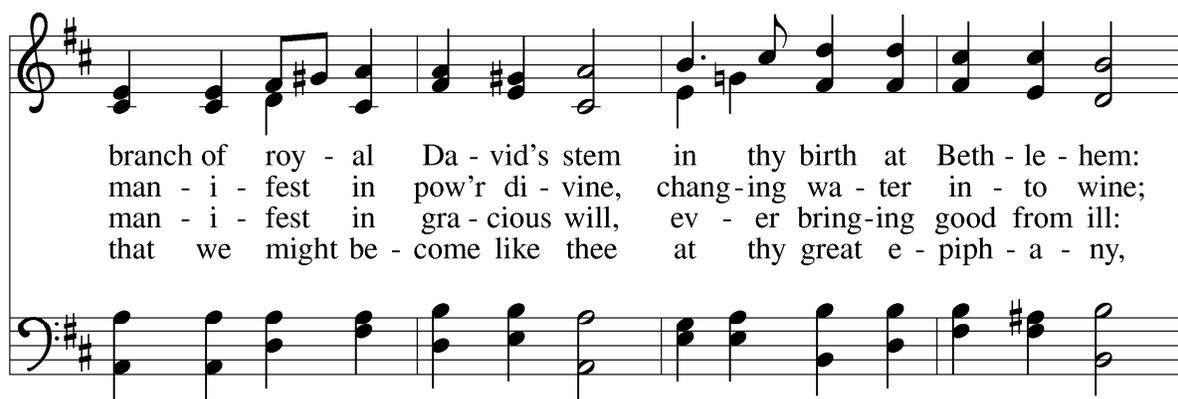
Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



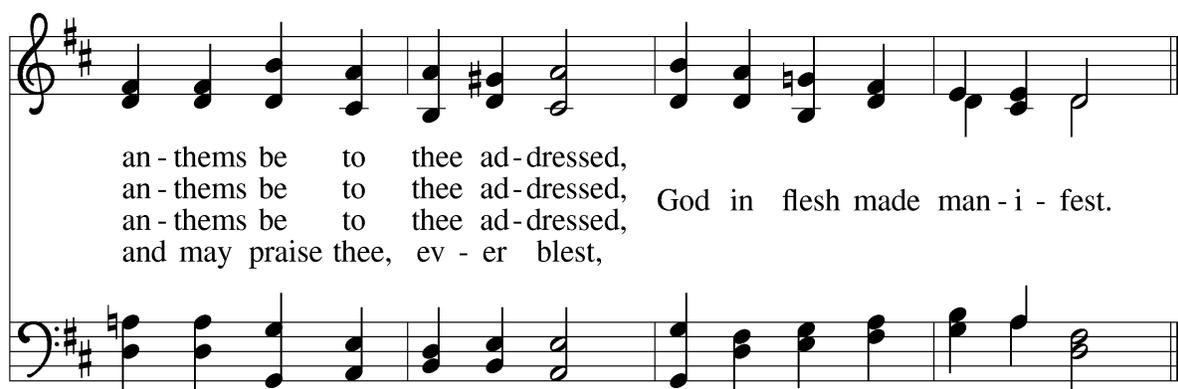
1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;
 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
 and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
 grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
 man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
 that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,
 and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

Stand

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

- P** Glory to God in the highest,
C and peace to God's people on earth.
- P** Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
C Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.
- P** Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.
C Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.
- P** Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
C Reveal yourself to us in Word and Sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

BLESSING (BENEDICTION)

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child;
and may almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

C

A - men, A - men, A - men.

HYMN: *Beautiful Savior*

Printed on the next page.

Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs and of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

OFFERING

The offering will be collected as you leave the Church.

POSTLUDE: *Noel*

Daquin



The Christmas Cycle celebrates the events surrounding Christ's coming — the prophecies, his birth, his manifestation (epiphany) to the Gentiles, and his baptism — through the Advent season, the Christmas season, and the Epiphany season.

