Epiphany

January 4, 2026



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church Lancaster, PA

The Holy Eucharist

If you are visiting with us, a special welcome. We invite you to return and worship with us as often as you are able. Please sign the guest book in the narthex. Guest cards are also available. Please take one, fill it out and return it to an usher. The offering plates are in the back of the sanctuary. If you need a large print bulletin, please ask an usher. As you enter the nave, please conclude all conversations and silence all cell phones and other electronic devices, as to fully enter into this time of worship.

Please indicate to the Pastor if you require gluten free wafers, prior to worship, if possible.

If you need to leave the sanctuary for any reason, you are welcome to continue worshiping by viewing the service in the Pastors Study located to your left as you exit the sanctuary.

Prelude

Announcements

Please stand

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
 Wonderful Counselor,
 Mighty Savior,
 Prince of Peace.
- C Amen.
- P Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Reconciling God,

C we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair.
We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace.

We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear.
We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news.

Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

- P God's grace upon grace flows over you.
 - + Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C Amen.

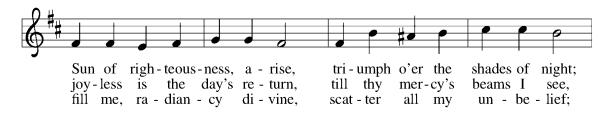
The Gathering Hymn

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Hymn #553



- 1 Christ, whose glo ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on ly light,
- 2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un ac com pa nied by thee;
- 3 Vis it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;





Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, Choralbuch, 1815

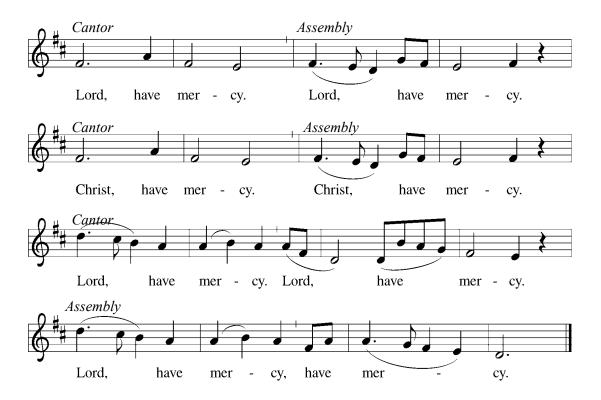
The Apostolic Greeting

- 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

Please stand.

The Kyrie

The Kyrie is sung in dialogue by the cantor and the assembly.



The Prayer of the Day

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

C Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- ² 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.

- 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 in 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 the LORD.
- L The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (Read responsively with the lector.)

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.
- ² May he judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice.

- ³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.
- ⁵ May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- ⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.
- ⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
- May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.
- ¹¹ May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.
- ¹² For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.
- ¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy and saves the lives of the needy.
- ¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from Ephesians.

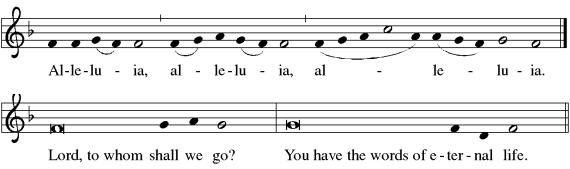
¹ This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ 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: ⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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 ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

- L The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Alleluia Verse



Repeat Alleluia

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord

¹ In 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 his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When 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, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They 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.'

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

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows.

Hymn of the Day

As with Gladness Men of Old

Hymn #302



The Apostles Creed

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the Church

A Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

As a sign of resurrection glory, the people sit or kneel for the prayers.

After each portion of the prayers:

- P Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

- P With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C Amen.

Please stand.

The Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you all.

C And also with you.

Without leaving your seat offer a wave to your neighbor, sharing God's peace, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Please be seated.

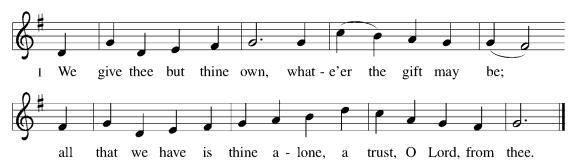
Musical Offering

Offering

During this time our offerings are represented through the gift of music, bread, and wine. Following the service you are invited to give your financial gifts in the offering plates located in the back of the sanctuary.

Please stand.

