

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Proclaiming the Love of God for All People



January 3, 2021
Epiphany

January 3, 2021
ELW Worship, Setting 3

We welcome you today and are thankful you have chosen to participate in this service as you are able. We pray you are blessed by what you experience. If you have any spiritual needs, please don't hesitate to contact the church office: office@stmatthews-elca.org or 817-292-1338.

During the Passing of the Peace, if you have a bell, you may ring it at that time. Communion is included in this service; please have bread/crackers and wine/juice available to participate in this holy meal.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"March of the Kings"

Gordon King

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who was in the beginning who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy. **C. Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. God of goodness and lovingkindness,

C. we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.

We have turned away from your invitation to new life.

We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.

In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,

those we know and those known only to you,

for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P. Hear the good news of peace and salvation!

God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work,

But through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people.

With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

C. Amen.



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
 3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
 5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
 Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,
 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
 dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
 gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
 rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
 Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
 mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
 myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
 guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.
 Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

GREETING

P. God who sent the Light into our world, who shone in the Bethlehem manger, and who spreads the Spirit's rays, be with you all.

C. And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A. Let us pray: **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.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from Isaiah:

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their
nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought 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 proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Word of God. Word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"The Three Kings"

Peter Cornelius

Andrew Beckman, Solo

Three kings from Persian lands afar
To Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travellers three,
Where the newborn King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King:
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,
And there in worship they bend the knee,
As Mary's child in her lap they see;
Their royal gifts they show to the King:
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Thou child of man, lo to Bethlehem
The kings are trav'ling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
Shall lead thy heart to its resting place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
Offer thy heart to the infant King. Offer thy heart!

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from Ephesians:

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.

Word of God. Word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Hymn 301 "Bright and Glorious Is the Sky" vs 6

DEJLIG ER DEN HIMMEL BLÅ

**And this star, as bright as day,
that will never lead astray
with its message so appealing,
is the word of God, revealing
Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
Christ, the way, the truth, the life.**

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter. **C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

The gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

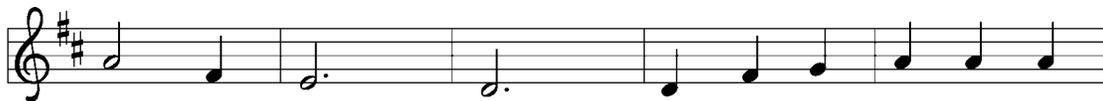
Rev. Lesley M. Radius

HYMN OF THE DAY 815 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

HOUSTON



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



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, 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.

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A. Guided by the star, together with the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

O Splendor of God's glory, shine your radiance within our world. Remove the barriers that divide us, and teach us to love with all our might. Lead us, O God: **lead us by your light.**

True Dawn from on high, set us free from the power of guilt and grave. Shine your light in our lives and grant us your grace. Lead us, O God: **lead us by your light.**

O living Spring of light from light, renew the strength of all who suffer: the poor, the sick, and those who mourn (*especially . . .*). Lead us, O God: **lead us by your light.**

Here other intercessions may be offered out loud or in our hearts.

P. God of light, into your hands we place all for whom we pray, trusting in your radiant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

J. S. Bach

OFFERING PRAYER

A. Let us pray. **C. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

PEACE

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C. And also with you.**
If you have a bell, you may ring it now.

HOLY COMMUNION

THE 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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. O Lord, you look upon us in love and refresh our souls through the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out, reflecting the light of your grace, to tell the story of Jesus Christ, our bright morning star. **C. Amen.**

BLESSING

P. Beloved children of God, what came into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people. The brightness shines in the void, and the void did not overcome it. May the light of Christ shine on you with grace and mercy and fill you with joy and peace. (*John 1:1, 3-5*) **C. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN 314 "Arise, Your Light Has Come"

FESTAL SONG

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893
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SENDING

A. Go in peace, guided by the light of Christ.

C. We will! Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Tempus Adest Floridum"

Gordon Young

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**We are appreciative of your continued offerings for God's mission and ministry.
Offerings are being accepted by mail, through on-line giving
accessible on our website, and in-person delivery during the week.**

LEADING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lesley M. Radius
Assisting Minister: Andrew Beckman
Lector: K.C. Iversen
Cantor: Adam Frame
Organist/Pianist: John Wolf
Videographer: Jacob Martella

