

# *Epiphany of Our Lord*

**January 5, 2025**

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

*We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!*



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

#### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*P:* Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**C: Amen.**

*P:* Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*P:* God-with-us,

**C: we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

*P:* Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

**C: Amen.**

#### **\*OPENING HYMN**

*'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*

*ELW #284*

**\*GREETING**

*P:* 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.**

**\*KYRIE**



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



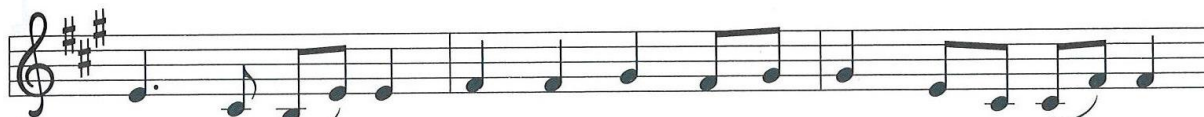
**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:      **C** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



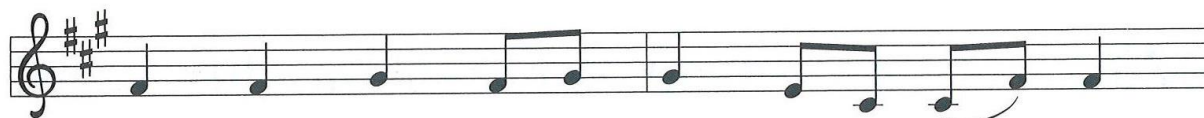
**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



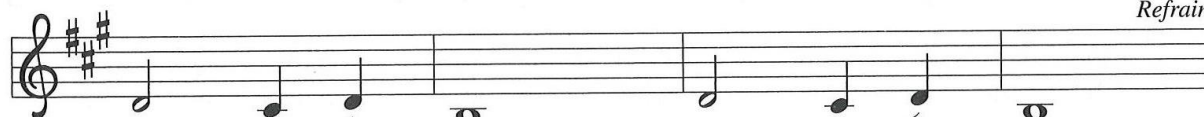
1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the  
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -



dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,  
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,



set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.



*Refrain*

Shine on me, shine on me:  
Shine on me, shine on me:



Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;



blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.



Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;



send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

Text and music © 1987 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE  
99 10 10 33 and refrain

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*P: 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. **C: 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 (read responsively)**

- <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: Ephesians 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup> that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## \*Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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.

*P:* The Gospel of the Lord. **C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

WOV # 646



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

## INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

### \*APOSTLES' CREED

A: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C: 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 to the dead.\* 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 THE CHURCH

A: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A: Your glory fills the earth. Bless the work of all who engage in dialogue with people of other traditions and faiths. Bridge our differences with a shared mission of revealing your boundless love to the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A: Restore the glory of creation. Send rain to water-parched lands. Revive ecosystems and habitats threatened by a changing climate, and protect the peoples and creatures who live in them. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A: Give the rulers your justice and reveal your righteousness to those who govern. Frustrate the plans of tyrants and oppressors. Encourage the work of community organizers and activists who speak out against injustice. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A: Help those who have no helper. Draw near to those who have no one to advocate for them or those who feel forgotten. Deliver those who call to you. Precious are they in your sight. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A: Liberate this congregation from a yearning for the past that forgets the future. Fuel in us a passion for discovery. Give us the boldness to dream and to imagine our ministries in new and different ways. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A: We give thanks for your holy ones who now rest in your radiant glory. Make us, with them, sharers in the boundless riches of Christ, our hope and promise. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**



*P:* We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

**\*THE PEACE**

*P:* The peace of the LORD be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.*

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave;  
we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:*

*A: Let us pray ...* God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. **C: Amen.**

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*P:* The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

*P:* Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

*P:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*PROPER PREFACE**

*P:* 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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*P:* Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

*P:* Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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**

**\*THE AGNUS DEI**

*Lamb of God*



☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**\*INVITATION**

*P:* A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*Cold December Flies Away*

*ELW # 299*

**\*BLESSING**

*P:* May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*A: Let us pray...* Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

**C: Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

*P: The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. C: Amen.*

**\*SENDING SONG**

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

*ELW # 302*

**\*DISMISSAL**

*P: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. C: Thanks be to God.*

**\*POSTLUDE**

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Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

**Today's Altar Flowers** are placed to the Glory of God.

**Serving God and Us**

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree

Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings

Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Acolytes – Gabby Decker, Lily Lightner, Lucy Lightner

Our Assisting Minister – Greg Haffling

Our Lector – Janet Stewart

Our Usher – Steve Oswalt

Our Altar Guild – Jean Sinal, Jane Fagans

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

**First Quarter Ventures in Faith to “Local Needs”**

**This Week at St. Matthew:  
814-793-2413: Office Hours**

Pastor Traci – Wed. 1:00-4:00 p.m.  
Jen – Mon.- Fri.: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**This Week Events**

**Today –** *Epiphany of Our Lord*  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

**Thursday –** 2024 Council Committee Reports Due to the Office

**Sunday –** *Baptism of Our Lord*  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Mary Jane Allision, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger.

