

The Second Sunday after Christmas

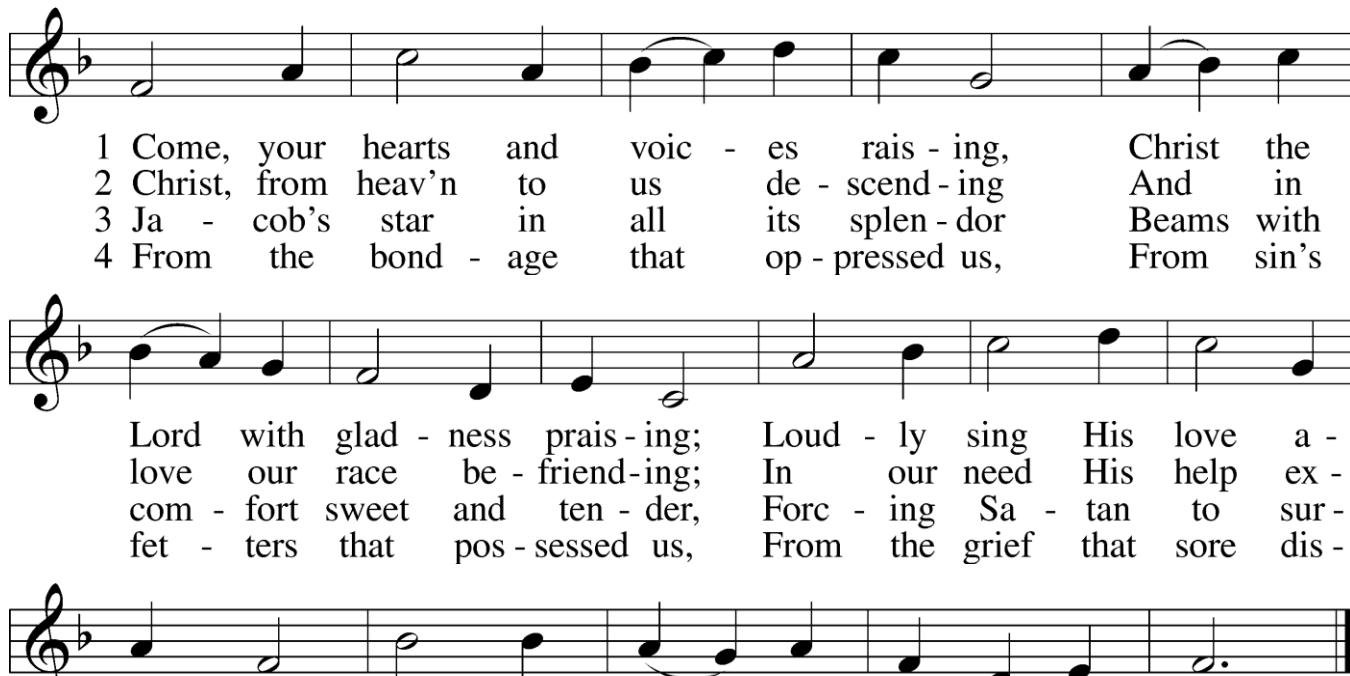
January 4, 2026

Holy Scripture tells us little about the young boy Jesus as he grew to be a man. Luke reports that when He was twelve that He stayed in the temple because He felt the need to be in His Father's house and about His Father's business. Since we have been adopted into the Father's family, how wonderful it would be if we felt the same need as Jesus.

Note: In preparation for this service, light all the candles on the Advent wreath.

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

Lutheran Service Book 375, Lutheran Worship 48, The Lutheran Hymnal 90



1 Come, your hearts and voic - es rais - ing, Christ the
2 Christ, from heav'n to us de - scand - ing And in
3 Ja - cob's star in all its splen - dor Beams with
4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, From sin's

Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing His love a -
love our race be - friend - ing; In our need His help ex -
com - fort sweet and ten - der, Forc - ing Sa - tan to sur -
fet - ters that pos - sessed us, From the grief that sore dis -

maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.
tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.
ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'r's of hell.
tressed us, We, the cap - tives, now are free.

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing
That Your love has set us free.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join Your choir above.

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L In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth. (*Psalm 124:8*)

- 〔L〕 Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.
- 〔C〕 **Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. (Psalm 19:12, 13)**
- 〔L〕 If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?
- 〔C〕 **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (Psalm 130:3–4)**
- 〔L〕 Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:
- 〔C〕 **God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

(Luke 18:13)

- 〔L〕 Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- 〔C〕 **Amen.**

Introit Psalm 147:1, 5, 11–12; antiphon John 1:14

- 〔L〕 The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- 〔C〕 **Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**
- 〔L〕 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.
- 〔C〕 **But the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.**
- 〔L〕 Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!
- 〔C〕 **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- 〔L〕 The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Kyrie

〔L〕 O Lord,	〔C〕 Have mercy on us.
〔L〕 O Christ,	〔C〕 Have mercy on us.
〔L〕 O Lord,	〔C〕 Have mercy on us.

Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

- 〔L〕 Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
- 〔C〕 **Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory.**
- 〔L〕 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You are Lord and God, You are the Lamb of God:
- 〔C〕 **Lord Jesus Christ, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**
- 〔L〕 Lord Jesus Christ, You are seated at the right hand of the Father; and we ask you to graciously receive our prayer.
- 〔C〕 **For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

L Let us pray: Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

1 Kings 3:4–15

⁴The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1b

L To us a child is born, to us a son is given;
C and the government shall be upon his shoulder.
L And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
C Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
L Sing to the Lord a new song,
C for he has done marvelous things!

Psalm 119:97–104

L ⁹⁷Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.
C ⁹⁸Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.
L ⁹⁹I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.
C ¹⁰⁰I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.
L ¹⁰¹I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.
C ¹⁰²I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me.
L ¹⁰³How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
C ¹⁰⁴Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

Ephesians 1:3–14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

- 〔L〕 This is the Word of the Lord.
- 〔C〕 **Thanks be to God.**

Verse of the Day: Luke 2:40

- 〔L〕 Alleluia, Alleluia, The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. Alleluia.
- 〔C〕 **Alleluia, Alleluia, And the favor of God was upon him. Alleluia.**

Luke 2:40–52

- 〔L〕 The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.
- 〔C〕 **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.” ⁴⁹And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?” ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

- 〔L〕 This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- 〔C〕 **Praise to You, O Christ.**

The Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven

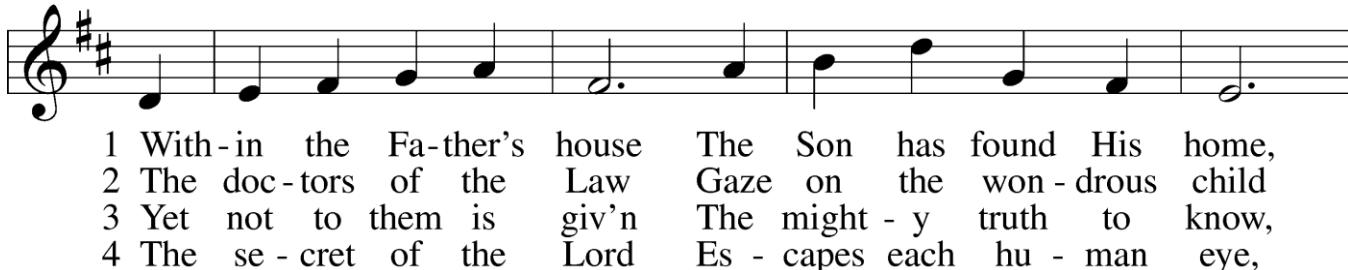
and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living
and the dead.

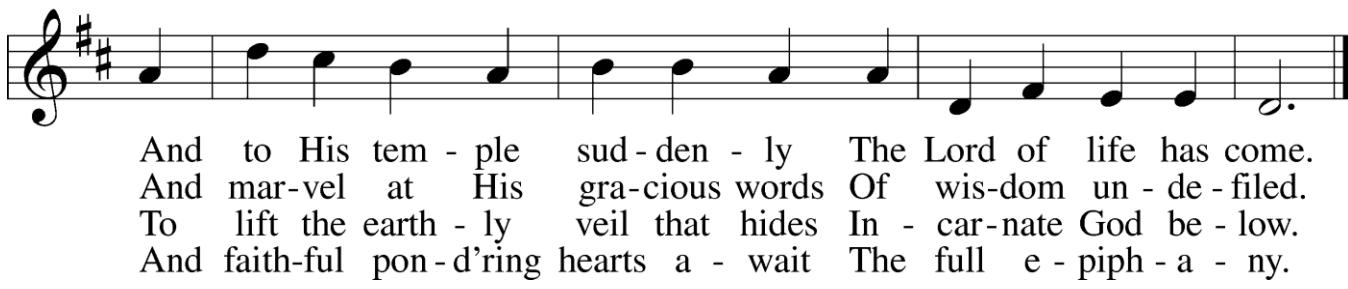
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Within the Father's House

Lutheran Service Book 410, Lutheran Worship 80, The Lutheran Hymnal 133



1 With-in the Fa-ther's house The Son has found His home,
2 The doc-tors of the Law Gaze on the won-drous child
3 Yet not to them is giv'n The might-y truth to know,
4 The se-cret of the Lord Es-cap es each hu-man eye,



And to His tem-ple sud-den-ly The Lord of life has come.
And mar-vel at His gra-cious words Of wis-dom un-de-filed.
To lift the earth-ly veil that hides In-car-nate God be-low.
And faith-ful pon-d'ring hearts a-wait The full e-piph-a-ny.

