



***“A Merry Gentile Christmas”***  
***Sunday, January 8, 2023 9:00 AM***  
***Epiphany of Our Lord***

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**“Jesus Loves Me”**

*arr. Thompson*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BELL CHOIR ANTHEM**

**“How Firm A Foundation”**

*arr. Waldrop*

**OPENING HYMN**

**“HAIL, O SOURCE OF EVERY BLESSING”**

***LSB 409***

- 1 Hail, O Source of ev’ry blessing,  
Father of our human race!  
Gentiles now, Your grace possessing,  
In Your courts obtain a place.  
Grateful now, we fall before You,  
In Your Church rejoice to live,  
See Your glory and adore You,  
Thankful for the grace You give.
- 2 Once far off but now invited,  
We approach Your sacred throne,  
In Your covenant united,  
Reconciled, redeemed, made one.  
Now revealed to eastern sages,  
See the Star of Mercy shine,  
Myst’ry hid in former ages,  
Myst’ry great of love divine.
- 3 Hail, O all-inviting Savior!  
Gentiles now their off’rings bring,  
In Your temples seek Your favor,  
Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.  
May we, body, soul, and spirit,  
Live devoted to Your praise,  
Glorious realms of bliss inherit,  
Grateful anthems ever raise.

Text: Basil Woodd, 1760–1831, alt.  
Text: Public domain

**INVOCATION**

**[P]** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**[C]** Amen.

**OPENING COLLECT**

**[C]** Almighty God, to You all hearts are open, all desires known, and from You no secrets are hid:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love  
you, and worthily magnify Your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*LSB 154*

- P** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.
- C** Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:  
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:  
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.  
For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## 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.

## FIRST READING

*Isaiah 60:1–6*

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
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.  
And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.  
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.  
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.  
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.

## SECOND READING

*Ephesians 3:1–12*

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by

revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 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. 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.

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

## HYMN

## “O MORNING STAR, HOW FAIR AND BRIGHT”

LSB 395

- 1 O Morning Star, how fair and bright!  
You shine with God's own truth and light,  
Aglow with grace and mercy!  
Of Jacob's race, King David's son,  
Our Lord and master, You have won  
Our hearts to serve You only!  
Lowly, holy!  
Great and glorious,  
All victorious,  
Rich in blessing!  
Rule and might o'er all possessing!
- 2 Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,  
And deep within our hearts now shine;  
There light a flame undying!  
In Your one body let us be  
As living branches of a tree,  
Your life our lives supplying.  
Now, though daily  
Earth's deep sadness  
May perplex us  
And distress us,  
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.
- 3 Lord, when You look on us in love,  
At once there falls from God above  
A ray of purest pleasure.  
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood  
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food.  
You are our dearest treasure!  
Let Your mercy  
Warm and cheer us!  
O draw near us!  
For You teach us  
God's own love through You has reached us.

- 4 Almighty Father, in Your Son  
You loved us when not yet begun  
Was this old earth's foundation!  
Your Son has ransomed us in love  
To live in Him here and above:  
This is Your great salvation.  
Alleluia!  
Christ the living,  
To us giving  
Life forever,  
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!
- 5 O let the harps break forth in sound!  
Our joy be all with music crowned,  
Our voices gladly 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!  
Great is He, the King of Glory!
- 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!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608  
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## THE HOLY GOSPEL

**Matthew 2:1–12**

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.  
**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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, 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.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 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.’”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 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." 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. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 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. 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 to You, O Christ.

## THE SERMON

## "A MERRY GENTILE CHRISTMAS!"

### NICENE CREED

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**P** God of love and mercy,

**C** Hear our Prayer.

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** When you call to Me, I will answer you, says the Lord.

**C** I will be with you in trouble; I will rescue you and honor you.

**P** With long life the Lord will satisfy you

**C** and show you His salvation.

*(Silence for meditation and reflection)*

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**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** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you 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 the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.

### PAX DOMINI

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

**C** And also with you.

### HYMN

#### “THE PEOPLE THAT IN DARKNESS SAT”

LSB 412  
sts. 1, 4, 6

1 The people that in darkness sat  
A glorious light have seen;  
The light has shined on them who long  
In shades of death have been,  
In shades of death have been.