THIS WEEK WITH ST. MATTHEW'S

SUNDAY, January 3

8:30 am Adult Sunday School on Zoom led by Mark Vinciguerra

10:00 am Online Worship

(can be viewed any time during the day on St. Matthew's facebook page)

TUESDAY, January 5

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Ready, Set, Go! Center

6:30 pm Book Club on Zoom

THURSDAY, January 7

10:00 am Women's Bible Study on Zoom, led by Pastor Lesley

SATURDAY, January 9

8:00 am Food Distribution at Neighborhood Needs (Contact: Jackie Iversen)

SUNDAY, January 10

8:30 am Adult Sunday School on Zoom led by Mark Vinciguerra

10:00 am Live-Streamed Worship on St. Matthew's website

(can be viewed any time during the day on St. Matthew's facebook page)

We Pray For:

Craig Bridges
T. J. and Dorothy Bridges
Eva Clifton
Annasophia Reese
Barbara Reid
Bill Anderson
Tom Gluntz

Lynne Haro

Rosemary Haro

Sister-in-law to Mike and Lynne Haro

Marni Watts

Niece of Sylvia Wester; cousin of Kelly Riddle

Stephanie Renfro

Daughter of Kent and Susan Robbins

Bonnie Green

Daughter of Dana Pickett

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOSPEL ALIVE – MANGER PROJECT Thank you to everyone who donated to December's Manger Project. We gathered slippers for the James L. West Center, toys for children served by San Gabriel Lutheran Church in Alvarado, and a variety of animals and life-changing gifts for the ELCA Good Gifts program. Our next Gospel Alive project will be announced in late January for February.

LIVING CONNECTED: NT-NL MATERIAL GOODS WORKSHOP **On Saturday, January 23 at 10:00 am and Tuesday, January 26 at 7:00 pm** Deaconess Katrina Martich will present a workshop on Zoom to look at ways to see waste as a gift and turn waste management into a spiritual practice of gratitude. Please register at www.katrinamartich.com for the Zoom link. The basic registration cost is \$10.

FLOWER CHART FOR 2021 Our Flower Chart for 2021 is offering other options for your gifts in honor or memory of a special person or event. You may sign up for a particular date and note how you want the \$40 suggested donation used:

- **Flowers from our florist.** Call or email the church office to let us know what date(s) you would like to host the altar flowers. You may pick the flowers up after the date you signed up for, or you may let the church office know that the flowers can be given to someone to cheer them.
- **Neighborhood Needs;** this is our local food and clothing pantry located at Altamesa and S. Hulen Street. They have had an increased local need for their clients due to the pandemic. Write a \$40 check to St. Matthew's, noted for Neighborhood Needs with the date to put your name on the Flower Chart and whom or what special event you are recognizing with this gift.
- **ELCA Good Gifts.** You may write a \$40 check to St. Matthew's, noted for ELCA Good Gifts (to be designated to their greatest need) with the date to put your name on the Flower Chart and whom or what special event you are recognizing with this gift.

If you choose Neighborhood Needs, or ELCA Good Gifts, St. Matthew's will write a check to them quarterly. There will be a small plant or flower arrangement for the altar for worship (no charge). Hosts are needed for January 17th, 24th, and 31st. Please call the church office to place your name on one of these dates.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES Please come by the church office to pick up your 2021 Offering Envelopes if you have not already done so.

FEARLESS DISCIPLESHIP STUDY GROUP This group will meet again on Wednesday, January 13 on Zoom at 6:30 pm. This group is for any adult at St. Matthew's. The Zoom link will be published on Monday, Jan. 11

CHURCH STAFF

Lesley M. Radius, Pastor

Adam Frame, Director of Music Ministries

John Wolf, Organist/Pianist

Kathy Challgren, Director of the Sounds of Exaltation Handbell Choir

Kelly Riddle, Office Assistant and Ready, Set, Go! Center Site Coordinator

Mary Nedde, Administrative Assistant

Sarah Wilson and Jocelyne Angeles, Nursery Attendants

ST. MATTHEW'S MISSION STATEMENT

Living in Christ through faith. Living for neighbor through love.

We are Reconciling in Christ; welcoming everyone.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

5709 Wedgwood Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76133

817-292-1338 | office@stmatthews-elca.org | www.stmatthews-elca.org