The Offertory Response We Give Thee but Thine Own



Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, Cantica Lauda, 1850

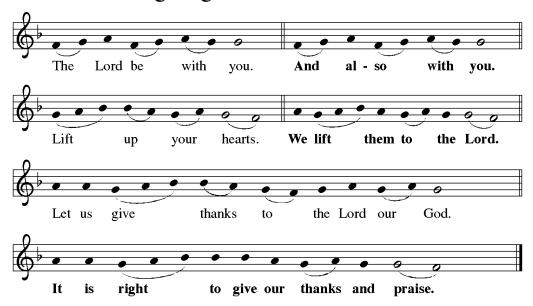
Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray. God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow.

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

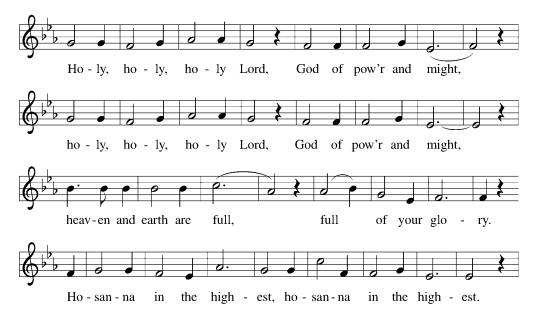
C Amen.

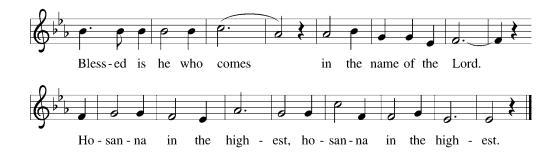
The Great Thanksgiving



P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus





Eucharistic Prayer

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.

P 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.

P 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.

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

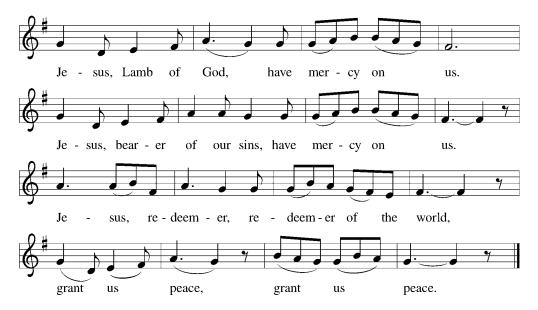
C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

The Invitation to Communion

P God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

The Lamb of God



Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937 Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com 800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Please be seated.

The Distribution of Holy Communion

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America practices open table hospitality. Baptized communicants of other Christian denominations, of all ages, are welcome to receive the sacrament. An usher will direct each seating area to come forward to receive the sacrament. Bring your communion cup with you, or take one from the usher. We return to the practice of continuous communion around the Table with safe distancing by household groups. Please **stand** at the communion rail and the pastor will place the bread into the hands of communicants and then they will receive the cup from the Assisting Ministers. The second chalice contains grape juice. A gluten free wafer is available upon request. Those persons not receiving communion are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Hymns During Communion

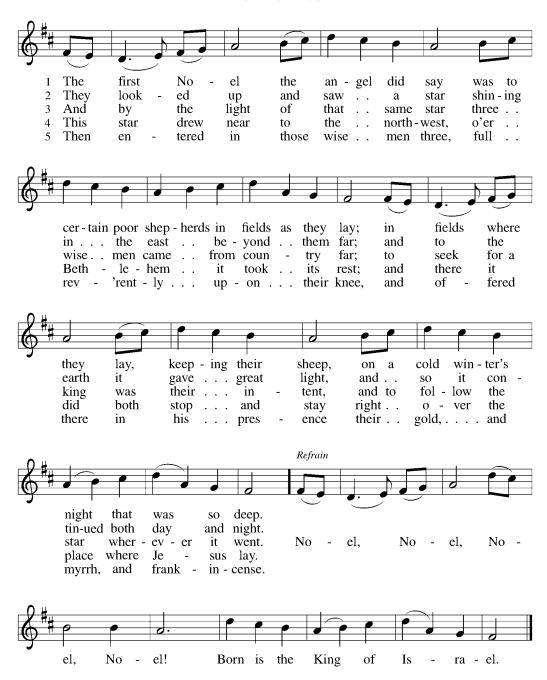
Go Tell It on the Mountain	Hymn #290
The First Noel	Hymn #300
Brightest and Best of the Stars	Hymn #303

Go Tell It on the Mountain



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt. Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

