




"The Visit of the Magi"


the Epiphany of our Lord
January 7, 2024

prelude & entrance hymn


303



1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 Cold on his cradle 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.

GREETING

P: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

A: Arise, shine, for our Light has come!

C: And the glory of the Lord has come upon us.

A: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C: The light no darkness can overcome.

A: He comes to us;

C: We who are not wise.

A: He comes to us;

C: We who are not powerful

A: Arise, shine, for our Light has come!

C: And the glory of the Lord has come upon us.

hymn of praise

671

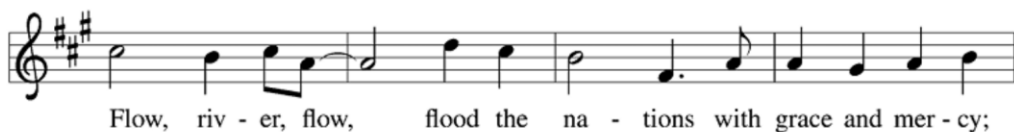
Refrain



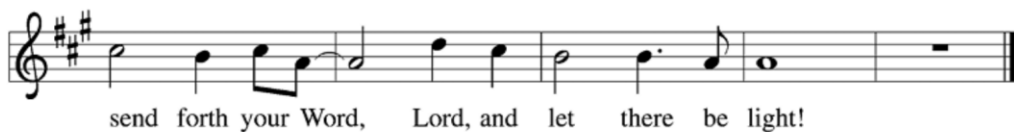
Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;



blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.



Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;



send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!



1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -



dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,

set us free here, by the truth you now bring us.
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

Shine on on me, shine on on me:
Shine on on me, shine on on me:

Refrain

prayer of the day

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you

P: Let us pray:

C: God of all wisdom and knowledge, guardian of mysteries and wonders, the very stars and planets of the heavens proclaimed the birth of Your Son our Savior. May the signs of our Lord's manifestation in our time be as evident as it was so long ago, that on this day, we will rejoice in Christ's presence with exceeding gladness and bring to all the gift of his presence in our presence. In his name we pray, Amen.

first lesson

Isaiah 60:1-6

The Blessing of the Lord will be Known

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For, darkness will cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and the Lord's glory will appear over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around! They all gather together, they come to you; your sons will come from far away, and your daughters will be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you will see and be radiant; your heart will thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea will be brought to you, the wealth of the nations will come to you. A multitude of camels will cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba will come. They will bring gold and frankincense and will proclaim the praise of the Lord.

R: The Word of the Lord C: Thanks be to God

*Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.*

**May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.**

*May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills also in righteousness.*

**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

*May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.*

**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**

*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.**

*May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.*

**For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.**

*He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.*

**From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

second lesson

Ephesians 3:1-20

The Mystery of God has been revealed in Christ

It is for the sake of you Gentiles that I, Paul, am a captive of Christ Jesus. For you must certainly have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for your sake! And you must certainly have already heard how the mystery of Christ was made known to me by revelation – which I wrote about briefly before, and if you read

it again you will perceive the understanding I have of the mystery of Christ.

This mystery was not made known to humankind in past generations. But now it has been revealed to Christ's holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit! And the mystery is this - the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 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. 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, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 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. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that God has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through his faith. I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

R: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God

VERSE

302 (vs. 1, 4 & 5)

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed;
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;

as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
~~there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;~~
~~so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,~~
and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;

so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led by thee.
~~so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.~~
~~all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly king.~~
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.
there for - ev-er may we sing al-le-lu-ias to our king.

gospel acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 2nd Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

The Visit of the Magi

In the day of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, behold, Sorcerers, Magicians, Fortune-tellers and Astrologers from the East came to Jerusalem, 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 offer him respect and honor."

When King Herod heard this, he was very anxious and so was everyone in Jerusalem. So, Herod called together all the chief priests and scribes of the people and inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

*'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you will come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'*" [Micah 5:2]

Then Herod secretly called for the Sorcerers, Magicians, Fortune-

tellers and Astrologers and learned from them the exact time when the star had begun to shine.

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 offer him respect and honor."

After listening to 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. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy! On entering the house over which the star stopped they saw the child with Mary his mother and they knelt down and offered him respect and honor. Then, opening their treasure chests, they presented him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they withdrew for their own country by another road.

But after they had withdrawn, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared through a dream to Joseph saying, "When you get up, take the child and his mother and flee into Egypt and remain there until I tell you otherwise. Herod is about to search for the child to destroy him."

