

LUTHERAN CHAPEL



GENESIS 1-2:4 AND MATTHEW 2:1-12

"GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH"

**HOLY COMMUNION
OBSERVENCE OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
JANUARY 5, 2025**

**lutheranchapelchurch.org
(704) 864-6491**

LUTHERAN CHAPEL
SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

***BOLD** indicates congregational responses - * Indicates that all who are able should stand to honor God.*

GATHER

WELCOME AND PRELUDE

“Communion”

Richard Purvis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Matthew 28:19b

C: Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

1 John 1:8-9

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us recite the gift of the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment and use these teachings to examine our lives.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 20:1-17

- 1. You shall have no other gods.**
- 2. You shall not make wrongful use of the Name of the LORD your God.**
- 3. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.**
- 4. Honor your father and mother.**
- 5. You shall not murder.**
- 6. You shall not commit adultery.**
- 7. You shall not steal.**
- 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
- 9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**
- 10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or (husband).**

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Mark 12:28-31

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength...you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

P: Let us kneel or sit for a time of silent confession and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority. I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

"We Three Kings"

WOV #646

Verse 1, Refrain – Verse 2,3,4, Refrain – Verse 5, Refrain

***THE APOSTOLIC GREETING**

2 Corinthians 13:13

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.

***THE KYRIE**

ELW pg. 147

***GLORY TO GOD**

ELW pg. 148

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

(In Unison)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

C: 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. Amen.

WORD

MESSAGE FOR ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All who want to come forward for the Message are welcome to do so.

STORY OF SALVATION LESSON

GENESIS 1-2:4

⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the

earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

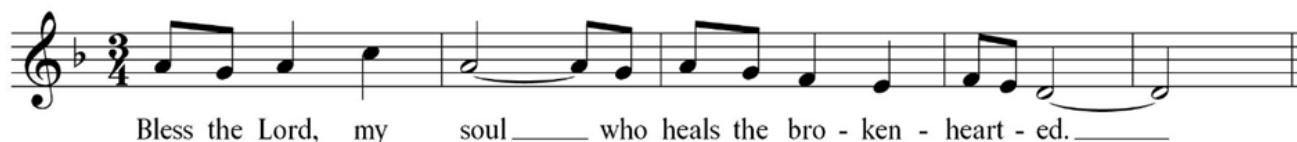
²⁷**So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.**

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

L: the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

PSALM 147:12-20



Text: Psalm 147:12-13, 1-2, 3-4, 14-15
Tune: Marty Haugen
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Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem, chant praises to your God.
The strength of God is your fortress sure, and blessed are your children.

Refrain

All praise to you, O gracious God, your goodness fills the earth.
You raise anew Jerusalem, and gather all your lost ones.

Refrain

You heal the hurt and broken heart, you bind up ev'ry wound,
you number all the stars of night and call each one by name.

Refrain

The peace of God shall be your hope, God's finest wheat,
your food, the word of God fills all the earth, as rapid as the whirlwind.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

EPHESIANS 3:1-12

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

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

L: the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

STORY OF SALVATION TIMELINE

The timeline below offers an overview of the Story of Salvation lesson from Genesis to Revelation. The + marks where we are now. The memory verse is in bold.

Creation: Fall : Promise : Exodus : Conquest : Judges: + Kings and Prophets : Exile : Restoration : 2nd Temple : JESUS : +Apostles : Last Day : New Creation

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 6:68

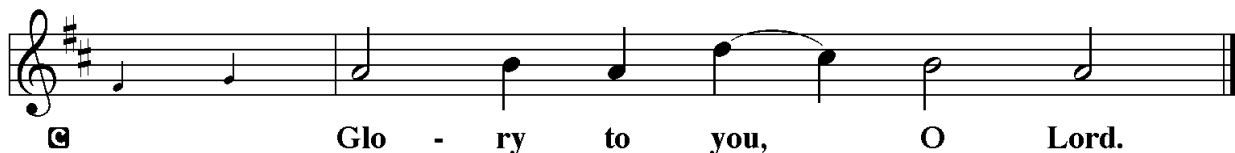
C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

*GOSPEL

MATTHEW 2:1-12

Those who are able may stand to honor Christ during the reading of the Gospel.

