

# FAITH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 1, 2017  
Epiphany Sunday

▪ *Caring* ▪ *Sharing* ▪ *Praying* ▪ *Growing*



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**January 1, 2017**

## **EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

### **Drawn to the Light**

The prophet Isaiah pictures the saving power of God as a light shining in the darkness. Speaking to a people who had been ripped away from their homeland and carried away to Babylon as slaves, Isaiah confronts them with an outrageous promise: “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you” (Isa. 60:1). With families divided and cities destroyed, there was no indication that anything was ever going to get better. But the promise of light and salvation sustained Isaiah’s people through a dark time and empowered them to begin rebuilding after their exile.

Today we still need this promise of light. We may not be in exile, but our lives are still complicated and broken. Pain and tragedy can quickly throw us into our own darkness. Sometimes we try to make good choices, but the pressure on us from work, family, economy, or school can be so great that we lose ourselves and forget what matters. As if that were not enough, images and stories of chaos, injustice, and heartbreak jump out to us from the news. Life can look quite bleak and hopeless.

That is why today we celebrate Epiphany, the moment when the infant Jesus and his family were visited by wise men who had come from the East following a bright star. Although we twenty-first century pilgrims might not have a star to guide us, we too are drawn to a Light. This is the light that Isaiah already saw and that continues to shine on us. Like a lighthouse shines on dark and stormy seas, guiding ships toward safe harbor, likewise the light of Christ’s love shines into a world filled with heartache and confusion.

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# GATHERING

## Prelude

### The Invitation of the Bell

*(please stand as you are able)*

**Gathering song: "Shine, Jesus Shine"**

**# 671 (red book)**

$\text{♩} = 112$  VERSE

A A<sup>SUS</sup> A E/A A A<sup>SUS</sup>



1. Lord, the light of Your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the  
 2. Lord, I come to Your awe - some pres - ence, from the shad - ows in -  
 3. As we gaze on Your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -

4 A E/A D E/D C#m F#m D E/D



dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, Light of the world, shine up - on \_ us, set us free by the  
 -to Your rad - i - ance; By the blood I may en - ter Your bright-ness, search me, try me, con -  
 -play Your like - ness; Ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry, mir - rored here may our

8 C#m F#m G E<sup>SUS</sup> E G



truth You now bring \_ us. Shine on \_ me, \_ shine on \_  
 -sume all my dark - ness. Shine on \_ me, \_ shine on \_  
 lives tell Your sto - ry. Shine on \_ me, \_ shine on \_

CHORUS

12 E<sup>SUS</sup> E A E/A A D A/C# Bm Bm/A



me. \_ Shine, Je - sus, shine, \_ fill this land with the  
 me. \_  
 me. \_

16 E<sup>SUS</sup> E A E/A A D A/C# Bm Bm/A



Fa - ther's glo - ry; Blaze Spir - it, blaze, \_ set our hearts on

20 G E<sup>sus</sup> E A E/A A D A/C# Bm Bm/A  
 fire. Flow, riv - er, flow, \_ flood the na - tions with

24 E<sup>sus</sup> E A E/A A D A/C# Bm E<sup>7</sup>  
 grace and mer - cy; Send forth Your word, \_ Lord, and let there be

28 **INSTRUMENTAL** A D/A 1, 2. E/A D/A 3. E/A D/A **ENDING** A D/A A  
 light.

## Greeting & Prayer of the Day:

**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.

**P:** Let us pray...

**O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

## Welcome & Praise Reports

### Call to Worship

**Praise song:** “Angels From the Realms of Glory”

**ELW 275 vs 1**

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
 Wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
 Once you sang creation’s story,  
 Now proclaim Messiah’s birth:

(Refrain) Come and Worship, come and worship,  
 worship Christ, the new born king.

Reader: Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of God is shining on you!

P: Shadows shall cover the earth, but the brightness of God's presence is upon us.

**C: (sing) Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn king!**

Reader: Nations will be drawn to your light and rulers to the dawning of your new day

P: Look around and see what is happening; people are gathering to come home!

**C: (sing) Come and worship; come and worship, worship Christ the newborn king!**

Reader: You will see this and be filled with joy. You will tremble with excitement.