And when Joseph got up, he took the child and his mother by night, and withdrew into Egypt, and remained there until King Herod died, in order that what the Lord said through the prophet might be fulfilled;

"Out of Egypt I have called my son." [Hosea 11:1]

Meanwhile, King Herod, having seen that he was tricked by the magi, was greatly enraged, and he sent his soldiers and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the exact time that he had ascertained from the magi that the star had appeared. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

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

When Herod died, see, an angel of the Lord appeared through a dream to Joseph in Egypt saying, "When you get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life have died." And when Joseph got up, he took the child and his mother and entered into the land of Israel. But, having heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned again through a dream, Joseph withdrew into the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

sermon

hymn of the day

Unison Eb Ab Eb Eb G Cm Fm7 Bb

1 Ho-ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a - go yet ev - er near;
2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry—how your love for us was shown,
3 Ho-ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us ev - er in your way,

come as friend to ev - ery stran - ger, come as hope for ev - ery fear.
when the im - age of your glo - ry wore an im-age like our own.
so we see in ev - ery stran - ger how you come to us to - day.

As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the out - cast, free the bound,
Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and fill us with your grace.
In our lives and in our liv - ing give us strength to live as you,

as you taught us love un - spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
May the fire of your com-pas - sion kin-dle ev - ery land and race.
that our hearts might be for - giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

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.

the prayers of the church

passing of the peace

offering

1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and
mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,

westward leading, still
proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

5. Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and
skies. [*Refrain*]

A: Let us pray:

C: Gracious God, joining those people long ago who brought their gifts to your infant Son, we now bring our gifts of praise, adoration and thanks. Receive them as a response to the abundant blessings you provide us every day. We pray that You are pleased with our offerings and that you will use them to accomplish Your holy will. In Jesus' name, Amen.

great thanksgiving

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.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: We give you thanks, Heavenly Father, for the coming of Your Son, the incarnate; born into our humanity to be Emmanuel, God with us, the gift you give for our salvation. Come now, and hear our voices as we join the heavenly chorus in singing his praises:

**Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

P: Holy God, beginning and end, you embrace all time . . .

the 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

distribution hymns

301, 282, 310



1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness
3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this
4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no



heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,
won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions
di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly



All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to
all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous
and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the
with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her



heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.
star drew nigh, as the won - drous star drew nigh.
new - born king, to the child, the new - born king.
lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

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

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

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

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

post communion blessing & prayer

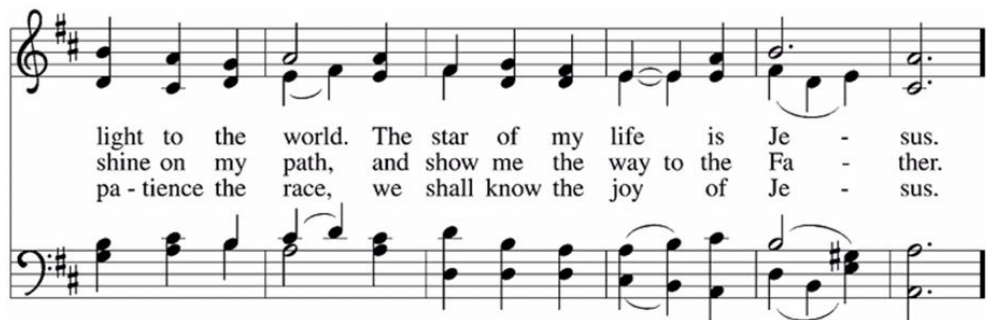
Benediction

Recessional

815

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!



Sunday, January 7 *Epiphany*

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class
11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, January 8

9:30 a.m. Widowed Support Group
1:00 p.m. Grace Book Club
4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

Tuesday, January 9

6:30 a.m. Early Birds Bible Study & Breakfast
11:00 a.m. Bible Study w/ Pastor Chris – hybrid
7:00 p.m. Bible Study w/ Pastor Chris – online

Wednesday, January 10

9:00 a.m. Peacemakers Quilting Group Meeting – in person only

Thursday, December 11

7:30 p.m. Digital Committee Meeting

Sunday, January 14

8:30 a.m. Worship
No Sunday School or Confirmation Classes
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Worship & Music Committee Meeting

A graphic with a winter scene illustration on the left and text on the right. The illustration shows a snowy village with houses, trees, and people. The text on the right reads: "Winter Weather Warnings" in large, bold, black letters. Below it, "All Events Depend On the Parking Lot" in smaller black letters. A red banner with white text says "Conditions & Cancellations". Below that, the website "www.GraceYorktown.org" is listed in blue, and "Check Your Email" is in blue. The background of the text area has a subtle snowflake pattern.

Winter Weather Warnings
All Events Depend
On the Parking Lot
Conditions & Cancellations
www.GraceYorktown.org
Check Your Email

Grace Lutheran Church

Christopher Chantelau, *Pastor* • Becki Advocate, *Dir. of Music*
Kristen Halderman, *Parish Administrator* • Vinnie Tipa, *Sexton*
Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy, *Pastor Emeritus*