

The Epiphany of our Lord

January 5, 2025

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING SONG: “Long Live the King (Psalm 72)”

Verse 1

There is a King who rides on the heavens
His coming lifts the eyes of the poor
For all the power of their oppressor
Can hurt them no more

Verse 2

He is a King like no one before Him
His justice falls like rain on the hills
And all who live their lives with that hunger
Will have their fill

Chorus 1

Long live the King
Forever He shall reign
Let the heavens ring with His praise
Long live the King
The sun and moon will fade
His kingdom never passing away
Long live the King

Interlude

Long live the King

Verse 3

There is a righteous fire in his footsteps
An everlasting peace in His wake
He is the King from ocean to ocean
And age to age
Age to age

Bridge

Humbled low in a manger
Lifted high on a tree
Rose victorious Savior
Jesus Christ our King (REPEAT)

Chorus 2

Long live the King
Forever He shall reign
Let the heavens ring with His praise
Long live the King
The sun and moon will fade
His kingdom never passing away
Long live the King
Forever He shall reign
Let the heavens ring with His praise
Long live the King
The sun and moon will fade
His kingdom never passing away
Long live the King

Ending

Long live the King
Long live the King

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Gracious Father, on this day
by the shining of a star and the stirring of Your Spirit
the Magi were led to Your Son
through whom You have revealed Yourself to the nations.

P: **Heavenly Father,**
continue to 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 Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

L: Lord of Life You invite us to come to You
and You call us to follow in Your way.

P: **Yet, We confess that we have often turned from Your way**
and ignored Your revelation to pursue our own paths
or choose our own truth.
Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly.
Forgive us for the times we have not spoken or acted at all.
Forgive us for the hurt we have caused those closest to us.
Forgive us for the hurt we have caused those we have yet to know.

**Forgive us for thinking more about ourselves than others.
 Forgive us for having thought less of You than we ought.
 Forgive us for having thought little of our gifts and Your declarations.
 For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord of life who suffered and died
 for us, forgive us anew that we might live again for You. Amen.**

L: God never tires of revealing His mercy.
 God's love never runs out.
 God has made His glory clear to see in Christ
 and for His sake your sins are forgiven.
 Go follow Him. Go make Him known.

P: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" LSB 394



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
 5 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,
 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:
 That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: *Isaiah 60:1-6*

Arise! Shine! Your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has dawned.
Darkness now covers the earth,
and thick darkness covers the nations.
But the Lord dawns,
and His glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light,
and kings will come to the brightness of your dawn.

“Look up, look around, and watch.
All of your people assemble and come to you.
Your sons come from far away.
Your daughters are carried in their arms.
Then you will see this and rejoice,
and your heart will be thrilled with joy,
because the riches of the sea will be brought to you.

The wealth of the nations will come to you.
“Many camels will cover your land,
young camels from Midian and Ephah.
Everyone from Sheba will come.
They will bring gold and incense.
They will sing the praises of the Lord. – GW®

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: *Ephesians 3:1-12*

This is the reason I, Paul, am the prisoner of Christ Jesus for those of you who are not Jewish.

Certainly, you have heard how God gave me the responsibility of bringing His kindness to you. You have heard that He let me know this mystery through a revelation. I've already written to you about this briefly. When you read this, you'll see that I understand the mystery about Christ. In the past, this mystery was not known by people as it is now. The Spirit has now revealed it to His holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is the Good News that people who are not Jewish have the same inheritance as Jewish people do. They belong to the same body and share the same promise that God made in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this Good News through God's kindness freely given to me when His power worked in me.

I am the least of all God's people. Yet, God showed me His kindness by allowing me to spread the Good News of the immeasurable wealth of Christ to people who are not

Jewish. He allowed me to explain the way this mystery works. God, who created all things, kept it hidden in the past. He did this so that now, through the church, He could let the rulers and authorities in heaven know His infinite wisdom. This was God's plan for all of history which He carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. We can go to God with bold confidence through faith in Christ. – GW®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 2:1-12*

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea when Herod was king. After Jesus' birth wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the one who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw His star rising and have come to worship Him."

