

Sunday, January 6, 2019



ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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WELCOME

SONG We Three Kings of Orient Are

Verse 1

**We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain moor and mountain
Following yonder star**

Chorus 1

**O star of wonder star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light**

Verse 2

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever ceasing never
Over us all to reign**

Chorus 2

**O star of wonder star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light**

Verse 3

**Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising gladly raising
Worshipping God Most High**

Chorus 3

**O star of wonder star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light**

Verse 4

**Myrrh is mine its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing sighing bleeding dying
Sealed in the stone cold tomb**

Chorus 4

**O star of wonder star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light**

Verse 5

**Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and sacrifice
Heaven sings alleluia
Alleluia the earth replies**

Chorus 5

**O star of wonder star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light**

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WE BEGIN

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

WE ADMIT OUR SIN AND RECEIVE GOD'S FORGIVENESS

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P According to God's eternal purpose, the Lord Jesus Christ was incarnate of the Virgin Mary to suffer and die for you and to bring you into communion with the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit. In Christ, the mystery long hidden has been revealed for all to know that we might be brought to faith and life in Him. In the name of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P **O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

C Amen.

ANCIENT WORDS OF THE PROPHETS, APOSTLES AND THE CHRIST**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 60:1–6

¹ Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the LORD's glory has shone upon you. ² Though darkness covers the earth and gloom the nations, the LORD will shine upon you; God's glory will appear over you. ³ Nations will come to your light and kings to your dawning radiance. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look all around: they are all gathered; they have come to you. Your sons will come from far away, and

your daughters on caregivers' hips. ⁵ Then you will see and be radiant; your heart will tremble and open wide, because the sea's abundance will be turned over to you; the nations' wealth will come to you. ⁶ Countless camels will cover your land, young camels from Midian and Ephah. They will all come from Sheba, carrying gold

and incense, proclaiming the LORD's praises.

SECOND READING

¹ This is why I, Paul, am a prisoner of Christ for you Gentiles. ² You've heard, of course, about the responsibility to distribute God's grace, which God gave to me for you, right? ³ God showed me his secret plan in a revelation, as I mentioned briefly before (⁴ when you read this, you'll understand my insight into the secret plan about Christ). ⁵ Earlier generations didn't know this hidden plan that God has now revealed to his holy apostles and prophets through the Spirit. ⁶ This plan is that the Gentiles would be coheirs and parts of the same body, and that they would share with the Jews in the promises of God in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ I became a servant of the gospel because of the grace that God showed me through the exercise of his power.

THIRD READING

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. ² They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. ⁴ He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote: ⁶ *You, Bethlehem, land of*

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Ephesians 3:1–12

⁸ God gave his grace to me, the least of all God's people, to preach the good news about the immeasurable riches of Christ to the Gentiles, ⁹ and **to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things.** ¹⁰ God's purpose is now to show the rulers and powers in the heavens the many different varieties of his wisdom through the church. ¹¹ This was consistent with the plan he had from the beginning of time that he accomplished through Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In Christ we have bold and confident access to God through faith in him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

Matthew 2:1–12

Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel." ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." ⁹ When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it

stood over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. ¹¹They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and

myrrh. ¹²Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

FEEDING OF THE LAMBS

SONG Christmas Offering

Verse 1

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star

**While angels sang to lowly shepherds
Three wise men seeking truth travelled from afar**

**Hoping to find the Child from heaven
Falling on their knees they bowed
Before the humble Prince of Peace**

Chorus 1

I bring an offering of worship to my King

No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing

Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due

**O Lord I bring an offering to You
I bring an offering to You**

Verse 2

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love

**There is no shadow in Your presence
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne**

**Before the Holy One of heaven
It's only by Your blood**

**And it's only through Your mercy Lord
I come**

Chorus 2

I bring an offering of worship to my King

No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing

Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due

**O Lord I bring an offering to You
I bring an offering to You**

Chorus 3

I bring an offering of worship to my King

No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing

Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due

**O Lord I bring an offering to You
I bring an offering to You**

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Words & Music by Paul Baloche CCLI # 2667878

WE CONFESS OUR FAITH IN GOD – FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT *The Nicene Creed*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and

ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated

OFFERING

***Principles of Biblical Stewardship # 2
First Fruits Giving – Proverbs 3:9-10***

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

WE PRAY

*Each petition ends with
to which you are invited to respond*

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P With exceedingly great joy in Your promises and with confidence that You will hear and answer Your people, we commend into Your hands ourselves and all for whom we pray, through Christ, our Lord, whom with the Father and Holy Spirit, You are one God and one Lord, now and forevermore.

C **Amen.**

The Sacrament of the Altar is celebrated in the confidence that our Lord gives us His very body and blood to eat and drink “in,” “with” and “under” the bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our union with Him and one another. As baptized Lutherans of the Missouri Synod, we trust His words, repent of all sin and by this act proclaim His death until He returns.

