

**EPIPHANY SERVICE**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024**

8:30 am and 11:00 am

Setting One of the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book

Prelude - *O Morning Star, how Fair and Bright (ELW 308) by Dieterich Buxtehude*

**GATHERING**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*The assembly stands.*

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

**C Amen.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

P We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
In the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn - We Three Kings of Orient Are



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.



*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!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.  
 Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

### 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.

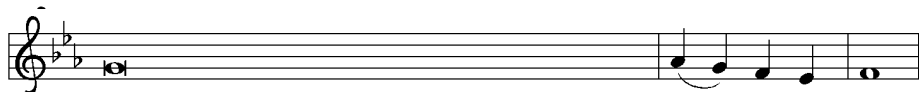
# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



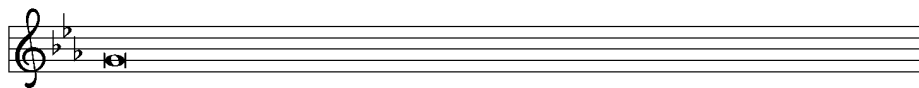
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



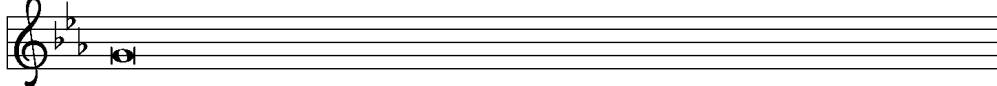
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.




Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE – This is the Feast...


*Refrain*




This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and




blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:




Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



*Refrain*  
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



*Refrain*  
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

**First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6**

<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.

## Psalm 72 – Every Nation on Earth

*Cantor introduces **Refrain**; congregation sings the **Refrain** each time and cantor sings verses.*

Ev - 'ry na - tion on earth will a - dore you, Lord;

ev - 'ry na - tion on earth will a - dore you, Lord.

### **Refrain**

O God, with your judgment endow the king; with your justice endow the king's son. With justice he will govern your people, your afflicted one with right judgment.

### **Refrain**

Justice shall flow'r in his days, lasting peace 'til the moon be no more.

May he rule from sea to sea, from the river to the ends of the earth. **Refrain**

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles offer gifts, those from Seba and Arabia bring tribute.

All kings shall pay him their homage, all nations shall serve him. **Refrain**

He rescues the poor when they cry out, the afflicted with no one to help.

The lowly and poor he shall pity, the lives of the poor he will save. **Refrain**

*Text: Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13, Michael Joncas.*

*Music: Michael Joncas © 1987, 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.*

## Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

<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.

## Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

<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.

## Sermon



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with  
 2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -  
 3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there  
 4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!  
 in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!  
 falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.  
 when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,  
 In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es  
 Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with  
 Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,  
 of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though  
 heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your  
 and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich  
 dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and  
 mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For  
 lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!  
 dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.  
 you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.  
 for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned,  
 our voices gaily blending!  
 For Christ goes with us all the way—  
 today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!  
 His love is never ending!  
 Sing out! Ring out!  
 Jubilation!  
 Exultation!  
 Tell the story!  
 Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,  
 the Lord we love is first and last,  
 the end and the beginning!  
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace,  
 transport us to that happy place  
 beyond all tears and sinning!  
 Amen! Amen!  
 Come, Lord Jesus!  
 Crown of gladness!  
 We are yearning  
 for the day of your returning.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.



## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. 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 and all who are in need of healing, especially, Barbara, Jan, Janet, Joyce, Ida, Phyllis and Larry, Bob and Ellie, Mary, John, Tom, Doug, Alice, Charlie, Pat and Morris, Karl and Otti, Larry, Karen, and others we may name aloud or quietly in our hearts. 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.**

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

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

**MEAL**

**Offering**

Offertory - *Improvisation on ELW 308*

**Offertory Hymn - What Child Is This** (*Verse 1*)

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

**Offertory Prayer**

**P** Let us pray together

**C** **God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.

**Preface**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

**P** Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**C Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us. Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