**Prayer Concerns:** Amy & Family, Avery, Randy Barrett, Greta Buchart, Caleb, Warren Campbell, Phillip Claar, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry Creek, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, Marilyn Horton, Don Hosterman, Baby James, Ruth Johnson, Darren Kreutzer, Connie Lamborn, Linda Lehman, Bill Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Pat Mountain, Nathan, Olga Perlov, Deb Peters, Dan Ross, John Russell, Paul Ruth, Karyl Sawinski, Doug Smith, Robyn Smith, Dorothy Stahl, Jean Stonerook, Cindy Thomas, Steve Torres, Tiffany Townsend, Drew Wenzel, Susan Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.**

**Away at School:** Max Baker, Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jeff Hoenstine, Lacey Ripka.

**Those Serving in our Armed Forces:** Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).

## Installation of our 2025 Council Members

Pastor	Rev. Traci Marriott
President	Greg Haffling
Vice President	Don Bulger
Secretary	Carla Brumbaugh
Treasurer	Beth Garner
Property	Paul Decker
Christian Ed.	Amanda Decker
Evangelism	Vacant
Stewardship	Vacant
Finance	Jim Barley
Social Ministry	Lottie Ebersole
Worship & Music	Tina Harclerode
Staff Support	Vacant

## Outgoing and continuing Council members (2024 Council):

Please return the brief synopsis of your committee's work in 2024 to the office by Thursday, January 9th.



## Hurricanes Helene and Milton Response

Hurricanes Helene and Milton hit the coast of Florida within weeks of each other as powerful and devastating storms impacting states across the Southeast. With your help, Lutheran Disaster Response will continue to be there to support people affected by Milton, Helene and any other storms that may strike this season.

**Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to these disasters and others, whenever and wherever they strike.**



**Scan the QR code to give today.**

**By giving to Lutheran Disaster Response, you make it possible for the ELCA to act quickly after disasters such as Hurricane Helene and remain for as long as the recovery takes.**



If you prefer to make your gift to Lutheran Disaster Response through a donation to St. Matthew, please designate which disaster and the amount on the memo line of your check or envelope.

## Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from St. Matthew will be helping and assisting in the distribution of food on Thursday, January 16 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.



**January food items most needed are:** Fruit, Instant Oatmeal, Scalloped Potatoes, Ravioli, Rice Sides.

Our Thanks to all who have contributed food, supplies or monetary donations during this past year! We ask for your continued support and prayers in serving needy families in 2025.

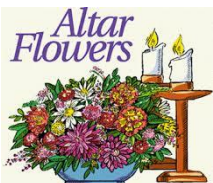
*Linda K. Smith*

## Church Messenger

The January 2025 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** (stmatthewlc.com), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home or provide an email address and a copy can be emailed to you each month as soon as it is published. Do not hesitate to call the church office if you need help in securing a copy of the *Messenger*. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.

## Altar Flowers

The 2025 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones or to honor loved ones. There are plenty of dates available. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price: \$40.00



# Talk-O Tuesday



Fellowship, Food, & Faith Conversation  
Tuesday, January 28th at 6PM  
La Fiesta at the Airport  
RSVP to the office by Noon



**\*OPENING HYMN**

*'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*

ELW #284



1 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time when all the birds had fled, that  
2 With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was found; a  
3 The ear - liest moon of win - ter - time is not so round and fair as  
4 O chil - dren of the for - est free, the an - gel - song is true; the



\*God the Lord of all the earth sent an - gel choirs in - stead; be -  
rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped his beau - ty round; but  
was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there. The  
ho - ly child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you. Come,



fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan - d'ring hunt - ers heard the hymn:  
as the hunt - er braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high:  
chiefs from far be - fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea - ver pelt.  
kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy, who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.



Je - sus your king is born! Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!

\* original: "mighty Gitchi Manitou"

Text: Jean de Brébeuf, 1593–1649; tr. Jesse E. Middleton, 1872–1960, alt.  
Music: UNE JEUNE PUCELLE, French folk tune, c. 16th cent.  
Text © 1927 The Frederick Harris Music Company. All rights reserved.



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.

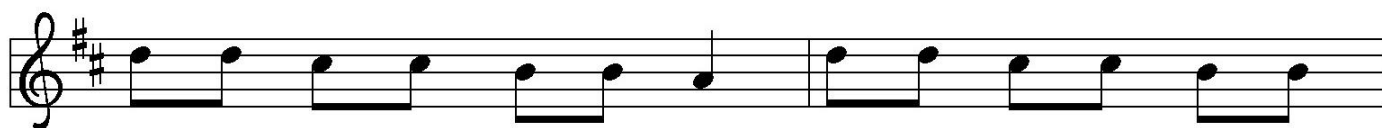
Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.  
 2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.  
 3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



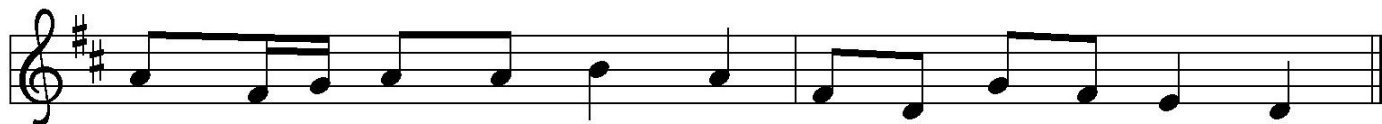
A - pril's crown - ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders  
 All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.  
 In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the  
 But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en  
 And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the  
 light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est  
 birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.  
 hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.  
 spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.



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 - a - ted 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.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.  
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872