P: Everyone will tell the good news of what God has done!

**C: (sing) Come and worship; come and worship, worship Christ the newborn king!**

**Praise song: "Angels From the Realms"**

**ELW 275 vs 4**

All creation, join in praising God,  
The Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One.

(Refrain) Come and Worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the new born king.

## WORD

**Time with God's Kids**

**Blessing of your Creche**

**Pastor Anne**

**First Reading:**

**Isaiah 60: 1-6**

**60** 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,<sup>[a]</sup>  
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.

AM: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Psalm Reading: Psalm 72: 1-7,10-14** (read responsively)

AM: <sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king's son.

**C: <sup>2</sup>May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice.**

AM: <sup>3</sup>May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

**C: <sup>4</sup>May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.**

AM: <sup>5</sup> May he live while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

**C: <sup>6</sup> May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth.**

AM: <sup>7</sup> In his days may righteousness flourish  
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

**C: <sup>10</sup> May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles  
render him tribute,  
may the kings of Sheba and Seba  
bring gifts.**

AM: <sup>11</sup> May all kings fall down before him,  
all nations give him service.

**C: <sup>12</sup> For he delivers the needy when they call,  
the poor and those who have no helper.**

AM: <sup>13</sup> He has pity on the weak and the needy,  
and saves the lives of the needy.

**C: <sup>14</sup> From oppression and violence he redeems their life;  
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

*(please stand as you are able)*



warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**P:** The good news of Jesus

**C: Thanks be to you, O Christ**

*(please be seated)*

**Message**

*(please stand as you are able)*

*(Usher will come by and pick up your Prayer cards)*

**Pastor Anne**

**Song of the Day:**

***“God of Brilliant Lights”***

Sing it out, shout it loud  
Cover all the earth  
Let the sound of the saints  
Everywhere be heard  
Praise the God who has come  
To cure every broken heart.

He is lord over all  
His reign will never end  
Through the fire and the flood  
He draws His children in  
He's the light of the world  
Brighter than the brightest star.

*[Chorus:]*  
The God of brilliant lights  
Is shining down over us  
Breaking through the darkness  
Covering all the earth  
Ooh, His love is like an ocean  
Ooh, forever overflowing  
The God of brilliant lights is  
shining over us

Sinners come to the cross  
And lay your troubles down  
At the feet of the one whose  
mercy will abound  
He's not afraid of our filth  
He will never turn away

*[Chorus:]*  
The god of brilliant lights  
Is shining down over us  
Breaking through the darkness  
Covering all the earth  
Ooh, His love is like an ocean  
Ooh, forever overflowing  
The God of brilliant lights is  
shining over us.

He's shining over us

By Aaron Schust

## Apostles Creed

**P:** With the whole Church, let us affirm our faith:

**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 power of 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 People (*please be seated*)

AM: Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

### *A brief silence.*

AM: Merciful God, make your presence known throughout your church in all its different forms. Guide preachers and teachers to proclaim the work you do in this and every place. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

AM: You created the earth and all it contains. Send rain and snow to parched places so that plants and animals thrive. Direct us to be good stewards of all that you create. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

AM: You heal what is broken and make all things new. Grant peace in war-torn nations (*especially*), diplomatic wisdom to leaders, and end the torment of violence, so that all people live in safety and security. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

AM: We pray for the world. This week from the Cycle of World Prayer we especially lift up Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine. May they live in your peace and protection. Lord in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

AM: You call us as your children and comfort us in our afflictions. Bring patience to the distressed, compassion to the grieving, and relief to the suffering (*especially*), so that all experience your loving care. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

AM: Bless the ministry of **Immanuel Lutheran Church, Saratoga**, our sister congregation in our El Camino Real Conference as we lift them up in prayer, Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

AM: You gather us together and feed us with your word and sacrament. Send us forth to make your name known to all in our community by serving our neighbors.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

AM: You give us examples of Christ-like living through the witness of the faithful departed. As your beloved called on the name of Jesus throughout their lives, inspire us to call upon him in joy and in need. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Pastor:* Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature and form to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **Reconciliation & Peace**

**P:** As you have been reconciled with God, so now reach out to those just around you and share the reconciliation of God with others.

