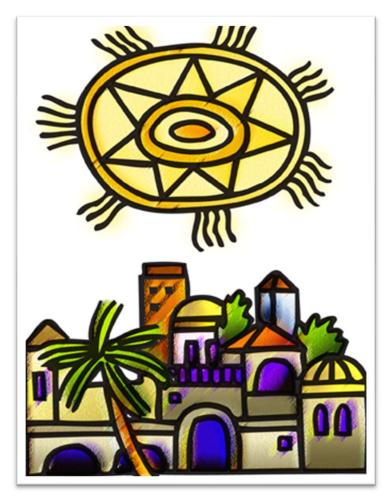
Epiphany Lessons and Carols





Concordia Lutheran Church

40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, CT

January 5, 2025

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The Prelude: And There Was A Star - D. Paxton Linda Hilliard, Organist

The Welcome

Homily Pastor Rolf Hedberg

All Stand as able.

The Dialogue

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.





- 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!
- 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.

The Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you revealed your son Jesus Christ to the gentiles; grant that your church may be a light to the nations so that the whole world may come to see the splendor of your glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All are seated.

First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, 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; hey 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.

A light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness has not overcome it.

All stand as able.



All are seated.

The Second Lesson: 1 John 1:5-9

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness has not overcome it

The Carol

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815



Third Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

In 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."

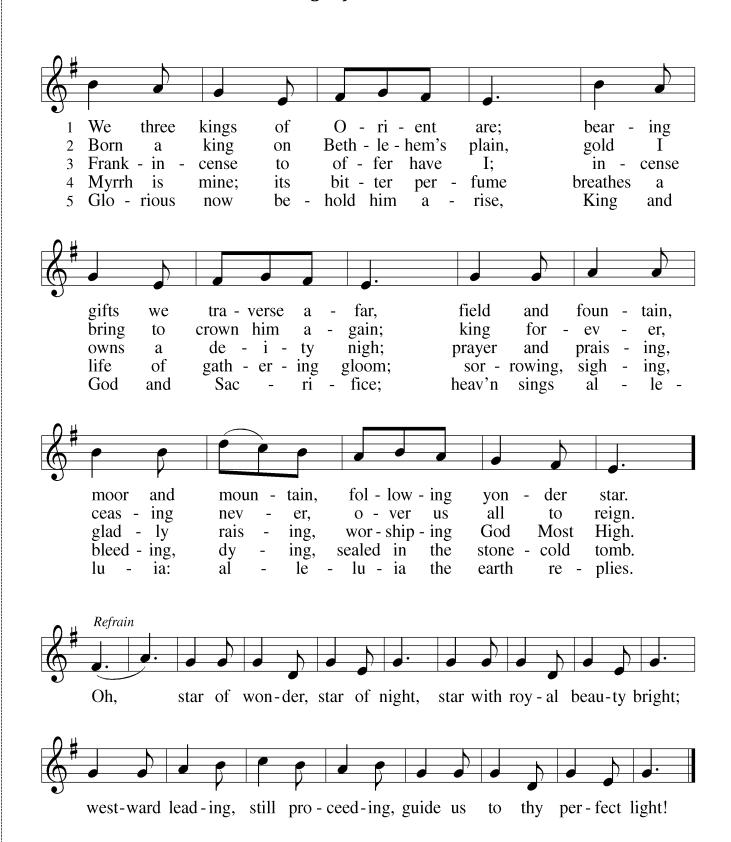
Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the 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.

A light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness has not overcome it.

All Stand as able.





Fourth Lesson: Matthew 2:13-23

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead. ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

A light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness has not overcome it.



Fifth Lesson: Luke 2:22, 24

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

A light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness has not overcome it.

The Carol

In His Temple Now Behold Him

ELW 417



Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:25-38

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

- ²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;
- ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,
- ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel."

- ³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed and a sword will pierce your own soul too."
- ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

A light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness has not overcome it.