4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
The Everlasting Lord,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor,  
The God by all adored,  
The God by all adored.

△ 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
And make us Thine alone,  
Who with the Father ever art  
And Holy Spirit, one,  
And Holy Spirit, one.

## PREFACE

**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.

## PROPER PREFACE

## SANCTUS

*LSB 161*

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**P** Holy and gracious Father: In Your infinite love You made us for Yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, You, in Your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, Your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to You, the God and Father of all.  
He stretched out His arms upon the cross, and offered Himself, in obedience to Your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.  
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night on which 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. Do this in remembrance of Me."  
In the same way also after supper, He took the cup; and when He had given thanks, He blessed it and gave it to His disciples and said, "Take, drink of this all of you: This cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which is shed for You and for many for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

**P** Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C** Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

**P** We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this our act of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling His death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts of bread and wine. Sanctify them by Your Holy Spirit to be for Your people the Body and Blood of Your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve You in unity, steadfastness, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all Your saints into the joy of Your eternal kingdom.

## THE GREAT AMEN

**P** All this we ask through Your Son, Jesus Christ: By Him, and with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is Yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

### INVITATION

**P** Welcome to the Lord's Table. Receive the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation.

**C** Amen.

### AGNUS DEI

*LSB 163*

**C** 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.

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

#### “SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE”

*LSB 394*

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,  
Manifested by the star  
To the sages from afar,  
Branch of royal David's stem  
In Thy birth at Bethlehem:  
Anthems be to Thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.
- 2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
And at Cana wedding guest  
In Thy Godhead manifest;  
Manifest in pow'r divine,  
Changing water into wine;  
Anthems be to Thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.
- 3 Manifest in making whole  
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
Manifest in valiant fight,  
Quelling all the devil's might;  
Manifest in gracious will,  
Ever bringing good from ill;  
Anthems be to Thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.
- 4 Sun and moon shall darkened be,  
Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;  
Christ will then like lightning shine,  
All will see His glorious sign;  
All will then the trumpet hear,  
All will see the Judge appear;



Thou by all wilt be confessed,  
God in man made manifest.

- 5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord,  
Present in Thy holy Word—  
Grace to imitate Thee now  
And be pure, as pure art Thou;  
That we might become like Thee  
At Thy great epiphany  
And may praise Thee, ever blest,  
God in man made manifest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.  
Text: Public domain

### “O CHRIST, OUR TRUE AND ONLY LIGHT”

LSB 839

- 1 O Christ, our true and only light,  
Enlighten those who sit in night;  
Let those afar now hear Your voice  
And in Your fold with us rejoice.
- 2 Fill with the radiance of Your grace  
The souls now lost in error’s maze;  
Enlighten those whose inmost minds  
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.
- 3 O gently call those gone astray  
That they may find the saving way!  
Let ev’ry conscience sore oppressed  
In You find peace and heav’nly rest.
- 4 Shine on the darkened and the cold;  
Recall the wand’ers to Your fold.  
Unite all those who walk apart;  
Confirm the weak and doubting heart,
- 5 That they with us may evermore  
Such grace with wond’ring thanks adore  
And endless praise to You be giv’n  
By all Your Church in earth and heav’n.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Text: Public domain

### POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- P** Eternal God, Heavenly Father, You have graciously accepted us as living members of Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and You have fed us with the spiritual food in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve You with gladness and unity of heart; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

### SALUTATION

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

## **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.

## **CLOSING HYMN**

### **“AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD”**

*LSB 397*

- 1 As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led by Thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,  
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Thee, whom heav’n and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare  
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin’s alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to Thee, our heav’nly King.
- 4 Holy Jesus, ev’ry day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.
- 5 In the heav’nly country bright  
Need they no created light;  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
Thou its sun which goes not down;  
There forever may we sing  
Alleluias to our King.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## **DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in God's peace; love and serve your neighbor!

**C** Thanks be to God!

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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