When King Herod and all Jerusalem heard about this, they became disturbed. He called together all the chief priests and the experts in the Scriptures and tried to find out from them where the Messiah was supposed to be born.

They told him, "In Bethlehem in Judea. The prophet wrote about this:

Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah.
A leader will come from you.
He will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called the wise men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. As he sent them to Bethlehem, he said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you have found Him, report to me so that I may go and worship Him too."

After they had heard the king, they started out. The star they had seen rising led them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were overwhelmed with joy to see the star. When they entered the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary. So they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasure chests and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they left for their country by another road. – GW®

SERMON HYMN: "Hail O Source of Every Blessing"

LSB 409



1 Hail, O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Fa - ther of our
 2 Once far off but now in - vit - ed, We ap - proach Your
 3 Hail, O all - in - vit - ing Sav - ior! Gen - tiles now their



hu - man race! Gen - tiles now, Your grace pos - sess - ing, In Your
 sa - cred throne, In Your cov - e - nant u - nit - ed, Rec - on -
 of - f'rings bring, In Your tem - ples seek Your fa - vor, Je - sus



courts ob - tain a place. Grate - ful now, we fall be - fore You,
 ciled, re - deemed, made one. Now re - vealed to east - ern sa - ges,
 Christ, our Lord and King. May we, bod - y, soul, and spir - it,



In Your Church re - jice to live, See Your glo - ry
 See the Star of Mer - cy shine, Mys - t'ry hid in
 Live de - vot - ed to Your praise, Glo - rious realms of



and a - dore You, Thank - ful for the grace You give.
 for - mer a - ges, Mys - t'ry great of love di - vine.
 bliss in - her - it, Grate - ful an - thems ev - er raise.

MESSAGE: "You are Servants of the Revealed Mystery" Ephesians 3:1-12

SONG OF THE DAY: “Ignite”

Verse 1

Lord you call us
To be people of peace
To reconcile
And to redeem
Lord we're willing
But we are weak
Give us strength to serve—All we meet

Pre-Chorus 1

To the weak and the poor made known
May your love through us be shown

Chorus 1

Spirit of God ignite our hearts
To burn bright for yours
Let us be the light to all
All the dark

Verse 2

Lord you call us
To be people of love
Living sacrifice
To your glory of Lord
Transform us
By the blood of your Son
Bringing justice and mercy
Walking with you God

Pre-Chorus 2

To the weak and the poor made known
May your love through us be shown

Chorus 2

Spirit of God ignite our hearts
To burn bright for yours
Let us be the light to all
All the dark

Bridge

Ignite in us pure holiness
Cleanse us from all selfishness
Lead us in paths of righteousness
To the work You prepared in advance for us

Chorus 3

Spirit of God ignite our hearts
To burn bright for yours
Let us be the light to all
All the dark

OFFERING: *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Maraley at mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

- L:** The Magi brought to You their treasures,
P: **receive O Lord, the gifts we bring, ourselves, our time and our possessions; signs of Your gracious love given through Him who gave Himself for us.**
- L:** Through these gifts fund and support ministry here at Bethany that leads many to behold Your glory in Christ in whose name we pray.
- P:** **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES' CREED *(*catholic means the universal Christian Church)*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day He rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.

✠ *Holy Communion* ✠

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.

To help you prepare for communion we invite you to take a few moments of quiet prayer. For aid there are prayers on the front page of the hymnal for both before and after the reception of communion. Or simply pray, *Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation You invite me to come to You, to eat and drink Your holy body and blood as You Yourself have promised to give in this sacrament of Your altar. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this Your meal that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

L: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

*For those communing, who so desire, the center cups in each tray are **alcohol free**.
The wafers on the stand next to the pillar pulpit side (when kneeling for communion) or on the
stand in front of the baptismal font (when processing for communion) are **gluten free**.*

DISTRIBUTION SONGS:

“We Will Feast in the House of Zion”

Chorus

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

Verse 1

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld protected gathered up

Verse 2

In the dark of night before the dawn
My soul be not afraid
For the promised morning oh how long
Oh God of Jacob be my strength

