



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



TWELFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS/ DAY OF EPIPHANY

January 5, 2025 - 10:00 AM - in the Sanctuary



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior by Carol Elliott.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister and Preaching	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister	Patrick Preacher
Organist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Lector	Duke Barsody
Prayers	Lane Lewis
Communion Assistant	Mary Cannon-Spencer
Cantor and Soloist	Melanie Helling
Acolyte	Jenna Mast
Children's Worship Activity Leaders	Brittany Lampson Suzanne Rudisill
Nursery	Karen Craig
Praying for Possibilities	Donna Potts
Greeters	Mark Allen Bonnie Farmer Anne Harmon Suzanne Rudisill Chris Sorenson Sarah Weeks
Ushers	Carol Elliott Calvin Harmon Lani Ludian David Potts
Fellowship Hosts	Mary Brown Suzanne Rudisill
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

About the Day of Epiphany:

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Joy to the World
setting by Fredrick Frahm

Jo Lewis, flute

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

Please stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us,

**we confess that we have turned away
those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.
Too often, we have valued violence
instead of your peace.
Turn us from our ways to your ways.
Grant us the grace to begin again.
Free us from all that keeps us bound,
and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.
Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice!

You are God’s chosen ones,
holy and beloved,

† forgiven in Christ,

and freed to respond in joy.

Amen.

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that same star wise
 4 This star drew near to the north - west, o'er
 5 Then en - tered in so joy - ful - ly, those

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in the east be - yond them far; and to the
 ma - gi came from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem it took its rest; and there it
 ma - gi bowed up - on their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that
 earth it gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both
 king was their in - tent, and to fol - low the star where -
 did both stop and stay right o - ver the place where
 there in his pres - ence their gold, and myrrh, and

was — so deep.
 day — and night.
 ev - er it went. No - el, — No - el, No -
 Je - sus lay.
 frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High

#289

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
 What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain***

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
 come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of guidance and direction, sometimes we lose our way, cannot find our North Star, do not know which steps to take, the best decisions to make. We easily slip into old patterns of being, doing, and thinking that no longer lead to life, joy, or meaning. Show us the way! Shine bright for us so that we can follow your guidance and be the people you call us to be. Give us courage – even when the way is full of potholes, detours, and wrong turns – to follow the star, to stay with you on the journey that leads to life; in the name of Jesus, our bright shining star.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60;1-6

A reading from Isaiah

- ¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of GOD has risen upon you.
- ² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but GOD will arise upon you,
and the glory of God will appear over you.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ 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.
- ⁶ 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 GOD.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

*Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction**Psalm
Refrain**Psalm
Tone*

- ¹ Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
- ² **that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ **Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R**
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
- ⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**
- ⁷ In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
- ¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts. R**
- ¹¹ May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.
- ¹² **For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**
- ¹³ He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.
- ¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight. R**

¹In the beginning was the Word; the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God. ²The Word was with God from the beginning. ³Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴In the Word was life, and that life was the light of humanity— ⁵and the Light shines in the darkness, but the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶Then came one named John, sent from God with a testimony, ⁷to testify about the Light, so that through this testimony everyone might believe. ⁸John himself was not the Light; but came only to testify about the Light—the true Light that enlightens all people. ⁹The Word was coming into the world— ¹⁰was in the world— but was not recognized by the world even though the world was made through the Word. ¹¹The Word was rejected by those who were the Word's very own people. ¹²Yet any who did accept the Word, who believed in that Name, were empowered to become children of God— ¹³children born not of blood, nor of flesh, nor human will— but born of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelled among us; we saw the Word's glory— the glory of a parent's only child— full of grace, full of truth.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

The Story of a Star

Please stand as able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory
(verses 1 and 3)*

#275

**Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

Refrain

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

**Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star. *Refrain***

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed the star at its rising, and have come to pay homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, Herod 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 magi 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 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Follow the Star

Please stand as able

Love has come--a light in the darkness! Loves shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

O God, your light draws us into community. Bless this family of faith and all who gather in your name as we follow the paths you set before us. In water, wine, and bread, show us again and again your grace upon grace, that your church boldly testifies to your love. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your light shines upon all of creation. In seedlings and planets, microorganisms and galaxies, awaken us to the cry of the earth. As you nourish your people like a watered garden, empower us to nourish our creaturely companions. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your light shines upon the marginalized and oppressed so that your justice and righteousness may be made known to them. Frustrate the plans of tyrants and oppressors. Encourage the work of community organizers and activists who speak out against injustice, especially 864 Pride, AID Upstate, Rebuild Upstate, the Period Project, and other local organizations working for the uplifting of marginalized people living in the upstate. Make a way for 2025 to be a year in which the queer community experiences wholeness, restoration, peace, and the full compliment of human rights. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your light shines upon those of us who are ill, dying, lonely, or bereaved. Help those who have no helper. Draw near to those who have no one to advocate for them or those who feel forgotten. Deliver those who call to you, especially those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Precious are they in your sight. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your light shines upon Trinity Lutheran Church. Liberate this congregation from a yearning for the past that forgets the future. Fuel in us a passion for discovery. Give us the boldness to dream your dream and to imagine our ministries in new and different ways. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You shine your light on the church in every age. We give you thanks for the many people your Holy Spirit encourages to lead this congregation. As we install council members and officers today, we ask you to continue inspiring current and new council members to explore and put into action bold ways for us to be the church together for the sake of the world. Bless and inspire Donna, Lani, Mike, Lexi, Danny, Jeff, Deirdre, Kerry, Chris, Dean, Chris, Margaret, Jaime, Angie, Richard, Carl, and Patrick as they commit themselves to humble, compassionate leadership. Help us all to support each of your servants in word, deed, and prayer. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You shine your light into the innermost places of our hearts and spirits. Encourage those who take on Epiphany Prayer Intentions today. Continue teaching us new ways to pray, hear your voice, and see your work in the world around us. Knit us together as a community of praying people who, following your call, put action to our prayers for the sake of the world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your light shines upon those who rest eternally in you. We give thanks for your holy ones who are now at home in your radiant glory. Make us, with them, sharers in the boundless riches of Christ, our hope and promise. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Please be seated