All Stand as able.



day

star, shall light them ev - er - more.

where Christ, the bless-ed

10

Seventh Lesson: John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into

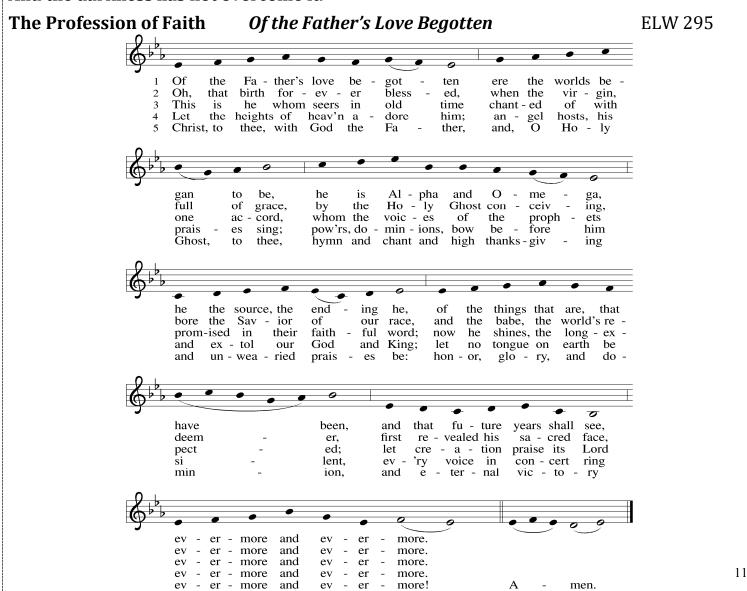
the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

A light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness has not overcome it.



The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

All are seated.

The Offertory Carol

What Child is This

ELW 296



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
- 3 So bring him in cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing? Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing. The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing; Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



All Stand as able.

The Offertory Prayer

Good and loving God,

we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,

who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others.

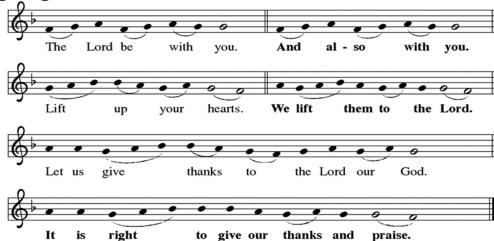
With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

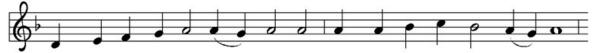
Great Thanksgiving



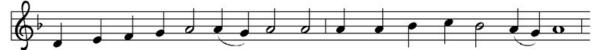
Proper Preface



Verses 1 and 2



- 1 Let all mor tal flesh keep si lence, and with fear and trem bling stand;
- 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar-y, as of old on earth he stood,
- Rank on rank the host of heav-en spreads its van-guard on the way;
- 4 At his feet the six winged ser aph, cher u bim with sleep less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood, as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de-scend - ing comes full hom-age to de - mand. he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n-ly food. comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark-ness clears a - way. "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

The Eucharistic Prayer

In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith. Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will Come Again.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection,

we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,

that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

Lord's Prayer

We are bold to pray as the first disciples:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

All are seated.

Communion

All Stand as able.

Communion Blessing

God bless you and keep you,

H Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

Amen.

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

Amen.

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

Amen.

And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

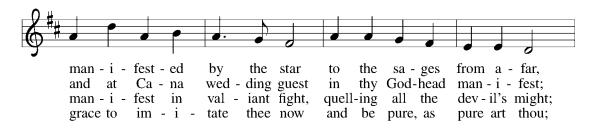
Sending Hymn

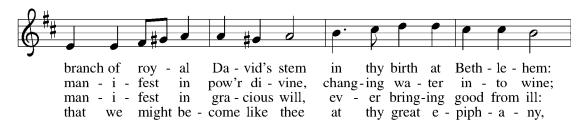
Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

ELW 310



- 1 Songs of thank-ful ness and praise, Je sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
- 2 Man i fest at Jor dan's stream, proph et, priest, and king su preme;
- 3 Man i fest in mak ing whole weak-ened bod y, faint ing soul;
- 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres ent in thy ho ly word;







an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.

ev - er blest,

and may praise thee,

Epiphany Blessing of our Church Home

- **P** Peace be to this house.
- C And to all who find a home here.

