



**Salutation and Collect of the Day**.....LSB 189

**P** [♪] 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** ..... **Isaiah 60:1–6**

*[Arise and shine for Your light has come.]*

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
<sup>2</sup>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.  
<sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.  
<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>5</sup>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.  
<sup>6</sup>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. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual**<sup>①</sup> *Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8*

**P** Praise the Lord, all nations!

**C** **Extol him, all peoples!**

**P** For great is his steadfast love toward us,

**C** **and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.**

**P** Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

**C** **bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

**Epistle**..... **Ephesians 3:1–12**

*[The mystery long hidden has been revealed in Jesus Christ.]*

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.

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<sup>①</sup>“Gradual” comes from the Latin “gradus” meaning ‘step.’ In the ancient church these Psalm & Scripture verses were chanted from the steps of the Altar. It is a response to the First Lesson and a bridge to the Second Lesson.

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>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.**

**Alleluia and Verse** ..... *LSB 190*

**P** [♪] 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.

*St. Matt. 2:2b*

**Holy ✝ Gospel** ..... **St. Matthew 2:1-12**

*[The star leads the Magi to Bethlehem, where Jesus Christ was born for all.]*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter. **C** (♪) **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.** *LSB 190*

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, <sup>2</sup>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.” <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>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.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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 be to Thee, O Christ.**

**Nicene Creed**..... *LSB 191*

**Children’s Message**

**Hymn of the Day**..... **“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” #395**

**Sermon** ..... **“Star Gazing” St. Matthew 2:1-12**

1. Light \_\_\_\_\_
2. Light \_\_\_\_\_
3. Light stirs \_\_\_\_\_
4. Light \_\_\_\_\_

**A Matter of Importance:**

*Please Note: If you are visiting and have not already done so, please read **Communion Information** in the bulletin.*

**Offering and Attendance Registration**

## Your Preparation for the Sacrament

*Prayers may be found on the inside front cover of the Hymnal, "Lutheran Service Book."*

Offertory ~ *Create in Me a Clean Heart*.....LSB 192

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mercy. or **P** Lord, in Your mercy, **C** Hear our prayer.

## ✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

The Great Thanksgiving: Preface, Sanctus<sup>①</sup>, Lord's Prayer, and the Words of Our Lord<sup>②</sup>.....LSB 194

Pax Domini<sup>③</sup>.....LSB 197

Agnus Dei<sup>④</sup>.....LSB 198

## The Distribution

*Communicants are ushered forward by rows. **Please receive the host upon an open palm.** The Chalice (or common cup) is available at every table. The Duty Elder will offer the individual cups and is followed by the Pastor who will offer the Chalice. **Please tip the base of the chalice yourself** to avoid spillage. The individual cups in the center ring contain de-alcoholized wine for those who have so requested.*

Distribution Hymns..... "Arise and Shine in Splendor" #396 (OT)  
"The People That in Darkness Sat" #412 (OT)  
"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" #411

*At the conclusion of the DISTRIBUTION or during the NUNC DIMITTIS, the Reliquiae (remaining consecrated elements) are consumed, the vessels are placed in order and covered with a veil.*

Nunc Dimittis<sup>⑤</sup> ~ *Song of Simeon*.....LSB 199

Thanksgiving and Post-Communion Collect.....LSB 200

Salutation, Benedicamus<sup>⑥</sup> and Benediction.....LSB 201

Hymn of Departure....."Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning" #400

## Silent Prayer

## Announcements

## Dismissal:

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God!

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① "Sanctus" is Latin for "Holy." This Hymn is based on *Isaiah 6:3* & *St. Matthew 21:9*

② These are the very Words of Christ which make the elements of bread and wine a sacrament. Our Confessions state "When the Word is joined to the external element, it becomes a sacrament" (*Large Catechism*, v.10).

③ "The Peace of the Lord" – The purpose of the Pax is a confessional declaration that the peace that passes all understanding is here present in the body and blood of Christ. For this reason the Celebrant now lifts the Chalice and Host.

④ "Agnus Dei" (pronounced 'ahn-yoos day-ee') is Latin for "Lamb of God"

⑤ "Nunc Dimittis" is Latin for 'now depart.' Simeon first sang this hymn of thanksgiving as recorded in *St. Luke 2:29-32*.