Christmas is a great twelve (12) day celebration, beginning on 25 December and ending on the Feast of the Epiphany, 6 January. Outward signs of the celebration of Christmas should remain visible for all twelve (12) days: trees, wreaths and other decorations, music, gift-giving, joy.

The liturgical color white, symbolic of purity, joy, and the light of Christ, is used on the festivals of Christ.



From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SAS017622.

Unless otherwise indicated, hymns are in public domain.



Ushers: Augustus Usher Team Members

Readers: Jennifer Wentworth and Laurie Mueller

Altar Guild: Debra Augustine, Sally Sweeney, and Becky Quirk

The Worship Bulletins are given to the glory of God by Dr. and Mrs. Earl Catagnus and family with thanks for the miracle of Jesus' birth.

Poinsettias 2023



Dick and Dolores Allebach in memory of loved ones.

In loving memory of my life-long friend, Jack Hartman from Dick Allebach.

Augustus Women of the ELCA given to the Glory of God in loving memory and in honor of all its members.

Celebrating the birth of Jesus and all of our blessings – The Bubeck Family.

Mike and Laurel Beattie in memory of family and friends.

Nancee R. Clelland in memory of loved ones.

The Demark Family in memory of loved ones.

Charlie Hallman in loving memory of Carole Hallman.

Anita Halteman in loving memory of husband, Galen.

Anita Halteman in honor of family members.

Elaine Johnston in loving memory of husband and parents.

Karen Lachenmayer in loving memory of my parents, Tom and Anne Lachenmayer.

Karen Lachenmayer in loving memory of Dorothy Keffer and Miriam Bennett.

Rosaria Lehman in memory of Stanley and Jeannette Lehman and Carlo and Rosina Riccitelli.

Jim, Phill and Jennie Lien in loving memory of wife and mother, Judi Lien.

Heather and Stan Lilienthal in honor of our children and grandchildren.

Heather and Stan Lilienthal in memory of our parents.

Pat and Tony Mancuso in memory of Guy and Dorothy Kinzer, Anthony and Suzanne Mancuso.

Karen McClain in loving memory of grandmother, Margaret Van Hee.

Cathy Engel Menendez in honor of parents, Catherine and Robert Engel Sr., with thanks for so many wonderful holiday memories.

Phyllis Oehlert in loving memory of husband, Paul.

Patrick, Dale, and Brian O'Hara given to the Glory of God in loving memory of family and friends.

Bob Reichner – Merry Christmas to all and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Barbara Rice in loving memory of my husband, Richard, the father of our three children.

Poinsettias 2023 *(cont.)*

Given to the Glory of God by John and Lois Robinson in loving memory of friends and family.

Deborah Scholl in memory of loved ones.

Given to the Glory of God by Susan Snow and Barry Amole in honor of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In loving memory of our fathers, Dennis L. Johnson and John F. Staub by John and Denise Staub.

Michael and Janet Stokes to the Glory of God and prayers for peace on earth.

Michael Van Blaricum in loving memory of Herb and Doris Van Blaricum.

Pastor Weleck given to the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones.

Given by John, Charlotte, Jennifer, and Michael Wentworth in loving memory of Leon and Leona Linsenbigler and John and Mary Wentworth.



Special Thanks to our supporters: The multiple Christmas programs, advertisements, promotional, and campus-wide decorations have been provided to enhance your worship experience and were supplied by many internal organizations and committees, individual church members, and multiple community businesses who have united to make this event a success.

The Outreach Committee would like to extend much gratitude and appreciation to all the patrons and volunteers that made the event possible and ask that you continue to support your local community businesses, especially:

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Print Copy Design | Risher Van Horn |
| Best Version Media | Thrivent Financial |
| Peter Wentz Farmstead | Holcombe Funeral Home |
| Four Rivers Community Broadcasting Corp. | |
| (The Word FM and Great Songs of Faith Radio Stations) | |