

Worship Notes The Epiphany of Our Lord – Observed January 5, 2024

We welcome our members and guests to Immanuel today, and pray God's rich blessings upon you during this time of worship!

THEME

The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi from the East. In that respect, it is a "Thirteenth Day" of Christmas, and yet, it also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season. Where Christmas has focused on the Incarnation of our Lord, that is, on God becoming flesh, the Season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. For the Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true Light (*Is.* 60:1–2). He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel, which He causes to be preached within His Church on earth, not only to the Jews but also to Gentiles (*Eph.* 3:8–10). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ-Child with His Mother in the house (*Matt.* 2:5–11), so does He call disciples from all nations by the preaching of His Word, to find and worship Him within His Church (*Is.* 60:3–6).

HYMN OF THE DAY

If *Wake, Awake* by Philipp Nicolai is considered the "King of Chorales" his other great hymn, *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*, is certainly the queen! It ranks among the greatest of all hymns for its poetic structure and grand tune. Nicolai, the son of a Lutheran pastor, based this hymn on Psalm 45. However, references to "Morning Star" in stanza 1 is reflective of Revelation 22:16, and "The end and the beginning!" in stanza 6 is reflective of Revelation 22:13. Almost every word of the text is taken directly from Holy Scripture! The hymn has become a great favorite and enjoyed use at many festive occasions.

The tune, also attributed to Nicolai, has frequently been used by many of the great composers including J.S. Bach, Buxtehude, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, and many others.

What our Church Believes, Teaches and and Confesses regarding The Lord's Supper

The Bible teaches that Jesus gives us His very body and blood along with bread and wine in Holy Communion¹, and that these are means by which He forgives our sins², strengthens us for daily living, and draws us into closer fellowship with Him and other believers. The Bible also teaches us to examine ourselves prior to receiving the meal³. For those receiving Holy Communion, examine yourself with these questions:

Do I believe that I am a sinner and am I sorry for my sins?

Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior?

Do I believe that Christ's true body and blood are present in this holy meal for my forgiveness?

Do I truly intend with the help of God to correct my sinful life?

Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Those who are not members of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation and have not communed at Immanuel previously are asked to speak with a pastor prior to the service. Those who are of a different confession (i.e., church body)⁴ or are unsure about communing, are invited to come forward during distribution with their hands folded in prayer, or held close to the chest and receive a blessing.

¹Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23

²Matthew 26:28; 1 John 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19

³¹ Corinthians 11:28-32

⁴¹Corinthians 10:17; 1 Corinthians 11:26

The Epiphany of Our Lord

A Service of Worship and Praise

Prelude - "See The Eastern Star" (Trad. Puerto Rican; arr. Michael Burkhardt)

Through the darkest night the Savior we come seeking Using as our guide, the star, so brightly beaming. See the eastern star, it tells of God great morning, Heaven's wondrous light o'er all the world is shining! See the eastern star, sing glory in the highest, And upon the earth be peace, goodwill to all.

Ringing of the Church Bells & Welcome to Worship

Stand

Invocation

- **P** In the name of God, the Father:
- And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
- **P** In the name of God, the Son:
- **G** Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
- **P** In the name of God, the Holy Spirit:
- **C** Who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light.
- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.



Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–4): James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt. Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79
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Confession of Sins and Absolution

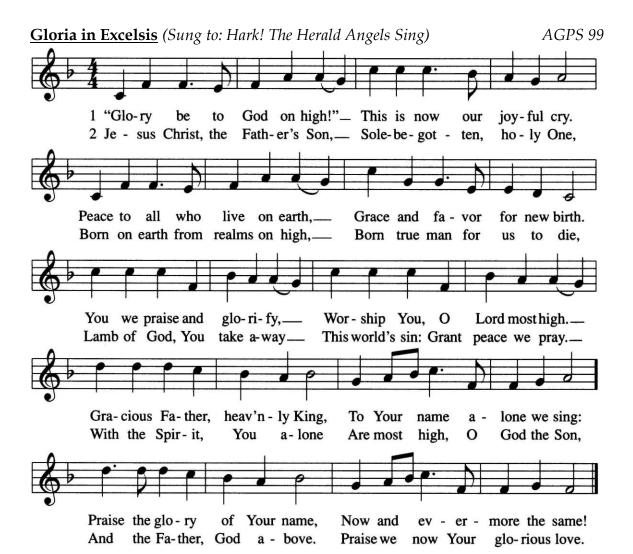
P Grace and peace to you from our Father and our newborn Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- C And also to you.
- **P** For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
- and thick darkness the peoples;
- P Therefore, let us call out to Christ Jesus, our source of light and forgiveness.
- C Shine on our darkness, Lord Jesus.