Response after the announcement:

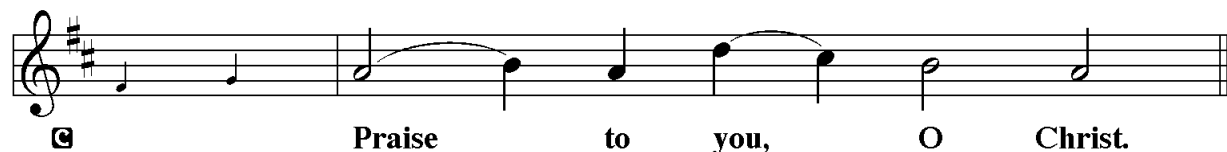


¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened,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

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



MESSAGE

“Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh”

On Creation Epiphany

The Law is an aspect in the Word that shows our brokenness, sin and need for Jesus' saving power: I choose to do whatever I want to do with this life. Existence is just an accident, right?

The Gospel is an aspect in the Word that gives strength, wisdom and hope in Jesus' ultimate saving power: The LORD creates, sustains, gives life and calls us to relationship with Him, to be fruitful and multiply, to care for His good creation, and ultimately to rest and rejoice in Him.

So What?: We are made in God's image. Respect all people (Genesis 1:26). Take care of the good Earth (Genesis 1:26). Be fruitful and multiply in family, friends, work and play (Genesis 1:28 and 2:3). Walk and rest with God (Genesis 2:3). Worship Christ regularly and look for His epiphanies given day by day in 2025.

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”*

ELW# 308

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

All are invited to confess our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have not received the gift of baptism or would like to affirm your faith in Jesus and join His mission here, please indicate on the attendance registry and talk to an usher or the pastor.

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

1 Timothy 2:1-4

AM: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence may be kept. Each prayer will conclude: Lord in Your mercy, and the congregation may respond **Hear our prayers.**

Prayers are commended in Jesus' Name.

AM: All these prayers and whatever else You see that we need we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Matthew 5:22-24: Ephesians 4:1-3

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

THE MEAL

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

2 Corinthians 9:7-8

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Star of the East"

Greg Gilpin

***OFFERTORY**

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Psalms 51:10-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

***THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(In Unison)

C: Blessed are You, O God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with Your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

2 Timothy 4:22, Colossians 3:1, Psalm 136

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 our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE FOR THE DAY AND THE HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, 1 Corinthians 11

P: 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.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Matthew 6:9-13

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

***LAMB OF GOD**

John 1:29

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

***DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

All baptized Christians are welcome to Holy Communion. Here we receive forgiveness, the gift of abiding in Jesus, the remembrance of His sacrificial love for us on the Cross, and the promise of eternal life (Luke 24:13-35, John 6:22-59, 1 Cor. 11:23-26). Please request grape juice or gluten free bread if needed. (Please take your communion cup as you leave and discard in trashcan.)

P: This is the body of Christ given for you. This is the blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION MUSIC

"I Come with Joy"

ELW #482

"Come to the Table"

ELW #481

SENDING

***THE BLESSING**

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

C: Amen.

Luke 2:29-32

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

C: Amen.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

“The First Noel”

ELW #300

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *“Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern”* Johann Christopher Bach



THOSE SERVING AT LUTHERAN CHAPEL TODAY

Ministers.....	People of Lutheran Chapel
Pastor.....	Michael Comer
Administrative Assistant.....	Susan Hibschi
Director of Music Ministries.....	Kathie Riebe
Choir Accompanist.....	Anna Gilreath
Assistant Minister.....	Sylvia Fogle
Lector.....	Jenny Williamson
Acolyte.....	Elana Hoffman
Crucifer.....	Maddie Potter
Head Ushers.....	Steve Clark and Ervin Hoffman
First Aid/AED/CPR.....	Perry Linkous
Council Members of the Month.....	Jason Sanders and James Hovis

Upcoming EVENTS



GENERAL INFORMATION: If your family is in need of a **nursery** attendant during the 10:00 service, please let our ushers know and they will contact one of our attendants. **Restrooms** are located on the bottom floor of the Sanctuary. Additional restrooms are located in the Educational Building and *do not require the use of stairs*. If needed, please see an usher for assistance in locating them.

TO GIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS ONLINE: This QR code goes straight to the “Easy Tithe” page on the website that accepts tithes and offerings electronically.



ESTHER CIRCLE: Esther Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall on **Monday, January 6th** at 10 am.

REBECCA CIRCLE: Rebecca Circle will gather for dinner at Tino’s in Lincolnton **Monday, January 6th** at 6 pm.

CLOTHING CLOSET GIVEAWAY: There will be a clothing closet giveaway on **Saturday, January 11th** from 9-12 pm.

OWLS: Our next *OWL-standing* time of fellowship will be held at BBQ King in Lincolnton on **Thursday, January 16th** at 11:00 am. For those wanting a ride, the bus will leave at 10:30 am from the church

LOVE OFFERING: The love offering for January will be given to Cancer Services of Gaston County. This agency has an active presence in our community for 47 years. Cancer Services provides education about cancer prevention and detection, assists cancer patients, and funds cancer research. The mission of Cancer Services is to serve the community by actively promoting healthy lifestyles and providing support and services needed by people living with cancer. They provide cancer patients with limited financial and medication assistance and medical equipment is loaned free of charge. Also, they provide transportation assistance, nutritional supplements, wigs, diapers, bed pads, etc. to cancer patients. Educational programs and free cancer screening clinics are provided to promote public awareness of cancer. Everyone is personally affected by cancer at some time in their life. By supporting agencies such as Cancer Services, you are helping people who are suffering from this disease.

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL-ELECT: The council elected the following: Rob Andrews, Don Boyette, Debi Jean Wankel, and David Zibell take their vows to serve as leaders among us at Lutheran Chapel. Give them encouragement and keep them in your prayers.

ON THE GIFT AND DISCIPLINE OF GOD’S WORD IN 2025: Sunday by Sunday the Scriptures are engaged in an exact manner among us. Using the **Revised Common Lectionary** we read through most of the Bible in a 3 year discipline with many sister churches. Using the **Story of Salvation**, a survey of major Bible stories from Genesis to Revelation is kept. Finally, with the daily prayer resource in **Our Daily Bread**, the **Bible in a Year** is kept reading through the entire Scripture verse by verse. Claim the gift of God’s Word in 2025.

THANK YOU: Tremendous thanks for the monetary gift, Christmas cards, Christmas yummys, and kindness given to me and my family during Christmas 2024. It is an honor to serve as a parish pastor here at Lutheran Chapel. Peace in Christ, Pastor Michael

Weekly CALENDAR



Sunday, Jan. 5	8:30 am	Fellowship
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	11:30 am	Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
	8:00 pm	Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)
Monday, Jan. 6	8:30 am	Preschool
	10:00 am	Ester Circle (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00 pm	Rebecca Circle (Tino's in Lincolnnton)
Tuesday, Jan. 7	8:30 am	Preschool
	10:00 am	Clothing Closet Workday
	5:30 pm	Chapel Ringers (Sanctuary)
Wednesday, Jan. 8	8:30 am	Preschool
	7:00 pm	Vespers (Chapel)
Thursday, Jan. 9	8:30 am	Preschool
	11:00 am	Bible Study (Library)
Friday, Jan. 10	9:00 am	Men's Community Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
Saturday, Jan. 11	9:30 am	Hungry Peeps in (Fellowship Hall)
	9-12 pm	Clothing Closet Giveaway
	4-6 pm	Chosen Mission Group



DAILY PRAYER - A HOME ALTAR ALTERS THE HOME!: Sunrise, sunset and at meals are times for daily prayer (*Psalms 155:17*). May God bless you as you turn to Him day by day.

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - Week 1 January 5 to January 12, 2025

01/05 Morning Reading: Matthew 5:1-26—Evening Reading: Genesis 13, 14, 15
01/06 Morning Reading: Matthew 5:27-48—Evening Reading: Genesis 16, 17
01/07 Morning Reading: Matthew 6:1-18—Evening Reading: Genesis 18, 19
01/08 Morning Reading: Matthew 6:19-34—Evening Reading: Genesis 20, 21, 22
01/09 Morning Reading: Matthew 7—Evening Reading: Genesis 23, 24
01/10 Morning Reading: Matthew 8:1-17—Evening Reading: Genesis 25, 26
01/11 Morning Reading: Matthew 8:18-34—Evening Reading: Genesis 27, 28
01/12 Morning Reading: Matthew 9:1-17—Evening Reading: Genesis 29, 30

This QR code goes straight to the Daily prayers page on the website that lists the commemorations and Psalms appointments for the week.



PRAYER LIST FOR FELLOWSHIP: Wanda Anthony, Braylon Beam, Ron Behringer, Steve Bell, Pauline Bradley, Shirley Bradley, Buddy Carothers, Miles Carpenter, George Cashion, Renee Dockery, Kathy Finch, Baker Hampton, Barbara Peacock, Doug Rhyne, Kay Robinson, Pat Robinson, Barbara Robinson, Joe Veale, and Gene & Myra Weaver.

FRIENDS OF THE FELLOWSHIP: John Austin, Kyle Banes, Rick Belton, Kathy Bradley, Peggy Button, Deborah Carpenter, Jeff Cobb, Doris Coggins, Tucker Doyne, Jameson Franklin, Jennifer Hart, Bob Hice, Taylor Jordan, Vesta Lankford, Bobby Myers, Paul Nordberg, Rita Passour, Josie Putnam, Joye Rankin, Randy Reel, Morgan Rosser, Doris Sellers, Dorothy Slessman, Christy Carpenter Smith, Charlene Sorenson, Judy Turner, Becky Van Dyke, and Jimmy Watlington.

To share concerns and updates for the prayer list you can contact the church office (704-864-6491) or call/text Pastor Comer (704-787-6439)

NEXT WEEK'S LESSONS

Wednesday, January 8 ~ Evening Prayer Service

Psalm 53 "*None Do Good*"

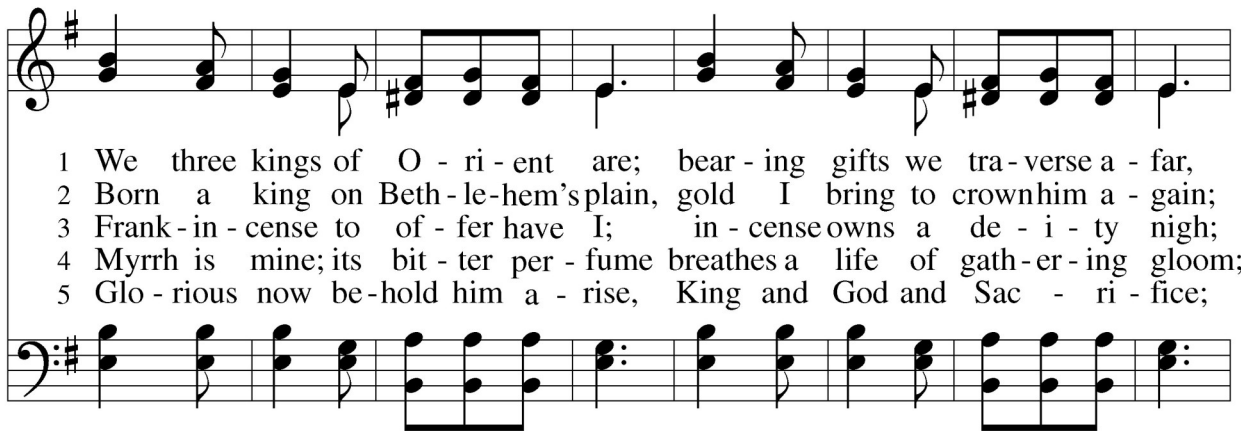
Thursday, January 9 ~ Story of Salvation Bible Study

Genesis 1:2-4 and Matthew 2:1-12 "*Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh*"

Sunday, January 12 ~ Antecommunion

Genesis 3:1-7, 14-24 and Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 "*The Example and Gift of Baptism*"