5 Lord, visit Thou our souls
And teach us by Thy grace
Each dim revealing of Thyself
With loving awe to trace

6 Till we behold Thy face
And know as we are known
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Coequal Three in One.

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Devotional thoughts:

On which day of the week did you celebrate your birthday last year? How about next year? The day of your birthday celebration changes from year to year. Doesn't it? So does our celebration of Jesus' birth. Because of this, we do not have the opportunity to observe the Second Sunday after Christmas every year. But when we do, our Gospel lesson is always Luke 2:40–52, the account of Jesus at the temple when He was twelve years old.

This is the last time we learn about Jesus in Scripture until He is about 30 years old and the beginning of His ministry at His baptism in the Jordan River. Our Gospel lesson for next week will be this account from the Gospel of Matthew.

While we do not know much about Jesus' youth, we can glean much from these few verses. First, Luke reports that Jesus grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.

Since we know Jesus was not only truly God but also truly a man, we know that He experienced life much the same way that we do. Mary and Joseph were able to witness Him go through the stages of development that happen to all of us. He was born and grew from infancy to childhood. With encouragement from mom and dad, He learned how to walk and talk. He progressed from being totally dependent on His parents to being more and more independent. It is clear from our Gospel lesson, that Mary and Joseph were faithful in teaching Him Holy Scripture and how to be faithful to everything that God expects from us.

Then, when He was twelve years old, something amazing happened on their annual trip to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. Jesus began to understand that He was transitioning from childhood to adulthood. This happens to all of us at about the same age.

As an adult, Jesus knew that He must take up His life's work. But as so often happens, He may have been a little hasty in assuming adult responsibilities.

Mary and Joseph recognized Jesus' increasing abilities. They granted Him a large amount of independence so that they had traveled for an entire day without seeing Jesus, expecting Him to be with family and friends. We can all understand how frantic they must have been when they could not find Him. I, for one, would have imagined the worst.

But after three days, they do find Him. He is in the temple, His Father's house, learning from the Bible scholars. As we might expect, his questions and answers were amazing. He had been an awesome student of Scripture. He even astonished His parents.

While Jesus may have recognized that He would soon be an adult, in His parents' eyes, He was still a child. Their distress had been great. Jesus explained to them that His impending adulthood required Him to be in His Father's house and to be about His Father's business.

A short side note is appropriate here. Translations vary at this point. Some years ago, I wondered why some translations said, "Father's business" such as the King James Version, and others said, "Father's house," such as the English Standard Version. The answer is simple. In the original Greek, neither "business" nor "house" appears. They are simply implied. The translators must make their best decision because English as a language is not comfortable with implied words except in poetry. We are always waiting for sentences to be completed.

I can live with either translation but I'm slightly partial to "business" considering Jesus' age and the assumption in those days that a son would inherit the family business. You are free to make your own choice. Both work.

Finally, we learn that as a sinless Son, Jesus returned to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph and was submissive to them. Apparently, Luke is able to report this story to us because Mary treasured up all these things in her heart.

There is much to learn from this episode in Jesus' life. As parents, we learn the importance of diligently instructing our children in God's holy word. We also learn the importance of being faithful in our study of the Bible as children.

We learn that our lives progress according to an orderly plan. In due time, we are able to assume the responsibilities of adulthood. However, that time of transition can be difficult for all concerned.

We learn the importance of God's house in our lives and being faithful in our attendance to the customs of worship and biblical celebrations. Of course, we also remember that the Old Testament Sabbath laws no longer apply to us in the Church (Colossians 2:16). Yet, our strength of faith and wisdom grow when we feed our faith on word and sacrament.

Finally, we are reminded of the importance of the Father's business. His business is the salvation of sinners. For this reason, He sent His Son into the world (John 3:16). Jesus, even at this young age, knew that He must soon take up His Father's business. This business would ultimately lead Him to the cross. It was an extremely difficult business indeed. But He did it out of love for us as St. Paul writes in 1 Timothy 1:15, "The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost."