Verse 3

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together bring shalom

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

LSB 411



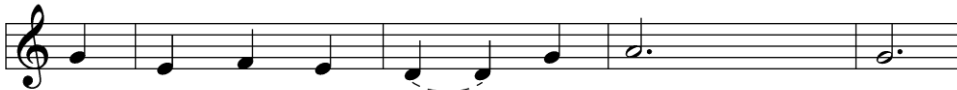
1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



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

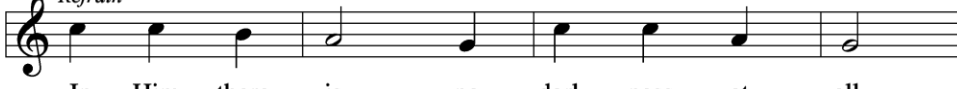


God set the stars to give light to the world.
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
When we have run with pa - tience the race,



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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

THE BLESSING:

L: The God of all glory dwell in you richly,
name you beloved, shine brightly on your path;
and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

P: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "As with Gladness Men of Old"

LSB 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.

POSTLUDE

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“Long Live the King, Psalm 72”

CCLI Song #7164823

Kip Fox | Paul Elliot

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“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” LSB 394

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-85, alt. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93.

Text and music: Public domain.

“Hail, O Source of Every Blessing” LSB 409

Text: Basil Woodd, alt. Tune: *Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch*, Halle, 1704, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen;

Setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain.

“Ignite”

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“We Will Feast in the House of Zion”

CCLI Song # 7041364 Joshua Moore | Sandra McCracken

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“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” LSB 411

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

Music: Kathleen Thomerson

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“As with Gladness Men of Old” LSB 397

Text: William C. Dix, alt. Tune: Conrad Kocher; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958. Text and music: Public domain.

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SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 9:30...Eric Vega

Lector 8:00...Ruth Lopez

Liturgist...Pastor Kevin Kritzer

Director of Music & Worship Arts...Noah Freeman

Children’s Message...Alissa Brege

Crucifer 9:30...Henry Cerulle

Lector 9:30...Mike Riordan

Preacher...Vicar John Alwood

Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley

Sound...Felix Rivera, Jon Widmann

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If You’re a Visitor, WELCOME! We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. If you would like more information about Bethany and its ministries, please scan the QR code to the right. You will be directed to Bethany’s fillable information form.



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Please visit our websites to find out more about our Church, School and Preschool. Get weekly updates by signing up for the **Bethany Bullet**—our weekly capsule of worship highlights and campus-wide information.

Bethany Lutheran Church and its Ministries are found at: www.bethanylutheran.org

Bethany Lutheran School information can be found by visiting their website at: www.bethanylutheran.org/school/

Bethany Preschool's website: www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/

To sign up for the weekly **Bethany Bullet**: <https://bit.ly/BethanyBulletSignUp>

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DONATE TO BETHANY'S FLOWER FUND!

Flowers are used to decorate the altar every Sunday, for special seasons such as Christmas and Easter, as well as other important dates during the church calendar. You are able to make two types of donations to the Altar Flower Fund: a general donation and a special request with recognition.



- **A SPECIAL REQUEST WITH RECOGNITION*** is a special type of Altar Flower donation. This request will be printed in the bulletin. For example, it could be given in memory of a person who has gone before us, for a wedding anniversary, baptismal birthday or a birthday celebration, etc. **This recognition has a suggested donation of \$75.**
- **A GENERAL DONATION TO THE ALTAR FLOWER FUND** enables Bethany to have flowers in worship and for our shut-in and hospitalized members to receive flowers from our flower ministry team, even when no one has ordered flowers for specific purposes on Sunday. **This General Donation is for any amount you wish to give.**

*If you are making a **Special Request with Recognition**, please use this form to let us know of your donation **for a specific Sunday date** and what the significance of that donation is towards. **IMPORTANT:** Please complete this form at least **2 weeks prior** to that date, so that information regarding your donation can be printed in the Sunday bulletin for the date requested.

Sign up to donate to Bethany's Altar Flower Fund, please use this URL:

<https://bit.ly/BLCAltarFlowers>



Or scan Bethany's Flower Fund QR code to the right: