



FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL



**CHRIST + THE
SAVIOR IS BORN**

**LOVE'S PURE LIGHT BEAMS
FROM THY HOLY FACE**

WELCOME



Worship Series: Christ the Savior is Born

January 4, 2026

“Silent Night” was written originally in German by Joseph Mohr, with music composed by Franz Gruber. The carol was first performed on Christmas Eve in 1818 at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria. Legend says the church organ was broken, prompting Gruber to compose a simple guitar accompaniment. Subsequently accompanied by many instruments and translated into many languages, the text paints the picture of the incarnation. The last phrase is repeated, so in the second stanza we hear it twice: “Christ the Savior is born!” Every word of that phrase is significant, and every line of the Christmas carol describes a Bible truth. We use the beloved hymn to ponder the profound message of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Today’s Focus: Love’s Pure Light Beams from Thy Holy Face

The Twelve Days of Christmas are the days between Christmas Day and January 6. What is special about January 6? It is the day when the Christian Church celebrates the Festival of the Epiphany. Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning “reveal.” When the Savior was born, he was first revealed as love’s pure light to Israelites: Mary, Joseph, the shepherds. Today we see the Lord miraculously guiding foreigners across countless miles so the Savior’s holy face could be revealed to them as well. The Festival of Epiphany is sometimes known as Christmas for the Gentiles. We Gentiles (non-Jews) rejoice in the good news that this Jewish baby is a gift for all people, Christ the Savior of the world.

SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE TODAY

Presiding Minister: Pastor Derek Bartelt

Accompanist: Robert Joseph | **Elder:** Jerry Thompson

Altar Guild: Gail Michnay | **Projectionist:** Spencer Sonnemann

Opening Hymn

371 A Child Is Born in Bethlehem



1 A child is born in Beth - le - hem, Beth - le -
 2 His moth - er is the vir - gin maid, vir - gin
 3 The kings from She - ba jour - ney there, jour - ney
 4 With - in the house they greet the child, greet the



hem, the joy of all Je - ru - sa - lem.
 maid, who gave him birth with no man's aid.
 there, gold, frank - in - cense, and myrrh they bear.
 child, at - tend - ed by his moth - er mild.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 Then low they kneel in rev'rent fear,
 rev'rent fear,
 exclaiming, "God and man is here!"
 Alleluia, alleluia!

7 All filled with joy at Jesus' birth,
 Jesus' birth,
 we bless the Lord who came to earth.
 Alleluia, alleluia!

6 For such a season, rich in grace,
 rich in grace,
 to God forevermore be praise!
 Alleluia, alleluia!

8 All praise the Holy Trinity,
 Trinity,
 from now unto eternity!
 Alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Latin, 13th cent.; (sts. 1–3, 6, 8): tr. Christopher J. Neuendorf, alt.; (sts. 4–5, 7): tr. Christian Worship, 2021
 Tune: 13th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621
 Text (sts. 1–3, 6, 8): © 2014 Christopher J. Neuendorf, admin. Northwestern Publishing House; (sts. 4–5, 7): © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282
 Tune: Public domain



O Lord, o - pen my lips,



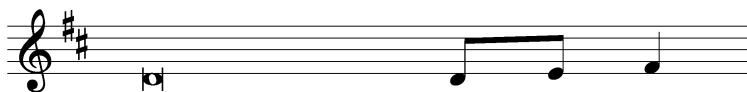
and my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



Has - ten to save me, O God;



O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.

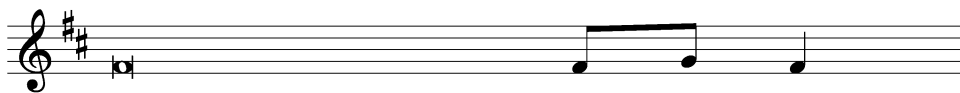


Epiphany The glory of Christ is re - vealed:

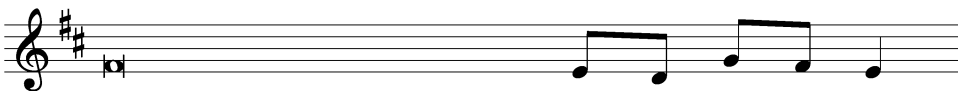


praise and thanks to God!

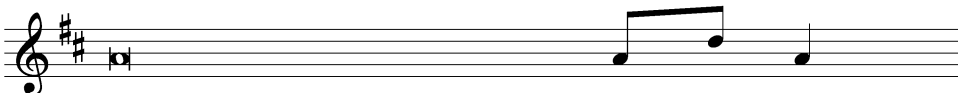
O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord



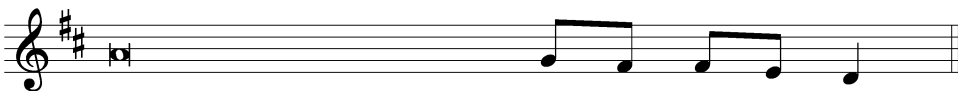
- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 O come, let us sing | to the Lord, |
| 2 For the Lord is a | great _____ God |
| 3 The sea is his, for he | made _____ it, |



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
- 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
- 3 and his hand formed the dry — land.



- 1 Let us come into his presence with thanks - giv - ing,
- 2 The deep places of the earth are in his hand;
- 3 O come, let us worship and bow — down,
- 4 For he is our God,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.
- 2 the heights of the hills are al - so his.
- 3 let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er.
- 4 and we are the people of his
pasture and the sheep of his — hand.