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

Prayers

L Heavenly Father, Your Son diligently studied the Holy Scriptures and grew in wisdom and stature. He was submissive to His earthly parents and always about Your business and in Your house. Keep our families in Your Word, and always treasuring Your divine wisdom and favor.

C Amen.

L O Lord, Mary and Joseph were diligent in their devotion to You and Your house. They shared their devotion with their son, Jesus. Grant that all parents would follow this godly example displayed by Mary and Joseph.

C Amen.

L O Lord, to Solomon You granted wisdom and a discerning mind. Give Your people such wisdom from Your Word and a mind to discern truth from error that we may know Jesus Christ and not depart from Him amid the winds of change and doubt that challenge our faith.

C Amen.

L Gracious Lord, You set apart kings and governments to safeguard Your people. Bless, we pray, all those who make, administer and judge our laws. Make them wise, and give them a discerning heart in the pursuit of justice, peace between the nations, and protection for the unborn and those least able to defend themselves. Protect those in harm's way because of the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East that cause innocent men, women, and children to suffer. Grant that the new found peace in Gaza would be sustained.

C Amen.

L Visit us in Your compassion, O Lord. Deliver the sick from their infirmity, the troubled from their afflictions, the grieving from their sorrow, and the dying from their fear. May all who cry to You receive grace according to Your will. Help each of us to bear our crosses with patience and grace.

C Amen.

L O Lord, as blessed Mary treasured all things in her heart, grant us to know what is worthy of our attention and what will pass away that we may live our lives with integrity and honor always being faithful to Your holy word. May our lives be filled with repentance and faith remembering that Christ's blood cleanses us from all our sin.

C Amen.

C **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

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.**

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

Lutheran Service Book 390, Lutheran Worship 42, The Lutheran Hymnal 97



1 Let us all with glad-some voice Praise the God of heav - en,
2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sad - ness,
3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a won - der?
4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, Be Thou ev - er near us.



Who, to bid our hearts re - joice, His own Son hath giv - en.
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad - ness.
There-fore praise God ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.
Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

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Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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Enhancing Your Worship

Meditating on God's Word and Works

I will meditate on your wondrous works. Psalm 119:27

My eyes are awake through the night watches,
That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 NKJV

The Week of The Second Sunday after Christmas January 5 — 10, 2026

Introduction

Most modern forms of mediation turn a person inward. Biblical meditation turns a person outward toward what God has said and done especially what He has said and done through Jesus for our salvation.

Each Sunday has its own special theme directing us to meditate on God's word and actions. This theme is found in the Propers of the Day (the parts of the service that change week to week). From Advent through the Easter season these themes focus our attention on the life of Jesus from His birth to His death and resurrection. There is always much more in the propers than can be covered in any Sunday service. God willing, I will use the propers for Sunday to provide you with a devotion each day to help you mediate on what God has done for you.

Monday – Twelfth Day of Christmas

Light all the candles on the Advent wreath.

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Luke 2:40

L Alleluia, Alleluia, The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. Alleluia.
C Alleluia, Alleluia, And the favor of God was upon him. Alleluia.

Introit Psalm 147:1, 5, 11–12; antiphon John 1:14

L The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
C **Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**
L Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.
C **But the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.**
L Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!
C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
L The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Kyrie

L O Lord,	C Have mercy on us.
L O Christ,	C Have mercy on us.
L O Lord,	C Have mercy on us.

There are a handful of introits throughout the Church Year with verses from outside the Psalms. The antiphon for this week is one of those occasions. It is the well-known words of John 1:14, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

We learn from these words that God is not a remote uncaring being. He is not merely the intelligent design behind the universe. Rather He is the God who chose to become one of us. He lived with us. In the person of Jesus, the disciples were able to see God for who He is, a caring and compassionate God!

Jesus, the only Son from the Father is full of grace and truth! Those who opposed grace and truth were opposed Jesus!

In Jesus, grace and truth were triumphant through the cross. The grave could not hold Him. He came to give us life, life eternal.

Christmas movies have come to an end. In the days and weeks ahead, we will have to look for warm fuzzy feelings somewhere else. But do not despair! Most of these films missed the mark. Christmas is not about upholding family traditions, Christmas tree lighting ceremonies, fancy baking, snow, and jingle bells. Christmas lasts forever because the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Immanuel is God with us even to the end of the age. He will never leave us or forsake us.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Joy to the World, stanza 4, Public Domain

L Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, thank you for entering the world as a baby born in Bethlehem. Grant that our lives may always be filled with the grace, truth, and joy of Christmas. Let us always know the wonders of Your love.

