

# *The Epiphany of Our Lord*

*(Observed)*

*January 4, 2026*

WELCOME TO EMANUEL

**Whoever you are, wherever you are from,  
we're glad you're here!**



- If you are here for the first time, please make a **nametag** for yourself in the Welcome Area (located outside the entrance to the worship space) so we can greet you by name. Please provide your **contact information**, either in our guestbook on the desk in the Welcome Area or by using this QR code, so that we can keep in communication with you. 
- **Restrooms** are located downstairs outside our fellowship space, Luther Hall. You can use the elevator or the stairs to get to the lower level. Please join us for **refreshments** in Luther Hall following the service.
- **Hearing assistance devices** and **pew cushions** are available in the Welcome Area.
- **Children are always welcome at worship at Emanuel! Children's bulletins** and **activity bags** are available in the Welcome Area. If you need more space for your child to move about, feel free to bring them into the Welcome Area to give them room to be active. If you prefer, **supervised childcare** for children ages 6 months to 4 years is provided in our Nursery downstairs in Luther Hall.
- **Sunday School** for children in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade takes place during worship, September through May, and your child is welcome to participate. Sunday School teachers and students depart downstairs for class after the Prayer of the Day and return to worship in time for Holy Communion. On the first Sunday of each month, there is a **children's message** offered by the preacher during the service in place of Sunday School.
- All are welcome to receive **Holy Communion**. Gluten free wafers are available as an option on the small silver tray held by the assistant in the center of the aisle. Red wine and non-alcoholic white grape juice are both offered in each communion tray.

*If you have any questions or need any assistance, please ask an usher.*

## **ALL ARE WELCOME AT EMANUEL**

Recognizing that we live in a broken world, Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness. As members of Emanuel Lutheran Church and children of a loving and merciful God, we acknowledge that this reconciliation extends to people of any gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, race, culture, physical or mental ability, economic circumstances, relationship status, or any person that has ever experienced pain or oppression. Because members of different communities may have been excluded from the Church in the past, we wish to make explicit our welcome to all. It is for this purpose that we affirm that ALL people are welcome here, just as they are, contributing their individuality to the wholeness of the Body of Christ.



### **SERVING TODAY**

Presiding Minister ..... Pastor Mark Olsen  
Director of Music ..... Jonathan Reuning-Scherer  
Assisting Minister..... Lynn Sherman  
Reader..... Glenna Brodnicki  
Communion Preparers.....Melanie Sinche

### **EMANUEL MUSICIANS**

Hannah Batsford, Jacob Bender, Hillary Ekwall, Andy Foreman, Trey Hazard,  
Hannah Hickman, Kathryn Lees, GlenEllen Lehmborg, Dan Luddy, Honoka Masuyama,  
Andy Nagle, Kari Olsen, Morgan Pope, Joel Reuning-Scherer, Jane Roets, Jeff Roets,  
Austin Tewksbury, Arlo Tucker, Adam Desmarais, Stephanie Reuning-Scherer

### **AV TECHNICIANS**

Paul Christianson, David Counterman, Baker Wainscoat, Liz Arcand

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Given to the glory of God

*Though not expected, when it happens, applause is a spontaneous expression of our  
thanksgiving to God for the gifts of music and of musicians that enrich our lives  
and enhance our worship.*

***Soli deo gloria – Glory to God alone***

## INTRODUCTION

*The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.*

## PRELUDE

Variations on ‘Wie Shoen Leuchtet’

Dieterich Buxtehude  
(1637-1707)

One of the most celebrated organists and composers of the Baroque period, Dieterich Buxtehude’s legacy carries on in its own right as well as in its influence on generations of musicians for whom his work was highly influential, including G.F. Handel and J.S. Bach, who at 20 years old walked 250 miles to hear him play and study his compositions. Buxtehude spent most of his career as the organist of St. Mary’s Church in Lübeck.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