⑥ "Benedicamus" is Latin for 'bless we.'

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:** *Steadfast in the Word, Bethlehem Lutheran Church shares Christ and serves people with friendship in His love in all of God's world.*

**WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH!** We extend a most joyous welcome to all who are worshipping today. We are confident the Lord will reveal Himself to you through this Divine Service so that you may know the joy of His presence in your life. To our guests: If you have any questions about the Christian faith or about Lutheran worship and practice, please ask the Pastor, one of our Elders, or any of our members. God bless you in Christ Jesus!



**COMMUNION INFORMATION:** Bethlehem is an orthodox, confessional Lutheran congregation. Following the teaching of God's Word, we believe that the Lord's Supper is more than a mere symbol, but that in the Lord's Supper we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ with the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and to drink. Through this eating and drinking, we receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. The Apostle Paul notes the importance of those who come to the Lord's Supper coming in a worthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:25-19), that is, coming in an attitude of repentance, recognizing the bread and wine as the true body and blood of the Lord Jesus, and firmly believing Christ and his words that this is given for the forgiveness of sins. We also recognize that the Lord's Supper is also an outward sign of doctrinal unity. The Apostle Paul notes the importance of unity within the body of believers who receive this sacrament (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). For these reasons and since Christian Churches vary widely in their teachings about the Lord's Supper, we ask that **all guests please speak to the Pastor prior to approaching the Altar.** All communicants are asked to sign the Registration sheet in the Narthex.

**WORSHIP NOTES:** The Chasuble is a Eucharistic Vestment which the Pastor puts on before preparing the Sacramental vessels. It is a visual mark indicating that in the transition from the Service of the Word to the Service of the Sacrament something extraordinary is about to take place. The use of such a vestment is in keeping with both Lutheran tradition and practice; as our Lutheran Confessions state (*Ap XXIV*).

**AS WE COME INTO THE SANCTUARY** - let us be sensitive to the needs of those who use the quiet and reverence of the Prelude as a time to prepare their hearts and minds for the Divine Service. **ALSO:** Out of respect for God's House and courtesy for other worshippers, please turn off all cell phones. Please also encourage one another to show respect to God, His Word, our fellow-worshippers, and our Pastor by limiting movement during Scripture Readings, Sermon & prayers. Thank you.

**OUR WORSHIP STYLE:** We are a "liturgical" church. That means that the basic pattern of our worship is drawn from the services that have been used by Christians for many centuries all across the world. The components of the Liturgy come from the Bible and serve to focus our worship on God's Word and our response to His Word in faith. As Martin Luther once said, "We worship to hear God speak and to speak to the God who hears us." If you are new to our worship format let it serve as a witness of our response to God who reaches out to us. In time, we pray that you, too, will celebrate the rich spiritual rewards of our heritage in Worship.

**TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON** is "The Birth of Jesus" as recorded in Luke 2. A Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord! As a family discuss the details of Christ's birth. Ask, "How does our sin cause us to fear God like the shepherds did? Focus on the fact that God's Son, Jesus, takes away our fears and offers us true peace, rescuing us from sin and death.

**SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY: "The Life of Saint Paul"** – We will study that section of the New Testament which deals with the life and work of St. Paul; primarily using the Acts of the Apostles and St. Paul's Epistles.

**MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES** resume this week with choir practice at 5:15 PM, a pot luck supper at 6:00 PM, and Bible classes at 7:00 PM.

**NEWSLETTER** –The **JANUARY** edition of *The Bethlehem Star* newsletter is in your mailbox in the narthex. Make sure you have picked up your copy.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO AN EPIPHANY OPEN HOUSE** at Rev & Peggy's home today, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. 3212 ACR 118, Elkhart. Directions are available in the Narthex. Come and go as you are able.

**CHILI FRIDAY:** It's not too early to start thinking about our annual Chili Friday! We are looking for helpers and silent auction donations. Please see Megan Taylor or Donna Hughes if you would like to help.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** for 2019 are in your boxes. Make sure you pick yours up. If you would like a box, see Lea Rosier.

**COFFEE DRINKERS:** Please donate to the Coffee Kitty so that we can continue to provide coffee. Thank you!

**NEW PORTALS OF PRAYER** devotion booklets for January through March are on the shelf in the narthex. Make sure you have one and pick up an extra copy for a friend!