C Amen

Tuesday

The Epiphany of our Lord January 6, 2026

Light all the candles on the Advent wreath and as many other candles as practical.

Epiphany is a time for us to celebrate that Jesus is made known to us as Savior and Lord. He was revealed to the Wise Men as “King of the Jews.” In His baptism, He was revealed to be God’s “Beloved Son.” In His miracle at Cana, His disciples witnessed for the first time His command over nature. We know Him as King of the Universe, Lord of the Church, and King of Heaven. We know Him not only as the babe born in Bethlehem but as the only-begotten Son of God. We know Him as the One who was given for our salvation so that believing in Him, we may have eternal life.

As with Gladness Men of Old

Lutheran Service Book 397, Lutheran Worship 75, The Lutheran Hymnal 127



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 - at - ed 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.

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L In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth. (*Psalm 124:8*)

L Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

C Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. (*Psalm 19:12, 13*)

L If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (*Psalm 130:3-4*)

L Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:

C God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen. (*Luke 18:13*)

L Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Introit Psalm 45:6-7; antiphon Psalm 45:17

〔L〕 I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

〔C〕 **Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.**

〔L〕 Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

〔C〕 **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

〔L〕 I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

Kyrie

〔L〕 O Lord, 〔C〕 **Have Mercy on us.**

〔L〕 O Christ, 〔C〕 **Have Mercy on us.**

〔L〕 O Lord, 〔C〕 **Have Mercy on us.**

Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

〔L〕 Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

〔C〕 **Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory.**

〔L〕 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You are Lord and God, You are the Lamb of God:

〔C〕 **Lord Jesus Christ, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

〔L〕 Lord Jesus Christ, You are seated at the right hand of the Father; and we ask you to graciously receive our prayer.

〔C〕 **For You alone are the Holy One,**
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

〔L〕 Let us pray: 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.

〔C〕 **Amen.**

Isaiah 60:1–6

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

²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.

³And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned 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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual 117:1–2a; 96:8

L Praise the LORD, all nations!

C Extol him, all peoples!

L For great is his steadfast love toward us,

C and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

L Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

C bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Psalm 72:1–15

L ¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!

C ²May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!

L ³Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!

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

L ⁵May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

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

L ⁷In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

C ⁸May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!

L ⁹May desert tribes bow down before him and his enemies lick the dust!

C ¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute;

may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

L ¹¹May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

C ¹²For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper.

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

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

L ¹⁵Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be given to him!

May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all the day!

Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me

by revelation, as I have written briefly.⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power.⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things,¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day: Luke 2:30, 32

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia, Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? Alleluia.
- C** Alleluia, Alleluia, We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

Matthew 2:1–12

- L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

- L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

The Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father

Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

O God of God, O Light of Light

Lutheran Service Book 810, Lutheran Worship 83, The Lutheran Hymnal 132



1 O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and
2 For deep in proph - ets' sa - cred page, And grand in po - ets'
3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death so steeped in
4 Then raise to Christ a might - y song, And shout His name, His



King of kings: To You in heav-en's glo - ry bright The song of
wing-ed word, Slow - ly in type, from age to age The na - tions
hate and scorn— These all are past, and now a - bove He reigns, our
mer-cies tell! Sing, heav'n-ly host, your praise pro-long, And all on



praise for - ev - er rings. To Him who sits up - on the throne,
saw their com - ing Lord; Till through the deep Ju - de - an night
King once crowned with thorn. Lift up your heads, O might - y gates!
earth, your an - them swell! All hail, O Lamb for sin - ners slain!



The Lamb once slain but raised a - gain, Be all the glo - ry
Rang out the song, "Good - will to men!" Sung once by first - born
So sang that host be - yond our ken. Lift up your heads, your
For - ev - er let the song as - cend! Wor - thy the Lamb, en -



He has won, All thanks and praise! A - men, a - men.
 sons of light, It ech - oes now, "Good - will!" A - men.
 King a - waits. We lift them up. A - men, a - men.
 throned to reign, All glo - ry, pow'r! A - men, a - men.

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Devotional thoughts:

There is great irony in the visit of the Wise Men. Those who ought to be worshiping the newborn King of the Jews are clueless. And in the end, instead of worshiping, they crucify Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.

However, the foreign gentile scholars who we would expect to ignore the savior's birth are eager to worship Him and give Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

A careful reading of the Gospel of Matthew makes his reporting of this account quite understandable. Matthew's inclusion of Jesus' genealogy, his careful documentation of the fulfillment of prophecies, and the overall flavor of his text make it clear that he was writing for a Jewish audience. But over and over again, he records how gentiles are welcomed into the family of God. In Matthew 8, we learn of the faith of a Roman centurion. In chapter 15, we hear the Canaanite woman beseech Jesus with these words, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." The centurion at the cross at Jesus' death, declared, "Truly this was the Son of God!" Finally, Matthew closes His Gospel with these words from Jesus, "Make disciples of all nations (gentiles!) (Matthew 28:19).