We Three Kings of Orient Are

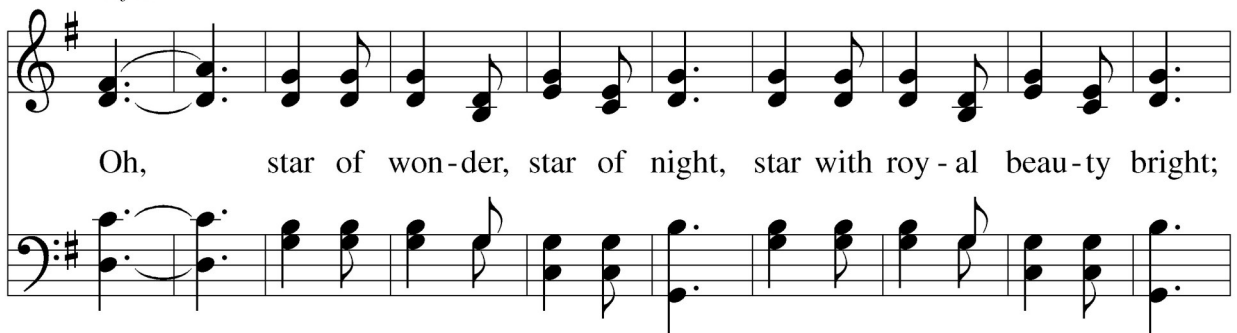


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

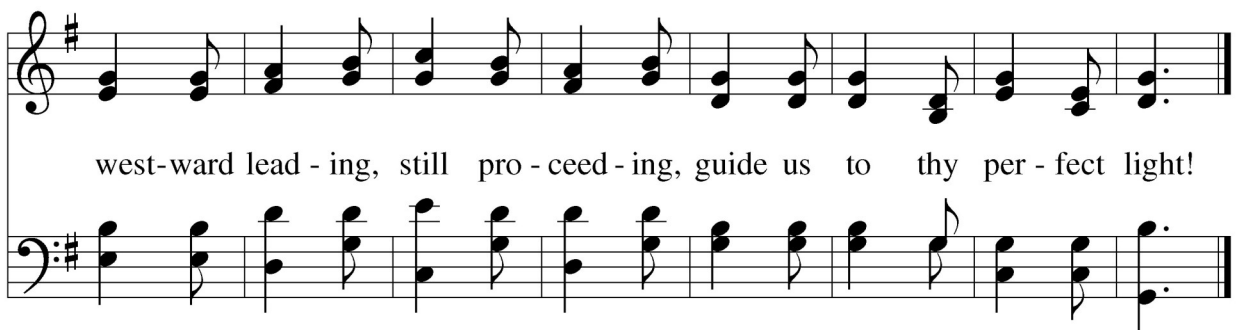


field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.

Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
 2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
 3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
 4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
 in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
 falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
 when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
 In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
 Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with
 Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
 of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
 heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your
 and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
 dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
 mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
 lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
 dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
 you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
 for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
 Our joy be all with music crowned,
 our voices gaily blending!
 For Christ goes with us all the way—
 today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
 His love is never ending!
 Sing out! Ring out!
 Jubilation!
 Exultation!
 Tell the story!
 Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!</p> | <p>6 What joy to know, when life is past,
 the Lord we love is first and last,
 the end and the beginning!
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
 transport us to that happy place
 beyond all tears and sinning!
 Amen! Amen!
 Come, Lord Jesus!
 Crown of gladness!
 We are yearning
 for the day of your returning.</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai
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I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

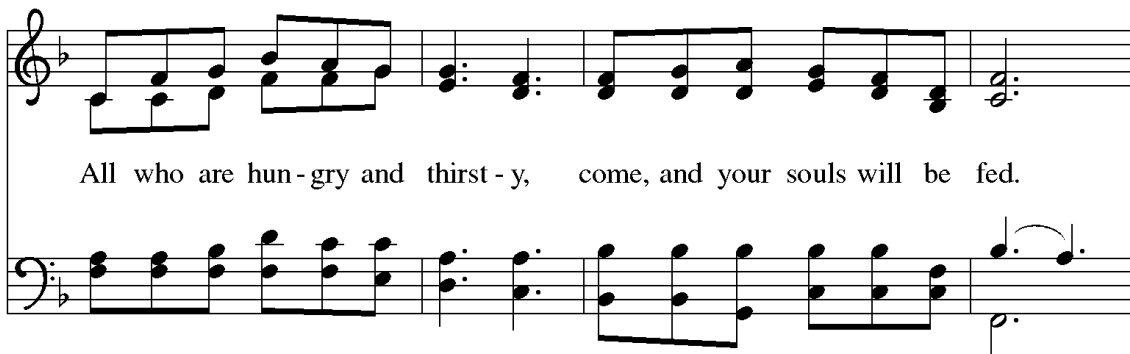
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Come to the Table



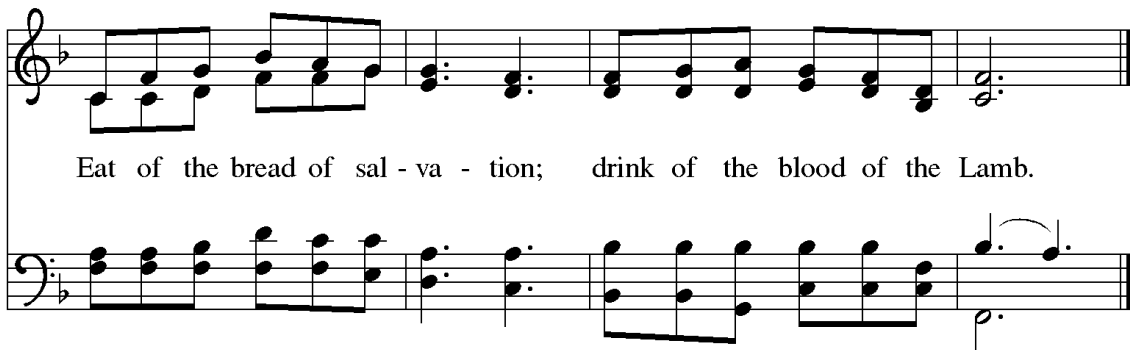
Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

