

January 4

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN – Angels, from the Realms of Glory #275

CALL TO WORSHIP

L) Arise, shine, for your light has come!

C) The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

L) Lift up your eyes and look around:

C) all gather together to proclaim the praise of the Lord.

L) Your sun will never set again.

C) The Lord is our light and our salvation!

L) Your moon will wane no more.

C) The Lord is our light and our salvation!

L) Your days of sorrow will end.

C) The Lord is our light and our salvation!

L) Whom shall we fear?

C) Whom shall we fear? The Lord is the strength of our life;

whom shall we fear?

HYMN – The First Noel #300

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

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

Lord God, The Wise Ones sought you by following a star. Grant that we, too, might follow you, every day of our lives, Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ² 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.

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

⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.

L) The Word of the Lord **C) Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

² May he judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice.

³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

⁵ May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

¹¹ May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

¹² For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy and saves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

¹ This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ 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: ⁶ that

is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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 ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

L) The Word of the Lord **C) Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation:

Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.

Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

L) The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 2nd Chapter.

C) Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 2:1-12

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² 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." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They 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.' " ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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.¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.¹¹ 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.¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

L) The Gospel of the Lord **C) Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN **Your Little Ones, Dear Lord #286**

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

L) Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

L) Repairer of the broken, you separate us from our sin and unite us with one another. Heal the animosity in our hearts, and bind us together in love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

L) Author of life, you sent your spirit over the waters, your breath into your children, and guiding stars across the sky. Awaken us to the plight of the planet and send us to care for your creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

L) Light that leads the way, you make yourself known to the nations. Illuminate just paths and guide leaders in the church and the world in your holy will (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

L) Voice of the silenced, you cast the mighty from their thrones and fill the hungry with good things. Grant those in need the courage to demand equality and those with abundance the wisdom to share. Respond to any who call out in need this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

L) Proclaimer of promises, you raise up prophets and messengers in the places we least expect. Equip us to listen well to those who bring both good news and painful truths. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

L) Redeemer of the saints, you gift us with many people throughout our lives who point the way to you. We give you thanks for the recently departed and all who have loved us (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

L) With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

L) The peace of Christ be with you always. **C) And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY vs 3 In the Bleak Midwinter

OFFERING PRAYER

God of every good gift, We offer what we have back to you, knowing that your son is the greatest gift we will ever receive. Grant us glad and generous hearts, ever and always, Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

L) The Lord be with you.

C) And also with you.

L) Lift up your hearts.

C) We lift them to the Lord.

L) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C) It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ELW 207

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

COMMUNION SONG

**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, grant
us peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ALL Are Welcome)

L) The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

C) Thanks be to God.

**** Bread is Gluten Free. A Non Alcoholic option is in the center of the trays.**

COMMUNION

L) The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C) Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Christ Jesus, You have fed us with love incarnate, and we are utterly changed. Send us forth from this meal to be forces for change in this world, as we find the YES within each of us, Amen.

BENEDICTION

May God bless you with courage, as you seek the YES within you;
May Christ be born again in every risk you take for the sake of the world;
And may the Holy Spirit remind you, again and again, that you are never alone, and that you are loved beyond measure. Amen.

HYMN

This Little Light of Mine