C: **Amen**

P: Trusting in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,

C: **we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace.**

**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news.**

**Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.**

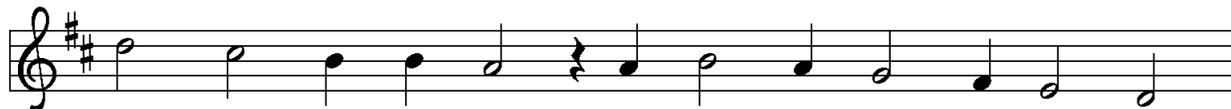
P: God’s grace upon grace flows over you. † Christ’s presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C: **Amen.**

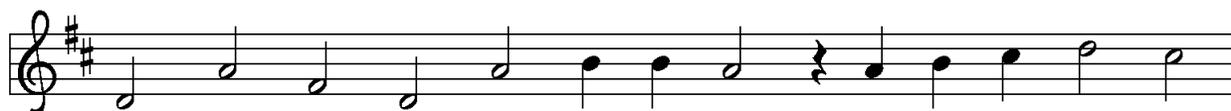
Verses 1-4



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!

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## \*GREETING

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.**

## \*KYRIE

Hear our prayer, Lord Je - sus, Hear our prayer, — Might-y God,  
— Hear our prayer, — Ho-ly Spir - it, Hear our Prayer, —  
— sweet Lord in your mer - cy, cy, Hear our Prayer.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God,

C: **on this day we remember 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

*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth  
and thick darkness the peoples,  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> Lift 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 in their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup> Then 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.

<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 proclaim the praise of the Lord.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 3:1-12**

*What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

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

<sup>7</sup> Of 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. <sup>8</sup> Although 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 <sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see 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 wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al-le-lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! Lord to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e-ter - nal life, Al-le-lu - ia!

**\*GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12**

*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

**P:** The holy gospel according to Matthew.      **C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘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.’ ”

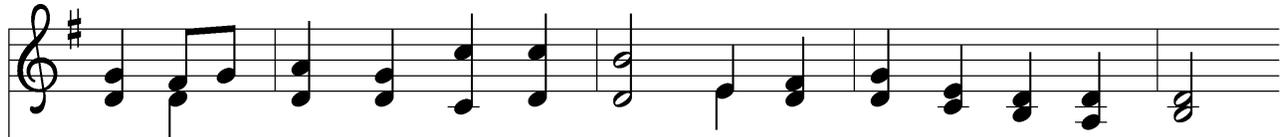
<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On 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. <sup>12</sup> And 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.      **C:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## \*HYMN OF THE DAY

## As with Gladness Men of Old

ELW 302



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 - a - ted 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.



## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

A: Let us join together in professing our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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 INTERCESSION**

*The congregation is invited to be seated for the prayers. After each petition:*

A: Hear us, O God.                      C: **Your mercy is great.**

## **\*PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.      C: **And also with you.**

*We offer each other a sign of God's peace.*

## **OFFERING MUSIC**

*Arise, Shine*  
Emanuel Choir

Kenneth Jennings  
(1925-2015)

Arise, shine, for they light has come,  
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.  
For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,  
And gross darkness the people;  
But the Lord shall rise upon thee,  
And his glory shall be seen upon thee.  
And the nations shall come to they light,  
And kings to the brightness of thy rising. (Isaiah 60:1-3)

## PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS



*We offer our gifts – our time, our talent, and our treasure - to God,  
in thanksgiving for all that God has given us.*

*To make your gift online, scan the code using your phone's camera  
or QR scanner app.*

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of glory,

C: **great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us  
and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may  
rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and might;  
Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est! Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## \*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### \*LORD'S PRAYER

