

WE HAVE SEEN HIS STAR AND HAVE COME TO WORSHIP HIM

AS WE GATHER

The mystery of the Magi is not who they were or where they came from but that God welcomed them as His own through Jesus Christ. None of us is worthy of His love or His redemption, but God has chosen to rescue us from sin and its darkness by the incarnation, suffering, death, and resurrection of His Son. The star still shines upon us with the light of Christ and fills our hearts with faith. This is the true unity that transcends every division and even reaches through space and time to make us His children. In response, we offer Christ the worship of our hearts, the tithes and offerings we bring in our hands, and the service of love to our neighbors in need.

OPENING HYMN “AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD”

#397



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-at-ed 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.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.

Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

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INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Based on Psalm 117:2; Isaiah 60:3

- P** Great is the steadfast love of the LORD toward us;
C and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
- P** Nations will come to His light
C and kings to the brightness of His rising.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Silence for reflection on God's Word.

P Let us confess our sins unto the Lord.

C **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

INTROIT

Psalm 45:6–8a; antiphon: v. 17

I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of
uprightness;

you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your
companions;

your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

KYRIE

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and
for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us
pray to the Lord.

- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB 154

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.

C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:

We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.

For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,

You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

SALUTATION

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- 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.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 60:1–6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
²For 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.
³And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
⁴Lift 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.
⁵Then 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.
⁶A 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—
²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to
me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written
briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,
⁵which 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. ⁶This mystery is that the
Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in
Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of 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. ⁸To 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, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for
ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom
of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly
places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus
our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith
in him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Matthew 2:2b

Alleluia. 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. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1–12

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “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.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶“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.””

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And 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.” ⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And 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. ¹²And 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY “O MORNING STAR, HOW FAIR AND BRIGHT” 395 *sts. 4–6*



4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in Your Son You loved us when
5 O let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all
6 What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love



not yet be - gun Was this old earth's foun - da - tion!
with mu - sicrowned, Our voic - es glad - ly blend - ing!
is first and last, The end and the be - gin - ning!

Your Son has ransomed us in love To live in Him
 For Christ goes with us all the way— To - day, to - mor -
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace, Transport us to
 here and a - bove: This is Your great sal - va - tion.
 row, ev - 'ry day! His love is nev - er end - ing!
 that hap - py place Be - yond all tears and sin - ning!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, To us giv - ing
 Sing out! Ring out! Ju - bi - la - tion! Ex - ul - ta - tion!
 A - men! A - men! Come, Lord Je - sus! Crown of glad - ness!

Life for - ev - er, Keeps us Yours and fails us nev - er!
 Tell the sto - ry! Great is He, the King of Glo - ry!
 We are yearn - ing For the day of Your re - turn - ing!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Text and tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

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SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

Apostles' Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Having been bidden by the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord of light on behalf of all who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

Silence for prayer and meditation.

- P** O Light of light, shine with the brightness of the one true light, that those who live in darkness may be granted the light of life. Embolden Your Church that we with confidence and joy proclaim this saving Gospel to all the world and bring together the divided into the one people of Your grace in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** O Lord of power and might, shine Your light into the nations and give to all peoples wise and faithful servants to govern with integrity and mercy. Raise up people of honor to serve us on Your behalf and give Your blessing to those who protect us at home and abroad. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** O Lord of grace, You made Your Church from many to be one people and in Christ united them from all nations and tribes. Give unity of faith and doctrine to Your Church and able servants who will preach and teach faithfully the Good News of Christ, our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** O Lord of mercy, You forgave us in Christ and still forgive us of all our sins. Give to us hearts of repentance, and fill us with faith that we who know Christ may walk worthy of Him who is our righteousness and be kept blameless and holy until He comes again. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** O Lord of love, You sought us out when we had nothing to commend us. Continue to seek out and comfort the sick and those who grieve, the dying in their final hours, and those troubled in mind, *especially Hedy, Jean, Ray, Rose, Sue, Wally, Dana, Kaylee, Kris, Jen, John, Jonathan, Leah, Rod, Sadie and Tim.* Give them grace sufficient for their need and faith to sustain them in their trials. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** O Lord of life, You daily and richly bestow upon us bread for the body. Give to us also the bread of life, that we be nourished in body and soul with the very body and blood of Christ in this blessed Communion and here rejoice in the foretaste of the eternal feast that we anticipate in Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord of hope, You create us anew in the waters of Baptism. The divisions that once marked us have been overcome in Christ. Keep from us, we pray, all bitterness, doubt, and fear, and bring us at last into Your eternal presence, with those who lived and died in Christ and now rest in their labors. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant to us all things needful and keep from us all things harmful, O Lord, for we trust in Your goodness and in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING HYMN “I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT”

#411



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



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 I want to look at Je - sus.
 I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
 Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
 When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 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.

Text and tune: Kathleen Thomerson, 1934

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