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

We invite members of the Congregation Council and Officers of the Congregation to come and gather with us at the baptismal font.

Donna, Lani, Mike, Lexi, Danny, Jeff, Deirdre, Kerry, Chris, Dean, Chris, Margaret, Jaime, Angie, Richard, Carl, and Patrick, beloved, baptized children of God, you have been called by God and elected by this community to serve as leaders in our life together. This calling will be joyful, challenging, meaningful, and full of opportunities to grow, change, and practice the spiritual gifts of patience, grace, and mercy.

Each of you has unique and God-given gifts that are needed and wanted as we serve and lead together. We thank you for your willingness to step forward in faith to serve and lead and to do so with bravery, boldness, vulnerability, authenticity, and compassion.

Hear these words of inspiration, guidance, and insight:

From Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus: Some are given the gift to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, and still others to be pastors and teachers. These gifts are given to equip you (God's holy and beloved ones) for the work of service and to build up the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13

From the contemporary prophet Brene Brown: Daring leaders work to make sure people can be themselves and feel a sense of belonging. Only when diverse perspectives are included, respected, and valued can we begin to get a full picture of (God's call and expectation for us). A brave leader is someone who says I see you, I hear you. I don't have all the answers but I am going to keep listening and keep asking questions.

From Paul's letter to the church at Philippi: There must be no competition among you, no conceit, but everyone is to be humble, valuing others over yourselves, each of you thinking of the interests of others before your own. Philippians 2:3-4

Will you, God's called and elected leaders, strive to serve with patience, humility, and grace? Will you embrace Trinity's mission of diversity, inclusion, and belonging? Will you extend welcome and radical hospitality to all?

In times of crisis and conflict, will you be strong and bold, give others (especially our pastors and staff) the benefit of the doubt? Will you extend grace upon grace?

Will you seek to listen more than you speak? Will you listen with the intent to hear and understand, before planning what you wish to say?

Will you follow God's call on your life through baptism to work for justice and peace in this community and in the world?

Will you set aside your personal desires and preferences in favor of the needs, hopes, and dreams of this entire community?

Will you support each other and the pastoral leadership of this congregation with your care, your words, and your prayers?

Will you attend worship regularly? Will you support this ministry with your time, talent, and treasure? Will you strive to be a servant leader?

I will, trusting that God will be with me and will give me everything I need to be a faithful, trusted leader.

Please stand as able

People of God, will you support these your called and elected leaders? Will you care for them, support them, and pray for them? Will you trust their leadership?

Yes, we will, trusting God to help us and encourage us.

Trinity leaders, blessed by the Triune God and inspired and empowered by God's Holy Spirit, you are installed as leaders of this community of faith. May you feel the power and strength of God's love and care and may you share that love and care with all people, no exceptions.

Service continues with the Sharing of the Peace.

PEACE

The peace of Christ is with you always.

And also with you.

Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated

We cannot tell, we do not know what stars shone down so long ago,
when Mary birthed her own sweet Son, and peace and love became as one.
The Son of God, as scriptures said, was virgin born in a tiny shed,
where simple shepherds stood hard by while heavenly sound filled up the sky.
Now let us stand, uncovered all, before this creche in lowly stall,
where kings and angels dignify God's gift, God's Son, in humility.
We do not know, we cannot tell what songs were sung, what starlight fell,
or why the holy mystery stands for so many years in so many lands.
We cannot tell, we do not know what stars shone down so long ago,
when Mary birthed her own sweet Son, and peace and love became as one.

Please stand as able

OFFERING HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old
(verse 2 & 3)

#302

**As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.**

Let us pray. God of heaven and earth,
**from the beginning, you have called forth life,
in which you take delight.**
The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of your salvation from day to day.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is with you.

And also 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.

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:

Holy Holy Holy

From Everlasting Light

Text by Rev. David Eck

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. It features a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One, — God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed is — the one who comes — Blessed! Blessed! in — the name of God. —". The score ends with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One, — God of pow - er, God of
might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed is — the one who
comes — Blessed! Blessed! in — the name of God. —

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Please be seated

COMMUNION

All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Both wine and grape juice are available in the split chalice— wine in the larger section and grape juice in the smaller section. Christ's grace and forgiveness is found in the bread, wine, and the grape juice.