**LIFE QUOTES:** "For Christians, then, 'too many people' is impossible. Each additional person affords another opportunity to love and give in the way that brings God Himself the highest joys. And in the neediness of every neighbor more, we encounter and embrace Christ Jesus (St. Matthew 25:40)." *Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

**A SCHOLARSHIP FUND** has been established for Aaron Jackson's college expenses. Aaron is attending Concordia University/Seward, NE to prepare for full-time Church Work as a Minister of Music. If you would like to contribute, please indicate on your check and place it in the offering plate. You can also send Aaron an encouraging note at: Concordia University, Aaron Jackson, 800 North Columbia Ave., Seward, NE 68434-1500.

**ABOUT THE COVER:** "Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?" the Magi asked. God led some far-off foreigners by the star to start asking the right questions. He used the Holy Scriptures to provide the answer: Bethlehem, the city of David. This Epiphany, like every season, God leads people who were once far off to find their King present in His Word and Sacraments.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:** Isaiah 43:1-7; Romans 6:1-11; St. Luke 3:15-22.

<b>OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK</b>			
<b>OFFERINGS</b>		<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	
General Offering	\$2615.93	Sunday School	N/A
[ <u>Needed per week:</u>	\$2,668.00]	Divine Service	50
Building Fund	\$0.00		
[ <u>Needed per week:</u>	\$350.00]		
Christmas Day	\$724.00		

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK

<b>Sunday (01/06)</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>The Epiphany of Our Lord</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Classes</b>
	Acolyte/Crucifer:	Christopher Harris
	Organist:	Mary Bowden
	Altar Guild:	Lea Rosier & Lana Bowden
	Duty Elder:	James Taylor
	After Church:	Evangelism Board
	<b>2:00 PM – 4:00 PM</b>	Epiphany Open House at the Adler's
<b>Tuesday (01/08)</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>Board of Elders</b>
	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Church Council</b>
<b>Wednesday (01/09)</b>	<b>5:15 PM</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>
	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Potluck Supper</b>
	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Bible Classes</b>
<b>Sunday (01/13)</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>The Baptism of Our Lord</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Classes</b>
	Acolyte:	Jessica Bowden
	Organist:	Mary Bowden
	Altar Guild:	Lea Rosier & Lana Bowden
	Duty Elder:	James Taylor
	After Church:	LWML Meeting

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Rev. David L. Adler,  
Pastor

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Sunday School: 9:00 AM  
Adult Bible Class: 9:00 AM  
Divine Service: 10:15 AM

“To Give Light to Those who Sit in Darkness”

### IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

**National Leadership and Military:** including members Kyle Lawson and Kyle Shepherd, as well as Robert Garcia [Juanita's son], James Reed [Devin Jackson's co-worker] and Jeremy Stafford [Marcy Hogan's nephew]

**Health needs - Members:** Bobby Fulmer (12/16), Albert Harris, George Nelson ... **Friends:** Lori Owens (12/16) [Ken Koehler's daughter]

**Homebound - Members:** Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Johnnie Weaver

**In Prison:** William Schatte (LC-MS member @ Faith/Plano, incarcerated at Powledge Unit)

**Celebrating this week: Birthdays:** Sylvia Frenzel, Burl Gruetzner ... **Baptismal Birthdays:** Jeff Atkinson

**Comfort: The family of Paul Gianakon** [De Anne Atkinson's father] who passed away January 1 in Hutchison, Kansas.

### **All who commune**

**NOTE:** New prayers requests are in **BOLD**. Prayers submitted will stay on the prayer list for two weeks unless updated. Please inform the Pastor and the Church Office regarding the status of submitted prayers so we may be timely and up-to-date in petitions to our gracious God.

**TO ADD PETITIONS TO OUR PRAYER CHAIN CALL LEA ROSIER AT (903) 729-1879 or (903) 391-5678**

**Note:** The Letters in parentheses after the Hymn number indicate hymns selected because of direct connection to the Propers (i.e., Scripture Readings) for the day ... OT=Old Testament, FR=First Reading, SR= Second Reading , Ps=Psalm; V=Verse; E=Epistle, G=Gospel. Hymns with no such indication are hymns that, while having no direct connection to the Propers, still support the theme of the day.

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