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

The prophet foretold that one born king of the Jews would draw kings from distant nations to the light of his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 72



1 A King on high is reign - ing whom end - less a - ges bless,
2 As rains that gent - ly nour - ish and bring the seed to birth,
3 The poor are in his keep - ing, he hears their bit - ter cry,
4 His name en - dures for ev - er who formed the fer - tile land;



from sea to sea sus - tain - ing his rule of right-eous - ness.
his right-eous-ness shall flour - ish, his peace pos - sess the earth;
his watch - ful - ness un - sleep - ing to an - swer ev - 'ry sigh;
the fruits of our en - deav - or shall pros - per in his hand.



Be - neath his strong de - fend - ing his peo - ple stand se - cure,
her scep-tered kings ac - claim him, be - fore his feet they fall,
the lone - ly and ne - glect - ed, the out - cast and in need,
With prayer and song and sto - ry his prais - es sound a - gain,



whose jus - tice knows no end - ing while sun and moon en - dure.
the na - tions kneel to name him the sov-'reign Lord of all.
for - sak - en and re - ject - ed, to him are dear in - deed.
in all the earth his glo - ry; so be it, Lord! A - men!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith Tune: Henry T. Smart
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Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-12

Paul explains that that people from all nations are united as equals in the Savior's kingdom of grace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

Magi from the east were the first in a long line of Gentiles would join Israel in worshipping Jesus as King.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn

370 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see
2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won, true Son of God
3 O might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved me ere
4 Oh, joy to know that you, my friend, are Lord, be - gin -
5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, let all glad sounds



and hail a - far the light in Ju - dah shin - ing.
and Mar - y's son, the high - born King of a - ges!
you had be - gun this an - cient world's foun - da - tion.
ning with - out end, the first and last, e - ter - nal!
of mu - sic ring in God's high prais - es blend - ed.



O Da - vid's son of Ja - cob's race, my Bride-groom and
In your blest bod - y let me be, e'en as the branch
Your Son has made a friend of me, and when in spir -
And you at length— O glo - rious grace— will take me to
Christ will be with me all the way, to - day, to - mor -



my King of grace, for you my heart is pin - ing.
is in the tree, your life my life sup - ply - ing.
it him I see, I joy in trib - u - la - tion.
that ho - ly place, the home of joys su - per - nal.
row, ev - 'ry day till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.

Low - ly, ho - ly, great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
Sigh - ing, cry - ing for the sa - vor of your fa - vor,
What bliss is this! He is liv - ing, to me giv - ing
A - men, a - men! Come and meet me, quick - ly greet me!
Sing out, ring out tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious

Prince of grac - es, fill - ing all the heav'n - ly plac - es.
rest - ing nev - er till I rest in you for - ev - er.
life for - ev - er; noth - ing me from him can sev - er.
With deep yearn - ing, Lord, I look for your re - turn - ing.
cho - sen na - tion; praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, abr., adapt; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

We Praise You, O God

1 We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord;
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of heav'n - ly hosts,
3 The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

1 all creation worships you, Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing.
2 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.
3 Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:

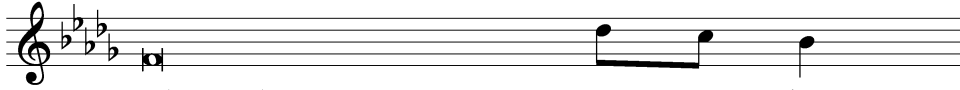
1 To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,
2 The glorious company of apostles praise you.
3 Father of majesty unbounded; your glorious, true, and on - ly Son;



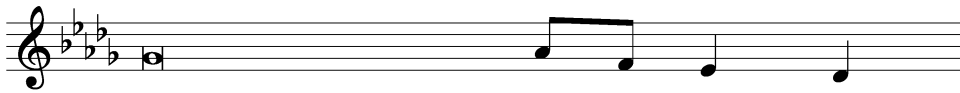
1 cherubim and seraphim, sing in end - less praise:
2 The noble fellowship of proph - ets praise you.
3 and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide.



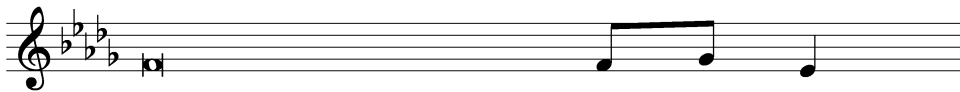
4 You, Christ, are the King of glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther.



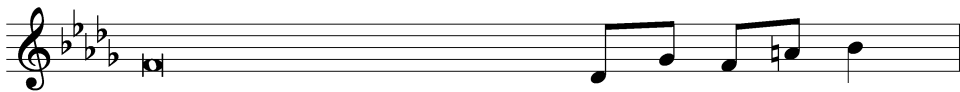
5 When you became man to set us free,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



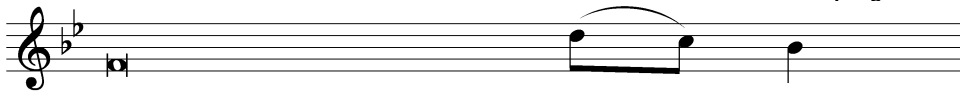
5 you humbled yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



5 You overcame the sting of death
6 We believe that you will come



5 and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be our judge.



7 Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple,



7 bought with the price of your own blood,



7 and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

Offering

WELS Connection

Lord, Have Mercy

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and an-swer me.

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of faith of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.



Let us praise the Lord.



Thanks be to God.



The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



A - men.

Closing Hymn

337 Silent Night, Holy Night

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885
Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Morning Prayer from Christian Worship

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