Since this act is a confession of our faith, anyone who is not yet instructed, in doubt, or comes from a different Christian tradition or confession and yet desires to receive the Sacrament, is asked first to speak with the Pastor or Deacon. Peace and Joy!

Reminders for Those Coming to The Lord's Table...

- 1. Those not yet receiving the Sacrament (both Children and Adults) are encouraged to approach the Lord's Table, kneeling and then crossing their arms to receive a blessing.**
- 2. The cups in the center of the individual tray (containing the amber color liquid) are non-alcoholic.**
- 3. The distribution will be at the Communion Rail. The Common Cup or the Individual Cup is offered in this service. If a communicant receives the individual cup, he/she is asked to hold the empty glass in such a way that it is visible to the one offering the common cup.**
- 4. Gluten-free hosts (wafers) are available upon request.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

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.**

JESUS’ WORDS (OF INSTITUTION)

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

Your Grace

**Your grace opens the way,
 that I might draw near to You with my
 heart full of faith.
 Your grace is undeserved,
 though there are times I fail, still You
 are with me.
 Your amazing grace is perfectly free,
 day by day Your grace empowering
 me,
 To please You in all things,
 to walk in Your ways,
 completely forgiven,**

and it's all by Your grace.

**Your grace lightens my load,
 Gives me the strength I need to keep
 walking this road,
 Your grace is all that I need,
 Though I am weak your grace is
 mighty within me,
 Your amazing grace is perfectly free,
 day by day Your grace empowering
 me,**

**To please You in all things,
to walk in Your ways,
completely forgiven,
and it's all by Your grace.**

**I want to walk in a manner that's
worthy of the calling you give to me.
I want to walk in a manner that's
worthy of the gospel.
I want to walk in a manner that's
worthy of the calling you give to me.
I want to walk in a manner that's
worthy of the gospel.**

Living Waters

**Are you thirsty Are you empty
Come and drink these living waters
Tired and broken
Peace unspoken
Rest beside these living waters**

**Christ is calling Find refreshing
At the cross of living waters
Lay your life down
All the old gone
Rise up in these living waters**

**There's a river that flows
With mercy and love
Bringing joy to the city of our God
There our hope is secure
Do not fear anymore
Praise the Lord of living waters**

**Spirit moving Mercy washing
Healing in these living waters
Lead your children
To the shoreline
Life is in these living waters**

**Your amazing grace is perfectly free,
day by day Your grace empowering
me,
To please You in all things,
to walk in Your ways,
completely forgiven,
and it's all by Your grace.**

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**There's a river that flows
With mercy and love
Bringing joy to the city of our God
There our hope is secure
Do not fear anymore
Praise the Lord of living waters**

**Are you thirsty Are you empty
Come and drink these living waters
Love forgiveness
Vast and boundless
Christ He is our living water**

**There's a river that flows
With mercy and love
Bringing joy to the city of our God
There our hope is secure
Do not fear anymore
Praise the Lord of living waters
There our hope is secure
Do not fear anymore
Praise the Lord of living waters**

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CLOSING PRAYER

C We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through the good and gracious gift of Your Son's body and blood. We humbly ask You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through this gift in faith toward You and in enthusiastic love toward one another. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GOD'S BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C Amen.

MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE



*...to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the
mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things....
Ephesians 3:9*

Closing Song Your Grace Is Enough

**Great is Your faithfulness O God of
Jacob
You wrestle with the sinner's restless
heart
You lead me by still waters into mercy
Where nothing can keep us apart
So remember Your people
Remember Your children
Remember Your promise O God**

**Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me**

**Great is Your love and justice God of
Jacob
You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of Your
Salvation
And all Your people sing along
So remember Your people
Remember Your children
Remember Your promise O God**

**Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me**

**Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me**

**So remember Your people
Remember Your children
Remember Your promise O God**

**Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me**

**Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me**

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JANUARY 13 - FEBRUARY 24, 2019
EXPLORE GOD

During the Season of Epiphany (January 13 – February 24) St. Matthew will be participating in Explore God Chicago 2019 by offering a special sermon series during these dates. Special small group bible Studies at a St. Matthew members home will also be offered. Please contact Pastor Blonski for more information.

We all have questions about God, faith, and purpose. Explore God is a unique effort to come together to look at these questions in an open, authentic way. Join us and invite a friend to come with you as together we Explore The 7 Big Questions.

1

Does Life Have a Purpose?

2

Is There a God?

3

Why Does God Allow Pain and Suffering?

4

Is Christianity Too Narrow?

5

Is Jesus Really God?

6

Is The Bible Reliable?

7

Can I Know God Personally?