



**Oak Valley Lutheran Church  
January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

L) Calling all seekers, all dreamers, all believers... Calling all glass-half-full optimists and lighthouse keepers... Calling all star-chasers and bedtime prayer speakers... Bring your questions, your hope, your faith and your fear into this space.

**C) God is here.**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

One of my favorite things about the Magi is that they go looking for God. Actively and consistently, day by day, they follow the star until it guides them to Jesus.

I wish I was more like that, but I admit, I tend to follow God with part of my heart. I tend to get distracted and lost, taking exit ramps off the road, following whatever new shiny sign is present. It's part of being human.

In the prayer of confession, we acknowledge that more often than we'd like to admit, we find ourselves following the wrong star. Fortunately for us, God is the map maker, and God's map is measured in grace, so we have nothing to fear. Let us pray together. Let us seek God together. Join me in the prayer of confession:

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of starlight, we know that faith isn't a vending machine. Good news can't be bought or manufactured. It does not arrive with a push of a button. Instead, in this noisy world, we have to look for you in our midst. We have to walk toward you, just as the Magi did. We have to believe that love really can change the world. We have to seek the stars beyond the city lights. Forgive us for forgetting that. Forgive us for seeking you with only part of our hearts. We long to be more like the Magi; may we walk your way every single day. Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG "Angels, From the Realms of Glory" ELW 275 v 1,4**

# Angels, from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla - tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## GREETING

L) 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L) The Lord be with you **C) And also with you.**

L) Let us pray.... 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

<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 on 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.

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

### **Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14**

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>10</sup>**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

<sup>11</sup>May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

<sup>12</sup>**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

<sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.

<sup>14</sup>**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.**

### **SECOND READING**

### **Matthew 2:13-23**

<sup>13</sup>Now 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." <sup>14</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup>and 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." <sup>16</sup>When 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. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup>"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."

<sup>19</sup>When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup>Get 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. <sup>21</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But 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. <sup>23</sup>There 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."

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

### **Gospel Acclamation**

***C) Alleluia. We have observed his star at its rising, and have come to worship him. Alleluia.***

### **GOSPEL**

L) The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter.

**C) Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Matthew 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men 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 at its rising, 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 wise men 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 at its rising, 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.

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

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF DAY      "We Three Kings of Orient Are"      WOV 646 vs 1,5**

## We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing  
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
 bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,  
 owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
 God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 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!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.  
 Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

## APOSTLE'S CREED

**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 into hell,  
 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**

L) With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

L) Guide the whole church with your wisdom, revealing God. Nurture ecumenical and interreligious understanding around the globe, especially in places of ethnic and religious strife. We pray for Lutheran World Relief and other organizations that provide humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and health care. God of grace, **C) hear our prayer.**

L) Restore your glory to the earth, creating God. Protect fragile ecosystems: rain forests, coral reefs, wetlands, prairies, and shorelines. Guide us to treasure the rich variety of animals and plants that share the world with us, especially those that are endangered. God of grace, **C) hear our prayer.**

L) Bring the nations into the way of justice and peace, righteous God. Strengthen those who work for human rights, equality, and the protection of the most vulnerable. We pray for all in public office, that they may serve with honesty and honor. God of grace, **C) hear our prayer.**

L) Help those who have no helper, delivering God. Rescue any who suffer from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Deliver adults and children who are caught in cycles of poverty. Transform social systems that enable racism and discrimination of any kind. God of grace, **C) hear our prayer.**

L) Accompany the ministries of this congregation in the coming year, abiding God. Inspire those who lead worship, teach, visit, pray, administer, and serve. Keep us mindful of the needs of others in our communities and neighborhoods (*especially*). God of grace, **C) hear our prayer.**

L) Reveal your promise by the witness of those who died trusting in you, redeeming God. Receive our thanks for their witness and faith, and guide us

by their example until we are gathered with them into your eternal presence.  
God of grace, **C) hear our prayer.**

L) Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

**C) Amen.**

## PEACE

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

## OFFERING

### "From Heaven Above" vs 1-3 ELW 268

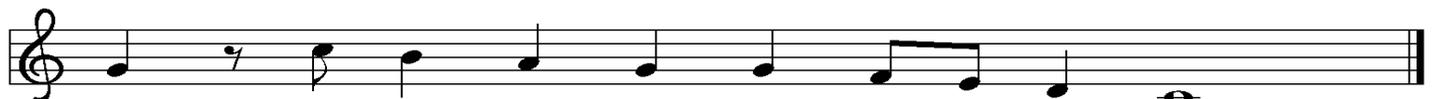
#### From Heaven Above



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come to bear good  
2 "To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,  
3 "This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your  
*Insert additional stanzas as desired.*  
12 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly child, pre - pare a  
13 My heart for ve - ry joy now leaps; my voice no  
14 "Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, who un - to



news to ev - 'ry home! Glad tid - ings of great joy I  
cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of low - ly  
sad and bit - ter cry, who will him - self your Sav - ior  
bed, soft, un - de - filed, a qui - et cham - ber in my  
long - er si - lence keeps; I too must sing with joy - ful  
us the Son has giv'n." With an - gels sing in pi - ous



bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:  
birth shall be the joy of all the earth.  
be and from all sin will set you free."  
heart, that you and I may nev - er part.  
tongue the sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:  
mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

## OFFERTORY "CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART"

## Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

### OFFERING PRAYER

L) Let us pray....God of abundance, **receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

LBW 68

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 him thanks and praise.**

L) 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:

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAGE 69

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**

L) Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

**C) Our Father....**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

**C) Thanks be to God.**

### **DISTRIBUTION**

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

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

L) Let us pray. God our redeemer, **you have fed us at this table with gifts of  
grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as  
messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your  
glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

L) God bless you and keep you, Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit  
send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

**C) Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**

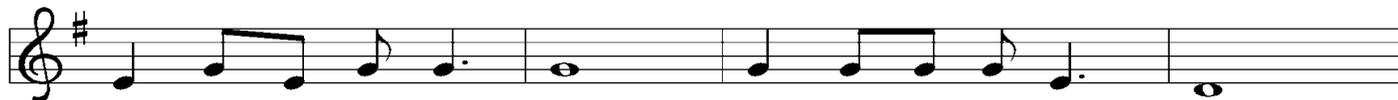
**"This Little Light of Mine"**

**ELW 677**

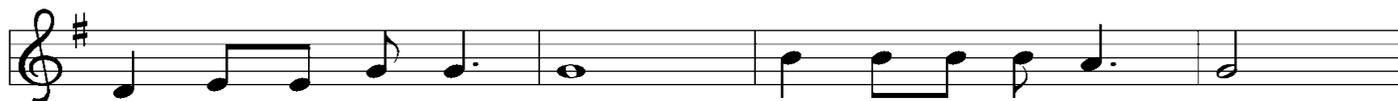
# This Little Light of Mine



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

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

**C) Thanks be to God.**