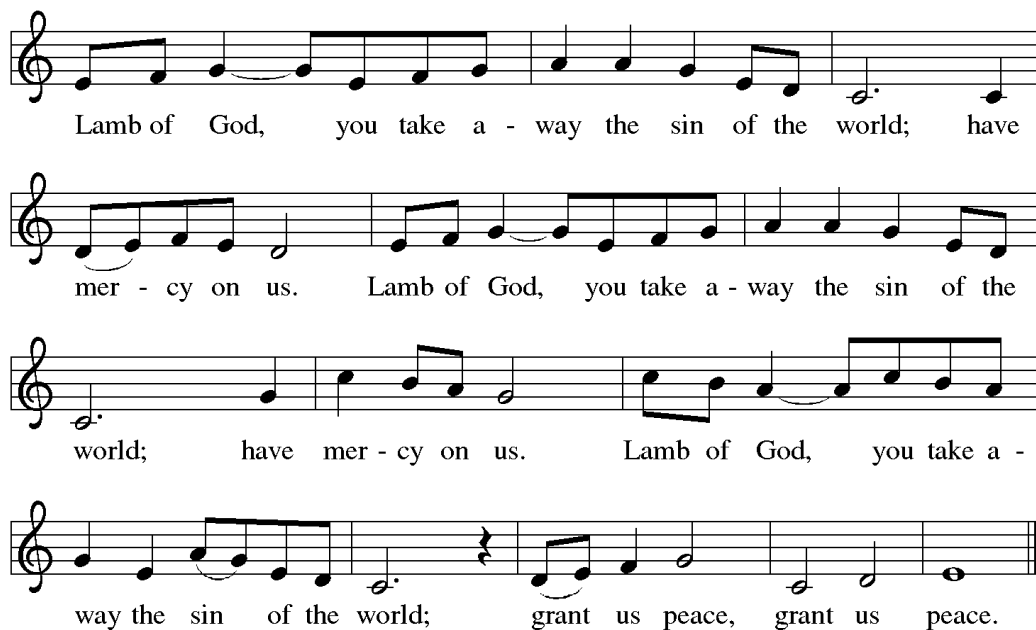
**A** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**P** Come to the banquet for all is ready.

## COMMUNION SONG – 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 DISTRIBUTION

*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.*

Brightest and Best of the Stars



1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
 2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;  
 3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?  
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,  
 5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.  
 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
 Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,  
 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;  
 dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
 gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
 rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,  
 Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.  
 mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.  
 myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?  
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
 guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.  
 Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

### POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

### SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



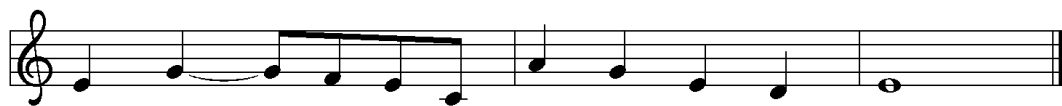
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

A 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.

C Amen.

### SENDING

P 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.

C Amen



### Crashing Waters at Creation



- 1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,
- 2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives passed on through,
- 3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,
- 4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.  
 wash - ing off the chains of bond - age— chan - nel to a life made new.  
 o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.  
 Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: STUTTGART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com

800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## **DISMISSAL**

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** We will. Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude - *Sortie* by Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #27001. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net ##A-721914.

---

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God.

**Altar Flowers** – If you would like to make a recognition through a request for Altar Flowers, please stop by the credenza under the TV monitor in the atrium. Sign up for the day(s) you would like to request, pick up an envelope and form in the lower box and turn in your request form(s) which should indicate your announcement for the bulletin, and payment (\$40) at least one week in advance. If you have any questions, speak with a staff person.

**Prayer of the Church (Members):** Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Janet Ravert, Joyce Veazey, Ida Elliott, Phyllis and Larry Jenkins, Bob and Ellie DeVries, Mary Bader, John Friedrich, Tom Kraska, Doug Whitfield, Alice Barnes, Charlie Bock, Pat and Morris Casper, Karl and Otti Freundt, Larry Grovenstein, Karen Shoaf (on deployment in Iraq)