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

C: **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.**

### \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**All Are Welcome at the Table!**

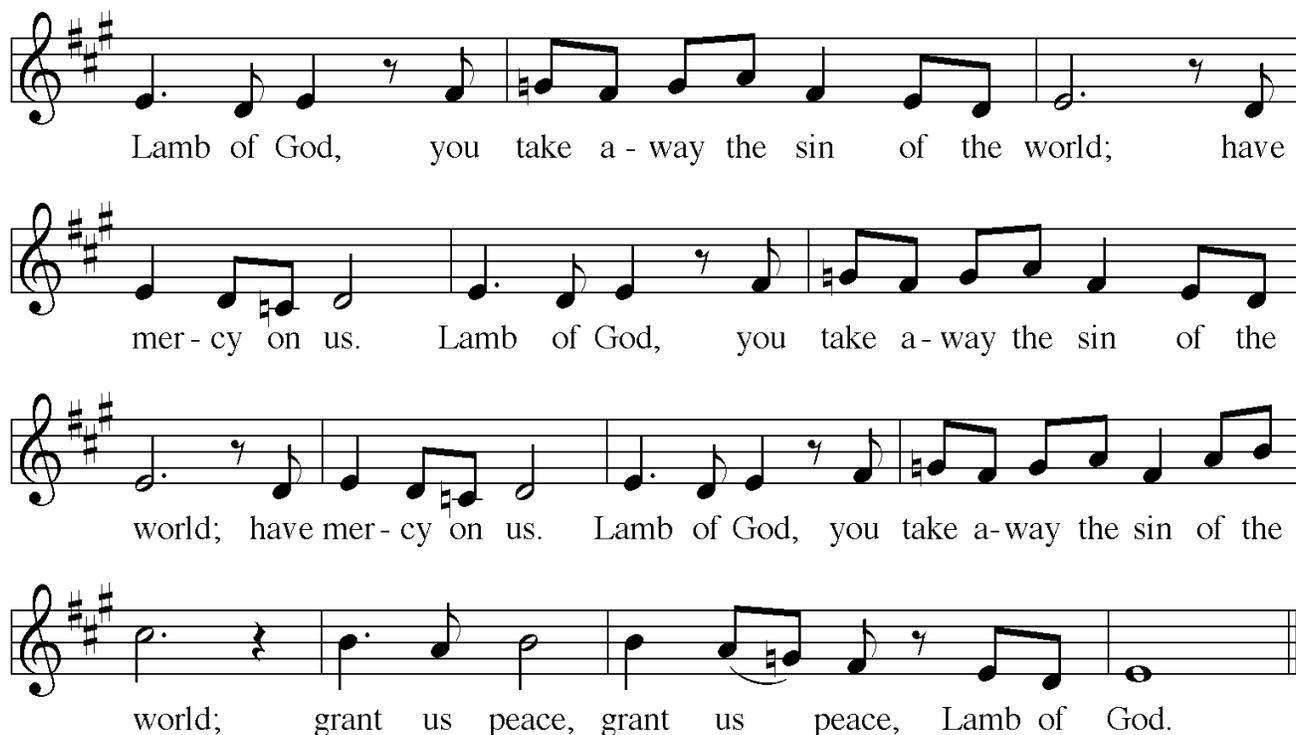
P: God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

*This is the Lord's Table and all are welcome to receive the bread & wine of communion.*

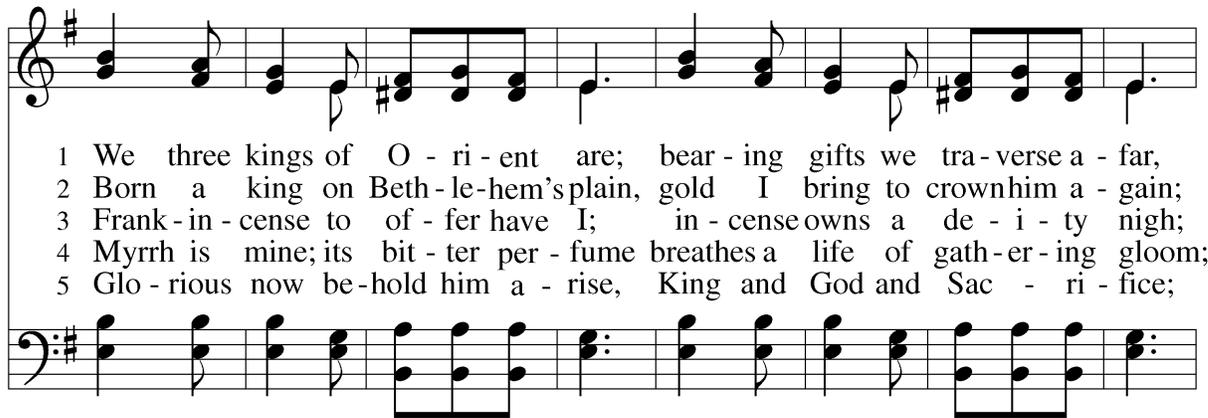
*Gluten-free wafers are served by the communion assistant in the middle and white grape juice is available in each communion tray, as needed.*