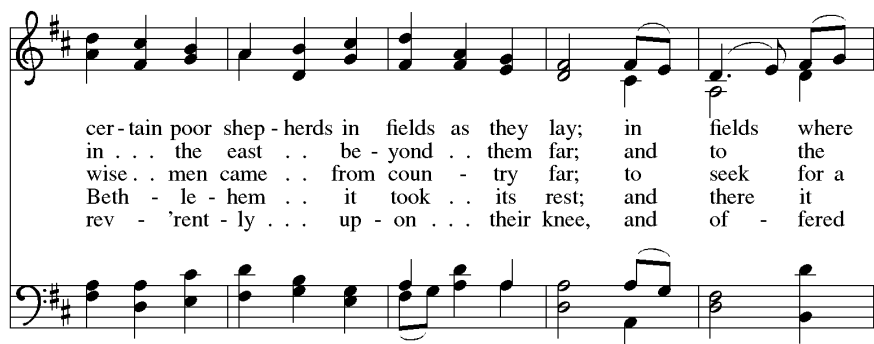
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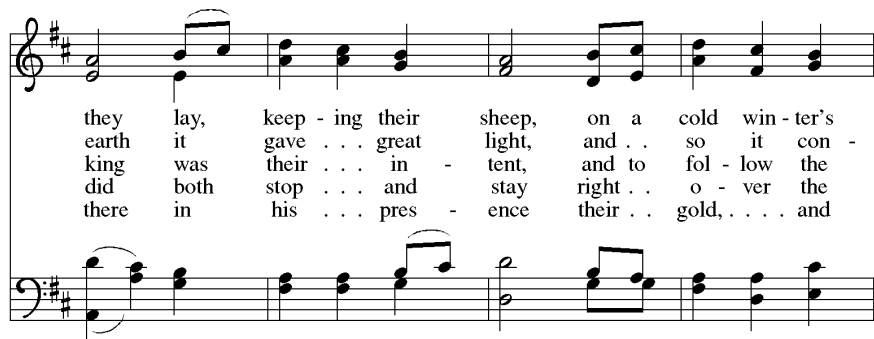
The First Noel



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 three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .

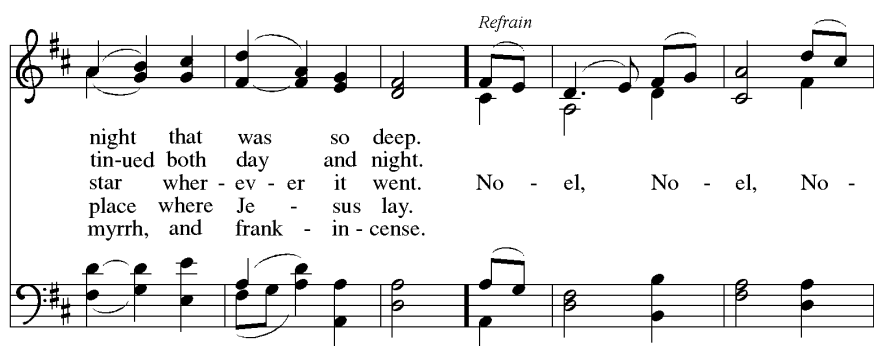


cer-tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered

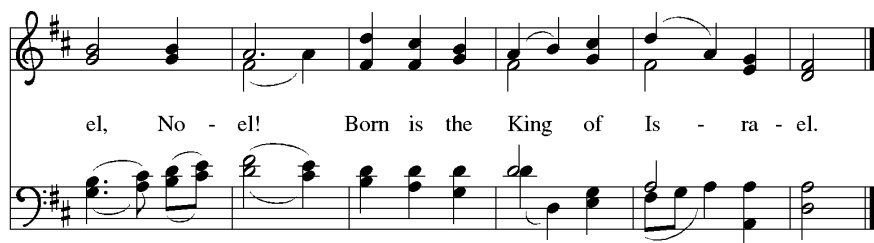


they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



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

Text: English traditional
 Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901