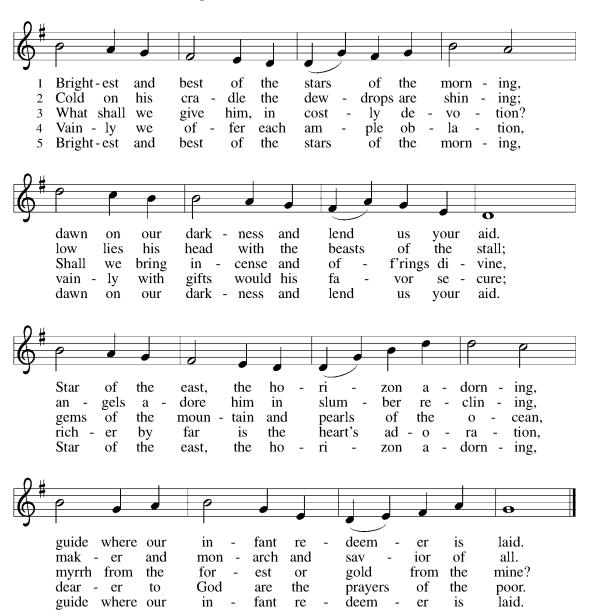
The First Noel



Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

Brightest and Best of the Stars



Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.

Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850-1911, adapt.

Please stand.

Post-Communion Blessing

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

C Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

A Let us pray. Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence.

Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

C Amen.

The Blessing

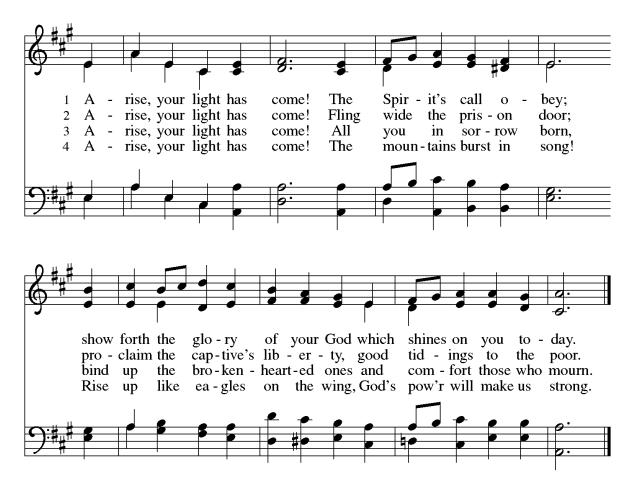
P The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, + bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

Hymn #314



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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Sending to Serve

- A Glory to God in the highest!
- C And peace to God's people on earth!
- A Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
- C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Join the procession outside for the Epiphany Blessing.

Acknowledgments

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Coming up at Holy Spirit Coming up at Holy Spirit

Today Heritage Chorale Concert, 4:00 p.m.

Jan. 2-4 Winterfest

Jan. 6 Book Club, 7:00 p.m.

The Vintage Teacup Club by Vanessa Greene

Jan. 7 Prayer & Meditation: In Person, 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study, 11:00 a.m.

7:00 p.m. Choir. All are welcome!

Jan. 8 Bible Study, 6:00 p.m.

Jan. 11 Second Sunday: Treasure Hunt

Next Weeks Texts

Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42 Worship Assistants

Worship Assistants		
January 4	January 11	
Acolyte	Acolyte	
Sam Ruggiero	Melanie Dandridge	
	Assisting Minister	
Tim Smith	Sandy Stouffer Tim	
Candy Steiner	Brixius	
Lector	Lector	
Noelle Dandridge	Tim Brixius	
Greeter	Greeter	
Lisa Ferree	Betty Emich	
Usher	Usher	
Eric Bentley	Georgeanne	
	Burkholder	
Bread Provider	Bread Provider	
Donna Null	JoAnn Matos	
Altar Guild	Altar Guild	
Set-up	Set-up	
Donna Null	Jan Wacker & Linda Rogers	
Altar Guild	Altar Guild	
Clean-up	Clean-up	
Donna Null	Cheryl Amey &	
	Linda Rogers	
Council Person	Council Person	
Marty Brunner	Doug Dandridge	
Counters	Counters	
Suzann Schwenk	BA Smith	
Georgeanne	Sandy Rohrback	
Burkholder		
Technology	Technology	
Chip Froehlich	Doug Dandridge	
Danica Dandridge	Mel Dandridge	



3131 Columbia Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603

Pastor- The Rev. Gretchen Ierien Music Director- Allison Carlson