**Our sympathy** to the families of Mike Wendt and Alta Lindsay upon the deaths of family members recently.

**Prayer List Changes** – If you have names to **add, or delete at any time**, email staff, or call the office.

**Prayer of the Church (Friends):** Kay Matthews and Robert Meissner [Tony Perrotte's mother and uncle], Diane Johnson (Penni Perrotte's friends), Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Susan Freeman, her husband Don and daughter Emma (by Joan Pepper), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Gay Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Jacki and Steven and daughters (friends of Joan Pepper), Zach Maier (cousin of Kathy Anderson), Virginia Hinshaw (great-grandmother of Kayden and Hunter Hinshaw), Eric Tabert (nephew of Deb Tabert), Armenia and Artsakh (friends of Judy Schlegel), William and Barbara Wilson (parents of Bill Wilson), Linda Leslie (mother of Sean Slane), Paul DeVries (brother of Bob DeVries), Gini Rinkus (friend of the Dominicks), Elaine Williamson (sister-in-law of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Paul (son-in-law of Jan Huntley), Richard Dominick (brother of Ted Dominick), Burr Hasselbeck, Josephine Economy and John Bigsby (friends of Bess Line), Marie Watts (cousin of Pat Casper), Ruth Parker (aunt of Pat Casper), Ashley Collins (niece of Deb Tabert), Holly Cashwell (by Pat Cashwell), Patrick Howell (son of a friend of the Waughs), George and Pat Rose (friends of Debbie Fullbright), John and Connie Heinz, Gregory and Colleen Davidson, Richard and Claudia Steele (friends of Dean and Marcia Redman), Kirk Temple (brother-in-law of Deb Tabert), Debra Jetton (sister of Bill Wilson), Penny Wagner (niece of Marcia Wilson), Lynn Hladak (grandmother to Kayden and Hunter Hinshaw), Tim Holody (by Terry and Sharon Wilson), Kerry Bowars (friend of Megan Cunningham), Cole Cashwell (grandson of Pat Cashwell), Twila Dahl (sister-in-law of Bill Dahl and Martha Dahl), Dirk Davis (by Debbie Fullbright), Lynn and Ray Slabaugh (friends of the Foremans), Dirk Davis (by Debbie Fullbright), Susie Pilcher (sister of Pat Casper), Scott Duncan (stepdad of Bill Elkin)

## Adult Sunday School

The 2024 spring adult Sunday school season will begin with Rick Lischer, as he will teach the four Sundays in January. The title of his course is "The Very First Story of Jesus – the Gospel of Mark." The class will meet in Trinity Hall on January 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 9:45-10:45 am. If you would like to take notes, bringing your personal bible is recommended, but there will be bibles available. Coffee will also be available.

Future classes are:

- Feb 4 – Stephen Ministers with Nan Treul and Kim Hoke
- Beginning February 11 through March 24, Vicar Gina will be leading a 7-part session about Ash Wednesday to Holy Week, each week we will prepare for the Wednesday evening Worship Services through Holy Week.

**Annual Reports!** It is time again for our annual reports to be submitted to Susan Esposito by **January 15, 2024**. They should come from each committee and active group at St. Paul's. Content should include membership and what has been accomplished in 2023. They can be left in Susan's mailbox or emailed to [admin@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:admin@stpaulsdurham.org). You are welcome to refer to the 2023 calendar on Susan's door to refresh your memory of activities. Contact the staff if you have any questions.

## The Social Ministry Committee will meet Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7 pm in Whitesell Hall.

In addition to regular agenda items, we will be reviewing ministry areas and setting a preliminary schedule for 2024. All interested persons are invited to attend.

**Young In Spirit** – The activity for Young In Spirit is a lunch "meet and eat" at 11:30 am on **Wednesday, January 10, 2024** at The Loop Restaurant in Eastgate Shopping Center, 1800 E Franklin Street, Chapel Hill. The Loop has a varied menu to meet most food tastes.

### Plan now to participate in the Chili & Cornbread Cook-Off!!!

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024**

**sign up on bulletin board – have food here by 5:45 pm**

Chili can be brought in crock-pots, cornbread any way. No need to bring serving utensils. You will be labeling your chili and/or cornbread as to main ingredients or style. Condiments (sour cream, cheese, crackers, etc.) are provided as well as salad, desserts, and beverages for the full meal. Come eat, enjoy, and have a great fellowship time!

**Thursday Morning Bible Study:** The topic for Bible Study is an in-depth look at the sermon on the Mount. They meet on Thursdays at 10:30-11:45 am in the Conference Room and by Zoom. Study notes will be emailed before the meeting. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82845097165?pwd=YWEyd1o1TmQvTXVPaFJwYi9SzkFVQT09>

Meeting ID: 828 4509 7165 Passcode: 165276

**RISE AGAINST HUNGER** will take place at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, on Saturday, **March 9<sup>th</sup>** from 9 AM - 12 Noon. January begins the official kickoff for our 2024 Rise Against Hunger work day on March 9, 2024. The financial goal is \$4,300 to cover the cost of 10,000 meals. And, we need commitments for 60 workers between 9:00 am and Noon on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Register to work at: [Events.Riseagainsthunger.org/STPLC](https://Events.Riseagainsthunger.org/STPLC) There is a small table display in the foyer for the "CHANGE for a CHANGE" event to collect your loose change (or more). These collections will be turned in at the end of February to help fund the event on March 9<sup>th</sup>. We have already received financial commitments to cover over half of the cost of this event. We will have special envelopes in the pews and at the usher table for your donations. Any extra we receive will be held over for another event. For questions/suggestions contact: Dean Redman, Marilyn Hawley, Bee Ellertson, or Mary Runestad.