Silence for personal reflection

- P We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.
- C Forgive us, dear Lord.
- **P** For sinning in our thoughts,
- C forgive us, dear Lord.
- **P** For sinning in our words,
- C forgive us, dear Lord.
- **P** For sinning in our actions,
- C forgive us, dear Lord.
- P Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.





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Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

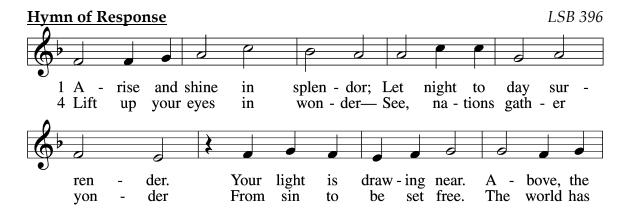
The Future Glory of Israel

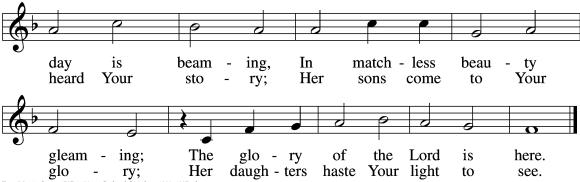
Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

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





Text: Martin Opitz, 1597-1639; tr. Gerhard Gieschen, 1899-1987, alt.

Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450-1517

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Epistle Ephesians 3:1-12

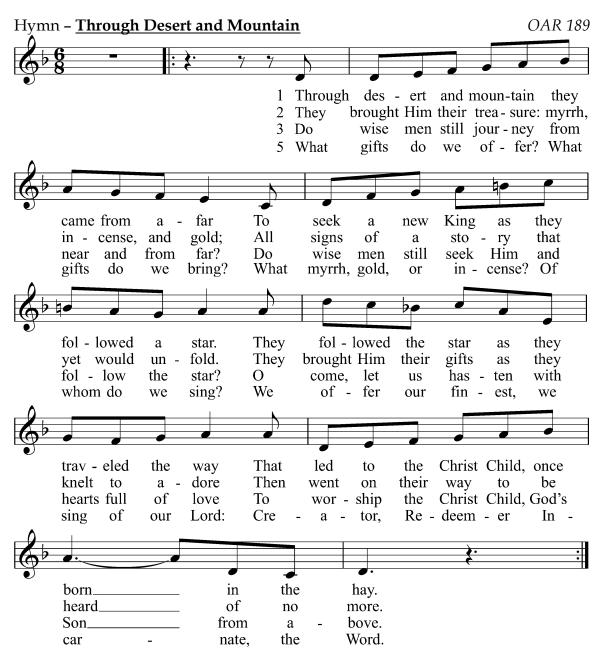
The Mystery of Christ is Made Known

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles —assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

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



Text: Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929 Tune: Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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Holy Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the second chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord!

The Visit of the Wise Men

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.

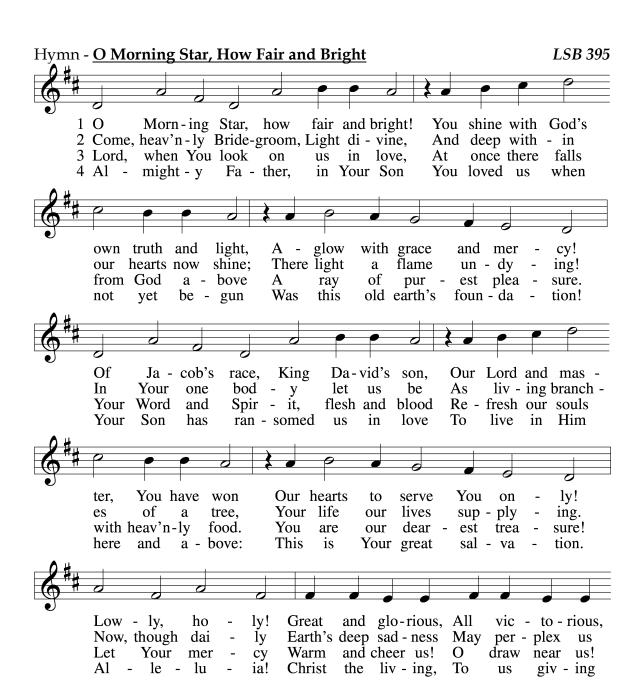
When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

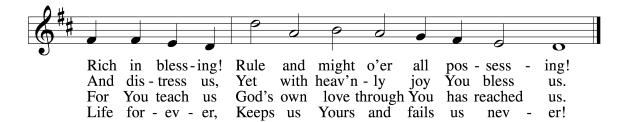
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ!