Whether we may be lowly shepherds or magnificently clad magi, we all are welcome at Jesus cradle. We may bring to Him gold, frankincense, or myrrh. Or we may simply sigh and say, "Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to thy cross I cling." Jesus welcomes all who come to Him in faith. He grants us forgiveness, life, and salvation! Forever may we sing, "Alleluias" to our King!

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

God's richest blessings to you in Christ.

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Lutheran Service Book 395, Lutheran Worship 343, The Lutheran Hymnal 73

1 O Morning Star, how fair and bright,
 Thou beamest forth in truth and light!

O Sov'reign meek and lowly,
 Thou Root of Jesse, David's Son,
 My Lord and Master, Thou hast won
 My heart to serve Thee solely!

Thou art holy,
 Fair and glorious, all-victorious,
 Rich in blessing,
 Rule and might o'er all possessing.

2 Thou heav'ly Brightness, Light divine,
 O deep within my heart now shine,

And make Thee there an altar.
 Fill me with joy and strength to be
 Thy member, ever joined to Thee
 In love that cannot falter;

Toward Thee longing
 Doth possess me; turn and bless me;
 Here in sadness
 Eye and heart long for Thy gladness.

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Prayer of the Church on Epiphany

P Most merciful God, we rejoice in the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. When you led the Magi by a star to worship the baby Jesus, you revealed your desire for everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Grant that by the preaching of Your Gospel we may join the Wise Men in receiving the wisdom that leads to salvation. By the working of Your Holy Spirit keep us attentive to all the teachings of Your Word. Enlighten our minds, control our wills, and purify our desires. Let Your Word be a light for our path that neither the pleasures nor the honors nor the pains of this life may turn away our thoughts from the fullness of life that is found only in You. Enable us in sincerity of heart to follow You, the only true God with the resolve and purpose of the Magi who sought the newborn king. By Your holy Word enlighten all who are in error, doubt, or temptation with the sure and certain knowledge of Your truth that all who live in sin may be led to repentance. Show mercy and grace to all those suffering any distress, to those who are sick or hospitalized, and to those facing death. Let them know the sure comfort of Your holy Word. We commit ourselves and all for whom we pray to Your fatherly care and benediction. Be gracious to us and defend us by Your power. Direct us by Your Spirit that we may daily grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Savior until we shall stand before You in the joy of everlasting glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect to Enter the New Year

L Lord God our Father, You kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, You led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star You led the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us now in this time as we enter this New Year. Make our ways safe and our homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where You dwell in glory with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

L O Lord, grant us grace to rejoice in Christ's incarnation; and thankfulness that, in the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem us and give us the adoption as Your sons and heirs; and grant us a glad new year.,

C Amen.

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.

L Let us bless the Lord.