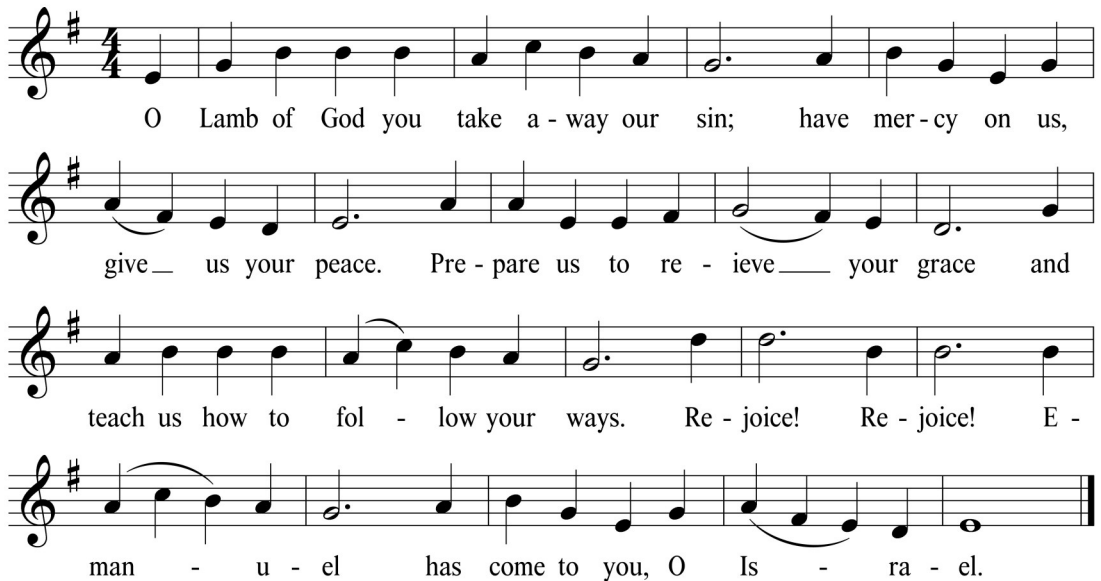
Gluten free wafers are available.

At the direction of the ushers, worshippers are invited to move to the front of the center aisle to dip the wafer into the chalice to receive Communion by intinction.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Lamb of God

From Everlasting Light
Text by Rev. David Eck



O Lamb of God you take a - way our sin; have mer - cy on us,
give_ us your peace. Pre - pare us to re - iev_ your grace and
teach us how to fol - low your ways. Re - joice! Re - joice! E -
man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra - el.

© Text 2011 David Eck

ANTHEM

I Wonder as I Wander
setting by Lynette Maynard

Jo Lewis, flute

**Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.**

**Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.**

**Cold on his cradle the dew drops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
maker and monarch and savior of all.**

**What shall we give him, in costly devotion?
Shall we bring incense and offerings divine,
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?**

**Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

**Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.**

**Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.**

**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!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!**

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant, king to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

**Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled,
that God the Lord of all the earth sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim, and wand'ring hunters heard the hymn:**

Refrain

Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria!

**Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found;
a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round;
but as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high: *Refrain***

**The earliest moon of winter time is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.**

The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt. *Refrain*

**O children of the forest free, the angel song is true;
the holy child of earth and heav'n is born today for you.**

Come kneel before the radiant boy, who brings you beauty, peace, and joy. *Refrain*

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

#314

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

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

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

**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.**

Please stand as able

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful God,
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness,
send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of great joy.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,
who rejoices over you,
and who calls you by name,
✚ your going out and your coming in,
today and forever.

Amen

SENDING HYMN

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright
(Verses 1 - 4)

#308

**O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
God's own truth and light, aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's line, King David's son, our Lord and Savior,
you have won our hearts to serve you only! Lowly,
holy! Great and glorious, all victorious, rich
in blessing! Rule and might o'er all possessing!**

**Come, precious diamond, light divine, and deep within
our hearts now shine; there light a flame undying!
In your one body let us be as living branches
of a tree, your life our lives supplying. Now, through
daily earth's deep sadness may perplex us and
distress us yet with heav'nly joy you bless us.**

**Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
falls from God above a ray of purest pleasure.
Your word and Spirit, flesh and blood refresh our souls with
heav'nly food. You are our dearest treasure! Let your
mercy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.**

**Almighty Father, in your Son you loved us,
when not yet begun was this old earth's foundation!
Your Son has ransomed us in love to live in him here
and above: this is your great salvation. Alleluia!
Christ the living, to us giving life
forever, keeps us yours and fails us never!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.

Be of good courage.

Find meaning and blessing in the potholes, obstacles, and detours on the journey of faith, trusting that God is using all of it for good.

Be strong, loving, and fearless as you follow the star, the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

*Following worship, everyone is invited
to gather for refreshments and fellowship.*

Love Has Come
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Tuxes in the Moon of Wintertime
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