Sit







O let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gladly 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!
Great is He, the King of Glory!

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: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Text and tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003497 Tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

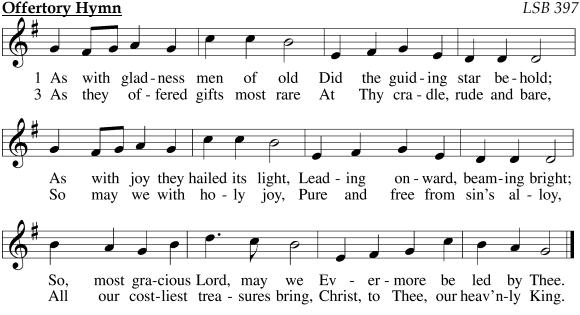
After each petition:

- **P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

Our prayers conclude:

- May Your light shine on us and bring forth the fruits of repentance in our daily lives. Give us confidence in Your Word, that we would embrace Your holy will without fear. Hear and answer us, we pray, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- Amen.

Our offerings are brought forward and placed on the altar as it is prepared for the Lord's Supper and the Offertory Hymn is sung



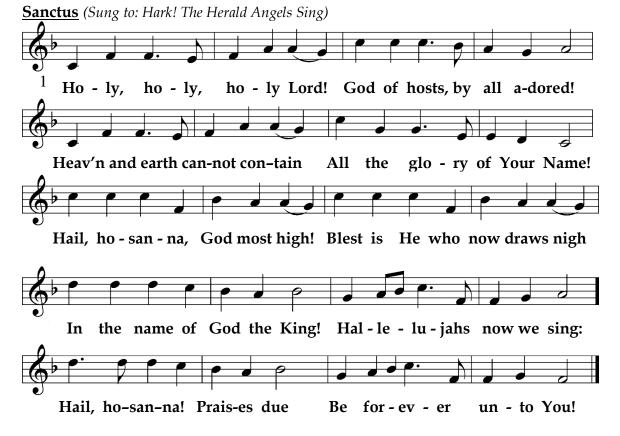
Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt. Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Preface

- **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.
- **I**t is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven and all the angels of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:



Lord's Prayer

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

Communion Confession

- The Lord's Supper is God's gift for Christians who are properly instructed. In communing, we want people to receive Christ's body and blood for their good. This means that as you come to the Lord's Table you affirm with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord; and with Lutheran Christians you confess:
- I recognize and confess that I am a sinner. I repent of my sin and ask God's forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan and death.

I believe that the risen Christ is really present in the Sacrament and, under the form of the bread and wine, I receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sins and the strengthening of my faith and life. (Augsburg Confession – Article X)

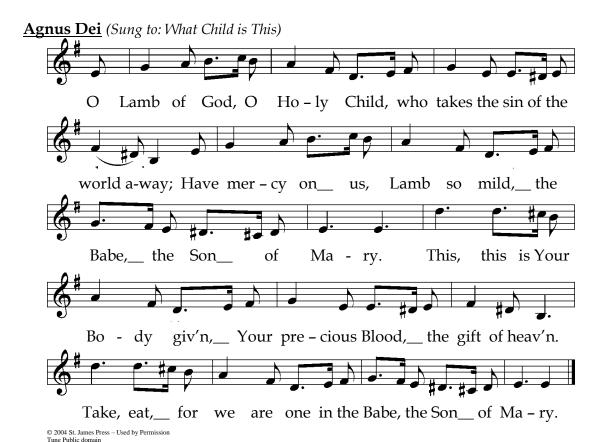
I resolve to dedicate my life to the service of my Lord in His Body, the Church, by regular group worship, sacrificial giving, thankful living and sharing the Gospel with others. (*Romans* 12:1)

Consecration - The Words of Our Lord

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ⅓ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My
 Holood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