**Books for Book Harvest** – The Preschool, together with the Slane Family, is collecting new or gently used children's books for Book Harvest, a local organization that supports literacy in Durham. Books should be children's books (ages 0-18) and cannot include textbooks or religious books. Books can be

deposited into the marked box near the entrance to the Whitesell Hallway, until the **January 14<sup>th</sup>** deadline.

**Youth Group** – Next up is a Lock-In on Fri, Feb 9 at 6 pm thru Sat, Feb 10, at 9 am. We will meet at the church. All youth attendees will help cook dinner before we dine together. Then we will go out bowling before returning to St. Paul's for the night. Breakfast will be provided and pick-up is at 9 am.

**Book of Devotions** – The Anniversary Committee is continuing to celebrate 100 Years of our Ministry by attempting to compile a keepsake **Book of Devotions**, composed of the wonderful and inspiring devotions/poems/photos that we began sharing during covid and still continue to do so. Please reflect on your past devotions, create new ones, and submit them by the **end of January** to [maria.taylor.chi@gmail.com](mailto:maria.taylor.chi@gmail.com).

**St. Paul's Readers Resumes January 18** – St. Paul's Readers invite all readers to join us in 2024 as we explore and discuss our wonderful reading list. Our meetings are held in Trinity Hall at 3 pm on the third Thursday of most months. On Thursday, January 18, at 3 pm, Katherine Trexler leads our discussion of Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan. **Mark your calendars** for our author event on Sunday, February 25, at 12:30 pm, when our own Rick Lischer discusses his memoir Open Secrets: A Memoir of Faith and Discovery (Doubleday). The St. Paul's Readers are low-key and welcome all men and women. We would love for you to join us at our next meeting, even if you have not read the book. Please contact Katherine Trexler ([katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com)) with any questions. We are excited to get started on our 2024 reading list! (Check out the January Cross Connections for more information!)

### **Growing thru Grief**

Here is the current schedule for January:

- ▶ Jan 2 - "Looking Back, Looking Ahead" with Lynn Heath
- ▶ Jan 9 - "Self-Care in Grief" with Bailey Brislin
- ▶ Jan 16 - "How to Start: Creating a New Identity" with Scott Anderson
- ▶ Jan 23 - "Your Mandala" with Lindsay Gallo
- ▶ Jan 30 - "Walking Each Other Home" with Terry Allebaugh

We meet at St. Paul's Lutheran Church from 4 - 6 pm on each Tuesday. All are welcome. First time attendees must show proof of covid vaccination and booster(s). Please contact [admin@growingthrugrief.org](mailto:admin@growingthrugrief.org) if you have questions.

The **Dropped Stitch Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets on the last Friday of the month at 1:00 pm in the sofa area of the atrium. This group creates prayer shawls by knitting or crochet.

The **Tongue and Thimble** group creates small quilts which are distributed to nurseries at local hospitals for their critical patients. They meet downstairs in the Fiber Arts/Music room off of the Genesis Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am-12:00 noon.

### **PASTA for PARKTOWN!!**

#### **Help Stock the St. Paul's Shelf at Parktown Food Hub!**

The folks at Parktown Food Hub love our St. Paul's pasta! THANKS to your generosity the "St. Paul's Dry Boxed Pasta Shelf" stays stocked and ready to help hungry families. Please continue to add dry pasta to your shopping list to share with the St. Paul's shelf. The Women's Connection Group is leading this initiative to support the Parktown Food Hub, led by Pastor Sharon Schulze. **St. Paul's Shelf - dry boxed pasta** – spaghetti, macaroni, ziti, penne, etc. (NOT: kits or dinner, nor canned pasta entrees).

### **Sign-Up Genius Links**

Please visit the Sign-Up Genius links which we use to enable volunteers to fill in where needed, for both services. Click on the link and fill in your name on the date(s).

◆ **Sunday Worship** – <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1>

Sign up for: lector, worship assistant, altar guild, communion assistants, and ushers. Staff will be glad to provide guidance for any of these tasks.

◆ **Devotions** – <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily1>

Send your devotions to Vicar Gina Schaefer - [vicar@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:vicar@stpaulsdurham.org)