Three wise men came to Bethlehem to honor the Lord, and opening their treasure offered precious gifts: gold to the great king, incense to the true god and myrrh for Christ's body which would suffer and die like our own.

All nations will walk in His light and sovereigns in the brilliance of His splendor. And the glory of the Lord is risen on you.

Bless, O Lord, this household and community and allow all who come here to find a shelter of peace and hope. Inspire each of us to develop our individual talents and to contribute wisdom and good works for the benefit of the whole. Make this place a haven for all and a place of warmth and caring for friends and strangers and for all who go out into the world. Enlighten us with the brilliance of your Epiphany star so that, as we go out into the world, we might both discover and reveal You in our work and our play.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory now and forever, Amen.

After the blessing the initials of the legendary names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar are written with chalk on or over the main doors and framed by the numbers of the New Year in this way: 20 C + M + B 24

The names of the Wise Men are legendary. Faith tradition has turned CMB into Latin for Christie, Mansionem Benedica which means Christ, bless this house.

Sending

Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

The Postlude: Gloria in Excelsis Deo - T. Kendall Linda Hilliard, Organist

+ + To God Be the Glory + + +

Serving in Worship today:

Presiding: The Rev. Dr. Rolf Hedberg

Ushers: Don and Marian Slater

Organist: Linda Hilliard

Assisting Minister(s): Mark Winzler

David Smith

Jeanine Barber

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DAILY READINGS FOR JANUARY 6 - 12



Monday, January 6, Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Tuesday, January 7

Psalm 72

Daniel 2:1-19

Ephesians 4:17—5:1

Wednesday, January 8

Psalm 72

Daniel 2:24-49

Ephesians 5:15-20

Thursday, January 9

Psalm 72

Numbers 24:15-19

Luke 1:67-79

Friday, January 10

Psalm 29

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

1 Corinthians 2:1-10

Saturday, January 11

Psalm 29

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

1 Corinthians 2:11-16

Sunday, January 12, Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Save the Dates: Upcoming Meetings

Information about each of these meetings will be communicated in writing beforehand.

Sunday, January 19

11:30 a.m.
Kaiser Hall
Associate to the Bishop Pastor Maria Hammons
Consensus Poll on Option to Pursue

Sunday, February 9

11:30 a.m.
Kaiser Hall
Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
(Finance/Budget)

Sunday, March 9

11:30 a.m.
Kaiser Hall
Associate to the Bishop Pastor Maria Hammons
Special Congregational Meeting to Vote on Final Option





PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY



Contact parish office for Prayer Requests.

Names will be held in prayer for one month,

unless otherwise requested.

Date Requested	Praying For (person/family)	Prayers For	Requested By
12/11/2024	The family of Mark Waxenburg	As they grieve the passing of Mark Waxenburg	Lanie Turner
12/2/2024	The family of Andy Vincens	As they grieve the passing of Andy Vincens	Jan Salvatore
12/1/2024	Ed Brainerd	Healing from virus	Jane Casserly
11/24/2024	The family and friends of Eleanor Symecko	As they grieve the passing of Eleanor Symecko	Lanie Turner
11/17/2024	The Family of Megan Fleckenstein	As they grieve the passing of Megan Fleckenstein	Joel & Sandra Baranowski
10/27/2024	Robert Feder	Resilience, comfort, and healing amidst profound health challenge since March 2023.	Gail Feder
10/27/2024	Dan Burnett	Strength, comfort, and healing during this significant health challenge.	Carol Burnett

For Concordia's ongoing transition process.

The Intentions of this Community:

- † Concordia Nursery School Students and their families
- † The work of MACC
- † The work of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA)
- **†** For our Cub Scout Pack
- † For Licensed Lay Minister Beatrice Luciano and Ministerio Nueva Creación
- * For Pr. Simpson and the people of New Horizons
- * For our friends at Emanuel Lutheran and former members of St. Mary's now merged with St. John's Episcopal Church (Vernon)