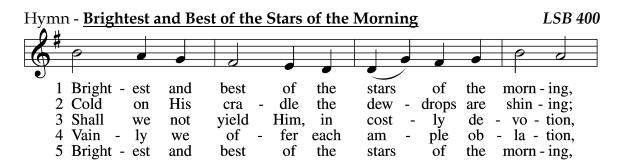
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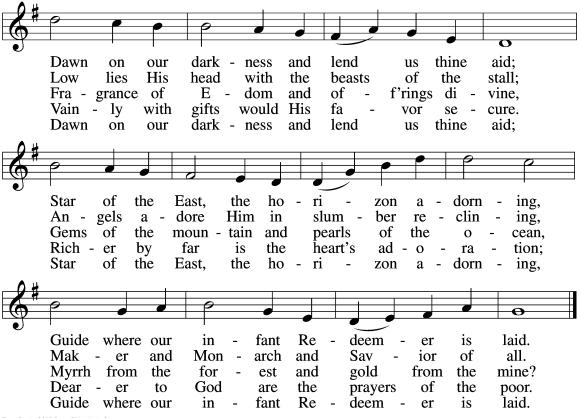
- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



Sit

Reception of the Lord's Supper



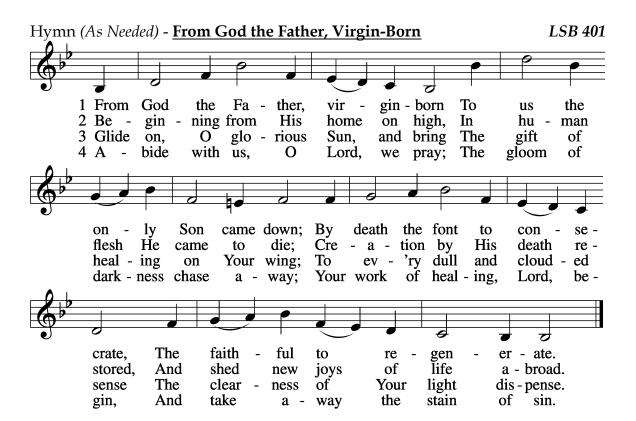


Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt. Tune: James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain





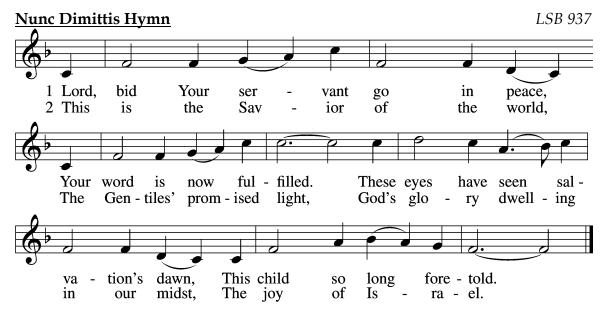
Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98 Tune: English, 16th cent. Text and tune: Public domain



- 5 Lord, once You came to earth's domain And, we believe, shall come again; Be with us on the battlefield, From ev'ry harm Your people shield.
- 6△To You, O Lord, all glory be For this Your blest epiphany; To God, whom all His hosts adore, And Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Latin, c. 5th-10th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. Tune: Antiphoner, 1753, Grenoble Text and tune: Public domain

Stand



Text: James Quinn, 1919-2010

Tune: American

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Post-Communion Collect

- **P** Let us pray.
- We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction LSB 166

- C Amen.

Sit



Silent Prayer and Announcements

<u>Postlude</u> - "And the Glory of the Lord" (G.F. Handel; arr. Lani Smith)

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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All Immanuel members and our guests are asked to complete one of the worship attendance cards found in the pew racks. You can give your card to an usher as you leave worship. Guests are also asked to sign the guest book found in the outer narthex. Thank you!

Serving Today:

Presiding Minister & Preacher: Pastor Rory Karg

Lector: 8:00 – Seminarian Abram Egger 10:30 – Seminarian Andrew Cole

Organist: Paul Snyder

Acolytes: 8:00 – Jack Mohrmann & Oscar Niewald

10:30 - Steven Klein & Caleb San

Ushers: Team A

Chancel Flowers

The flowers in the chancel this weekend are given to the praise and glory of God by Dick Albrecht in loving memory of Judy, and in remembrance of what would be their 67th wedding anniversary!

You may prepare for next weekend by reading:

Isaiah 43:1-7

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you."

Psalm 29

"The voice of the LORD is powerful."

Romans 6:1-11

We are united with Christ in His death and resurrection in baptism.

Luke 3:15-22

John baptizes Jesus in the Jordan.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL LIGHT OF CHRIST CHINESE LUTHERAN CHURCH

9733 Olive Blvd. - Olivette, MO 63132

Pastor: Rory C. Karg

Vicars: Joshua Horst & Nan Tian

Deaconesses: Kan Hsu & Helen Zhang

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