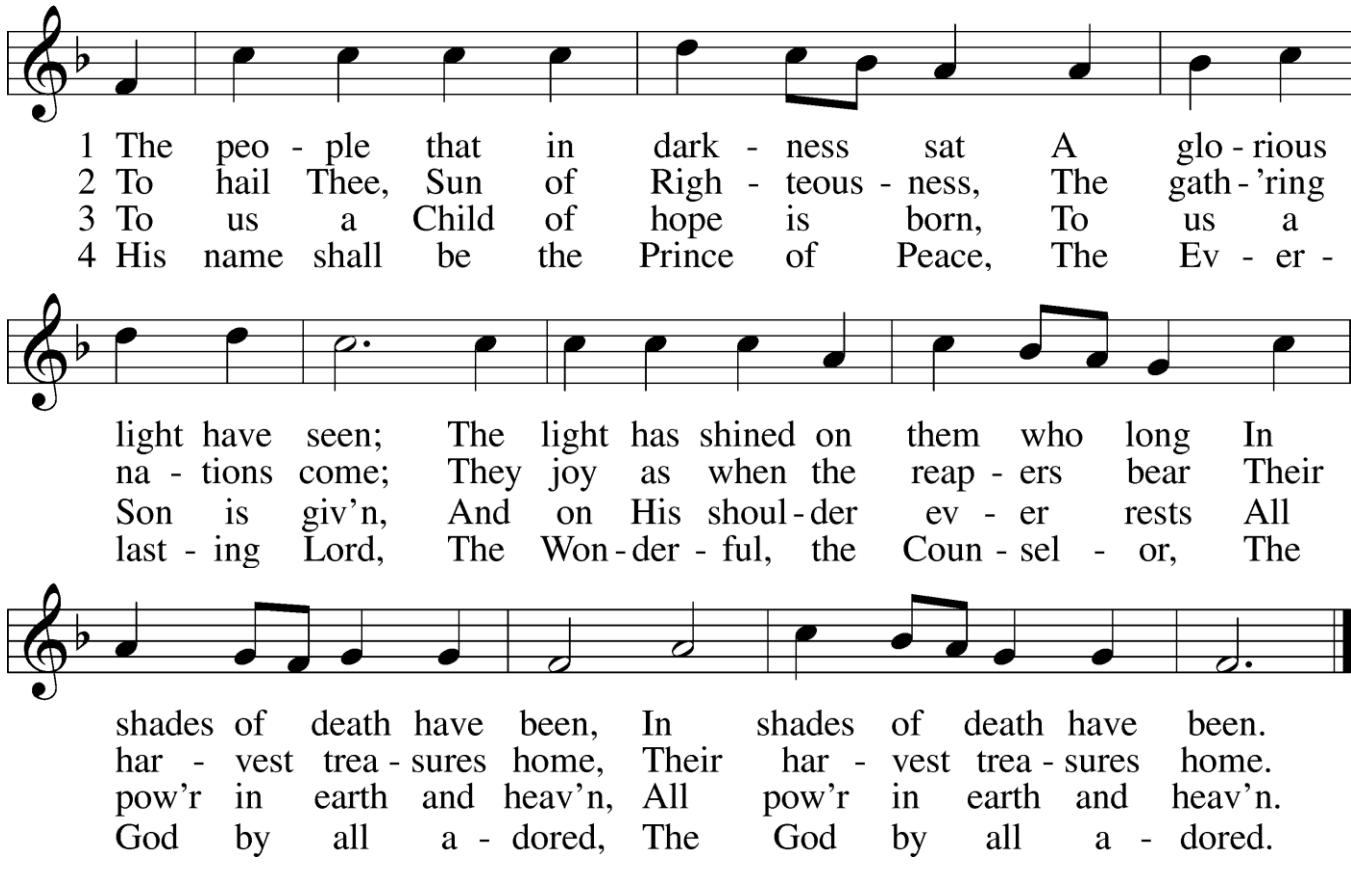
C Thanks be to God.

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

The People That in Darkness Sat

Lutheran Service Book 412, Lutheran Worship 77, The Lutheran Hymnal 106



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -

light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The

shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

5 His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.

6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

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Wednesday

To continue your Epiphany celebration, light all the candles on the Advent wreath and as many other candles as practical.

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Luke 2:30, 32

L Alleluia, Alleluia, Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? Alleluia.
C Alleluia, Alleluia, We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

Kyrie

L O Lord,	C Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ,	C Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord,	C Have Mercy on us.

L Let us pray: Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

My only memory from attending my first Vacation Bible School is this song:

This Little Gospel Light of Mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel. No! I'm gonna let it shine.

Don't let Satan Pfffft it out. I'm gonna let it shine.

All around the neighborhood, I'm gonna let it shine.

This is such a simple little song but it is one with profound implications for life. It echoes Jesus words from His Sermon on the Mount recorded in Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

We are to be nothing less than what Jesus is Himself. He is the true light of the world as He tells us in John 8:12, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

You and I have the light of life! Many around us go through life bumping into things in the dark. We have the opportunity to bring light and life to them. When they see your light, they will want to know more about the True Light.

Let us pray: Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Thursday

To continue your Epiphany celebration, light all the candles on the Advent wreath and as many other candles as practical.

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Gradual Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8

L Praise the LORD, all nations!
C **Extol him, all peoples!**
L For great is his steadfast love toward us,
C **and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**

L Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
C bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Verse of the Day: Luke 2:30, 32

L Alleluia, Alleluia, Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? Alleluia.
C Alleluia, Alleluia, We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

Psalm 72:1–15

L ¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!
C ²May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!
L ³Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!
C ⁴May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!
L ⁵May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
C ⁶May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!
L ⁷In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
C ⁸May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!
L ⁹May desert tribes bow down before him and his enemies lick the dust!
C ¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!
L ¹¹May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!
C ¹²For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper.
L ¹³He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.
C ¹⁴From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.
L ¹⁵Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be given to him!
May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all the day!