*The ushers will guide you out of your pew down the center aisle to the front of the church. Once you receive communion, please return to your seat by the side aisles. If you would like to receive communion at your seat, please let an usher know. If, for any reason, you choose not to receive the bread and wine, we invite you to come forward for a blessing.*

### LAMB OF GOD



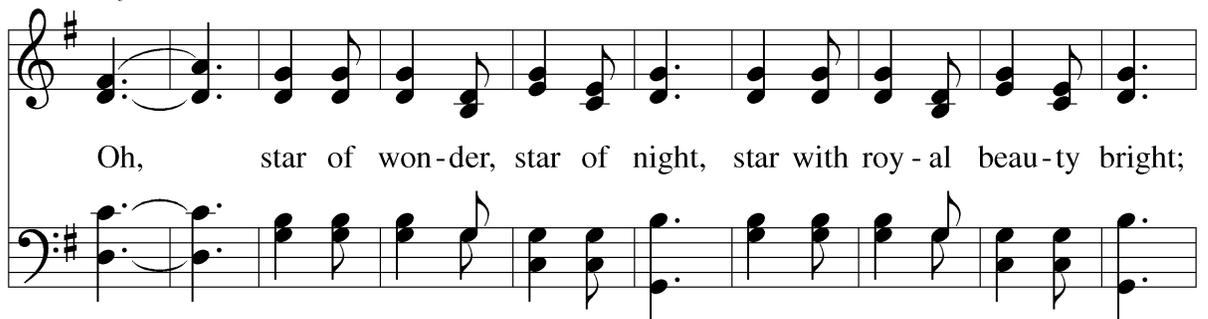
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.



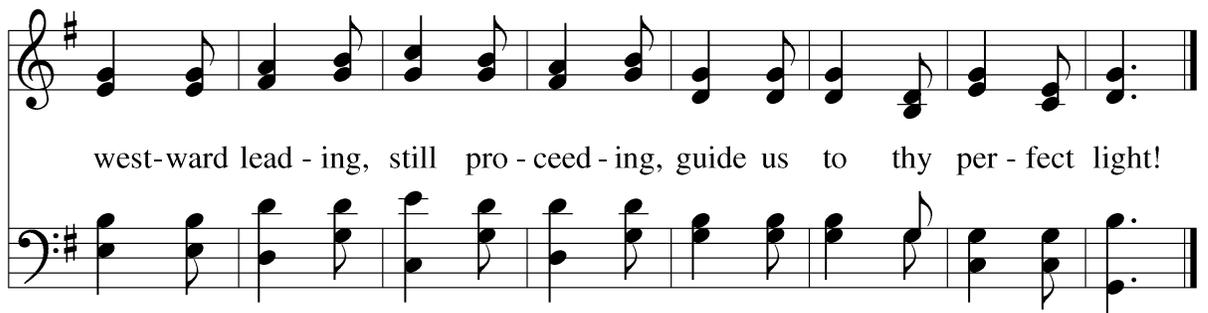
1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life 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!

**\*POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

C: Amen.