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

Among many aspects of our Epiphany celebration, gift-giving is near the top of the list. With gifts, we recall the visit of the Magi and their gifts to Jesus of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

While the Magi were in all likelihood, not kings as we sing in the song. In fact, magi had once briefly ruled in Persia. But that's a story for another day. Nevertheless, Psalm 72:10 reminds us that far off kings render Him tribute and gifts! In fact, they fall down before Him and serve Him! This strikes a chord for me when I read Matthew 2:11, "They fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense, and myrrh."

The giving of gifts on Epiphany should not be restricted to kings or magi. We all have the opportunity to give gifts. The poor, the needy, and the weak (Psalm 72:12-13) are all around us. They certainly need our gifts. One way that God delivers them is through the compassion of His people!

The gifts of the Magi and indeed all of our gifts pale in comparison to the greatest Epiphany gift of all. The greatest gift is the gift of salvation given by King Jesus to the poor in spirit, who come to Him in faith.

Prayer: O Lord, the psalmist prefigures the visit of the Magi and the bringing of gifts. Grant that we also may have the wisdom to be generous with our gifts to the poor, the needy, and the weak for we were spiritually the poorest, the neediest, and the weakest of all, through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

Friday

To continue your Epiphany celebration, light all the candles on the Advent wreath and as many other candles as practical.

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Luke 2:30, 32

L Alleluia, Alleluia, Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? Alleluia.
C Alleluia, Alleluia, We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have mercy on us.
L O Christ, **C** Have mercy on us.
L O Lord, **C** Have mercy on us.

Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

An epiphany is the revealing of a mystery. Our celebration of Epiphany and the Epiphany season is a recognition that God has revealed to us this great truth. Jesus is the very Son of God made flesh who came into the world to save sinners.

Paul writes to the Ephesians about another epiphany. The mystery revealed to him and all of us is this. The Gentiles are fellow heirs and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

The Magi were the first gentiles to worship Jesus. Most of us follow in their train.

We, the Church, are in the business of revealing mysteries. We reveal the eternal purpose of God! We reveal that we have access to God through faith because of our savior, Jesus Christ! May this epiphany continue always and everywhere.

Prayer: O Lord, thank you for revealing the mystery of the Gospel to us. Grant that we may be faithful in revealing the mystery of salvation to those around us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Saturday

To continue your Epiphany celebration, light all the candles on the Advent wreath and as many other candles as practical.

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Gradual Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

L Praise the LORD, all nations!

C Extol him, all peoples!

L For great is his steadfast love toward us,

C and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

L Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

C bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Verse of the Day: Luke 2:30, 32

L Alleluia, Alleluia, Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? Alleluia.

C Alleluia, Alleluia, We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

Isaiah 60:1–6

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

²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.

³And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned 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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

You may have noticed that we have been lighting candles to celebrate Epiphany. Epiphany is a season of light. These candles remind us of the star that led the Wise Men from the east to Jerusalem and then to the southwest to Bethlehem to worship the baby Jesus.

We are thankful for that star and every light that leads us to Jesus. We are especially thankful for God's word that is light for our path and a lamp for our feet. In God's word, we see the greatest light of all. We see the Light of the World!

Each day from now until summer has more daylight than the day before. Let us use that light to the best advantage of bringing the Light of the World to those living in darkness!

Prayer: Almighty God, grant that we may always walk in the light of Your holy word. Grant that the light of Your word would lead us to the Light of the World; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

O God of God, O Light of Light

Lutheran Service Book 810, Lutheran Worship 83, The Lutheran Hymnal 132



1 O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and
2 For deep in proph-ets' sa - cred page, And grand in po - ets'
3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death so steeped in
4 Then raise to Christ a might - y song, And shout His name, His



King of kings: To You in heav-en's glo - ry bright The song of
wing-ed word, Slow - ly in type, from age to age The na - tions
hate and scorn— These all are past, and now a - bove He reigns, our
mer-cies tell! Sing, heav'n-ly host, your praise pro-long, And all on



praise for - ev - er rings. To Him who sits up - on the throne,
saw their com - ing Lord; Till through the deep Ju - de - an night
King once crowned with thorn. Lift up your heads, O might - y gates!
earth, your an - them swell! All hail, O Lamb for sin - ners slain!



The Lamb once slain but raised a - gain, Be all the glo - ry
Rang out the song, "Good - will to men!" Sung once by first - born
So sang that host be - yond our ken. Lift up your heads, your
For - ev - er let the song as - cend! Wor - thy the Lamb, en -



He has won, All thanks and praise! A - men, a - men.
sons of light, It ech - oes now, "Good - will!" A - men.
King a - waits. We lift them up. A - men, a - men.
throned to reign, All glo - ry, pow'r! A - men, a - men.

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