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Incarnate God,

C: **you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

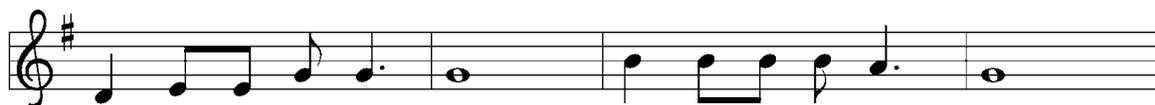
P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C: **Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

**This Little Light of Mine**

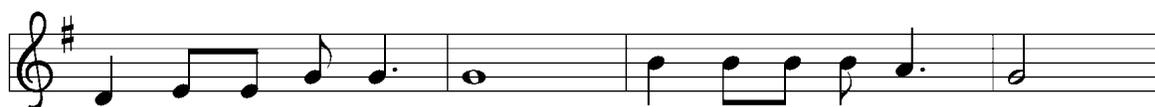
**ELW 677**



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

**\*DISMISSAL**

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: **And peace to God's people on earth!**

P: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## LIVING OUT OUR DISCIPLESHIP – WAYS TO HELP AND SERVE



**The Emanuel Food Pantry** serves hundreds of meals each month and helps to support our neighbors with basic needs. Thank you to all who have donated to help this cause! Your continued support is needed and appreciated.

**For January, we are asking for donations of cooking oil and paper towels.**

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### BE PART OF EMANUEL'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

There are many ways to serve in worship and all are welcome to volunteer! Please use the corresponding QR codes to sign up for a service. For assistance signing up, please contact Morgan in the church office. 860-525-0894 | [adminassist@emanuelhartford.org](mailto:adminassist@emanuelhartford.org)



#### **Serve as Assisting Minister**

Coordinator: Maureen Leyes  
(860) 212-5492



#### **Assist with Communion**

Coordinator: Valerie McDonald  
[valeriexyz@cox.net](mailto:valeriexyz@cox.net)  
(860) 965-6936



#### **Participate in Music**

Contact Jonathan Reuning-Scherer  
Scan QR for more information



#### **Read the Lessons**

Coordinator: Lynn Sherman  
[lynnsherman480@gmail.com](mailto:lynnsherman480@gmail.com)  
(860) 550-0518



#### **Serve as Usher**

Contacts:  
Bob Graulich (704) 996-1717  
Rick Liljedahl (860) 280-6580

### FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



#### **Host Coffee Hour**

Individuals, ministry teams, or other organizations are invited to sponsor our after-service coffee hour. Contact Monique Jennings at [moniquegray400@gmail.com](mailto:moniquegray400@gmail.com).



**Sponsor Altar Flowers** in memory or honor of someone. Your donation of \$75 will cover the cost of the flowers and your dedication will be listed in the bulletin.



**Prayer Shawls** are available in a basket in the Narthex for anyone to take for themselves or to give away to someone needing to know we care. Baby blankets and a larger supply of shawls are available in the lounge of the Parish Building. Please be in touch with a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team (Bobbee Canfield, Lynne Strecker, and Lynn Sherman) with questions.

*Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.*  
Connor Mansbach † Tracey Sherman † Christopher Favreau †

*Homebound:* Elaine Wilson † Joan Johnson † Anna-Lisa Johnson † Peggy Zachariasen

**Emanuel Lutheran Church**

311 Capitol Avenue

Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Office: 860-525-0894 | Emergency: 860-263-9096

[www.emanuelhartford.org](http://www.emanuelhartford.org) | [www.facebook.com/emanuelhartford](https://www.facebook.com/emanuelhartford)



**Pastor Mark Olsen**

Senior Pastor—extension 1  
[pastorolsen@emanuelhartford.org](mailto:pastorolsen@emanuelhartford.org)

**Jonathan Reuning-Scherer**

Director of Music  
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**Kate Bozzo**

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[Kate.Bozzo@emanuelhartford.org](mailto:Kate.Bozzo@emanuelhartford.org)

**Naomi Ngoma**

Community Life & Outreach—extension 3  
[Naomi.Ngoma@emanuelhartford.org](mailto:Naomi.Ngoma@emanuelhartford.org)

**Brittany Caldwell**

Education Coordinator

**Morgan Pope**

Administrative Assistant—extension 5  
[adminassist@emanuelhartford.org](mailto:adminassist@emanuelhartford.org)

**Rachel Blank, Natalie Fulmer, and  
Maeghan O’Laughlin**

Nursery Staff

**Rachid Chelali**

Sexton

**Tammy AbuZant, Dimitrios Passalidis**  
2025-2026 HIU Interns

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