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you.

**C: and also with you.**

## MEAL

**P:** God 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 God.

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

**P:** God of all time and space, you touch us with your Light in this time of Epiphany, reminding us of your wisdom and love made human among us. You set us alight with your Spirit, calling us to be the hope and joy you promise to all creation – to nurture your realm of peace, already alive – around, among, and between us.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread,  
gave thanks, broke it,  
and gave it to his followers saying:  
Take and eat; this is my life, given for you.  
Do this to re-member me.

Later, during the meal, he took the cup,  
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant given to you and to all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Whenever you do this, re-member me.

So let this moment be held in the brightness of your being.  
Let this bread, wine, and all of us be blessed  
by the breath of your Spirit.  
With your people in every time and place,  
we praise and glorify you forever. Amen.

**P:** Let us pray together the prayer of Jesus, a prayer of hope for a new creation.

## The Lord's Prayer

**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**

*P: All are invited and welcome at this table. We come together and kneel or not as we desire. There is gluten-free unleavened bread, red wine or white grape juice in the individual cups. If you chose not to receive the bread and wine you are invited to come for a blessing, or stay in your seat in silent prayer. (For those who cannot come to the table, we will come to you.)*

### **Invitation to the table**

**P:** Come to the banquet, for nothing and no one can take your place. This is God's table, and Jesus is the host of this meal. It is a table of grace and it is all we will ever need.

**Communion Music :**

**Catherine Ellacer**

### **Post-Communion Blessing & Prayer**

**P:** We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Be the light for our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**SENDING**

**The Offering is Received**

Offering Song: "We Are An Offering"

#146 (purple book)

(please sing during the gathering of the offering)

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are: "We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering." The guitar chords are indicated above the notes. The score includes various chord types such as triads (G, C2), dyads (F/G, C/E), and complex chords (Dm7, F#sus2). There are also triplets and slurs used for phrasing.

F/G G C<sup>2</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>2</sup>/E C/E  
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our

F C/E Dm<sup>7</sup> F/G G C<sup>2</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup>  
lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our

C<sup>2</sup>/E C/E F C/E Dm<sup>7</sup> F/G G/F  
hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.

Em<sup>7</sup> Em<sup>7</sup>/A A Dm<sup>7</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup>/G Esus D/F# E/G# Am  
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we

Dm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>2</sup>/E B $\flat$ /C Dm<sup>7sus2</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup> F/G  
give to you, we give to you.

G C<sup>2</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>2</sup>/E C/E  
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our

F C/E Dm<sup>7</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup>/G C  
lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.

## Offering prayer

**C:** Gracious God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from darkness to light, from indifference to justice, from hatred and violence to peace and reconciliation. With these gifts we offer ourselves to you, our hands for your work. Amen.

## Time of Testimony & Invitation

**Blessing:**                   *(please stand as you are able)*

**P:** As you go, make a joyful noise to God with all the earth.  
Sing joyous songs of praise,  
Let the trumpets ring, the seas roar, and the mountains sing,  
For God has come among us and love is born within us – Hallelujah!  
Go in the peace of Christ.

**C: Amen.**

**Sending Song:**                   *“We Are Marching in The Light”     #866 (red book)*

We are marching in the light of God  
We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching  
We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching  
We are marching in the light of God.

Additional Stanzas...

We are dancing . . .

We are praying . . .

We are singing . . .

## Dismissal

**P:** Empowered by the Holy Spirit, go and be God's disciples in the world

**C:** Thanks be to God. We will!

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED WITH REFRESHMENTS, LECTOR, AND FLOWERS. PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE ENTRANCE AREA**



## Those in Service today

Pastor:	Pastor Anne Carlson
Organist:	Catherine Ellacer
Ushers:	Bob Balcomb/Les Grundy
Acolytes:	
Reader/Lector:	
Altar Care:	Linda Perez
Refreshments:	
Flowers:	

## Prayer List

Sharon Biller	Anna Lisa Holte	Thelma Spaziani
Mario Chissesi	Shirley Brothers	Elizabeth Krc
Marie Hughes	Eva Woodall	
Camila Lopez/ co-worker of Linda Perez		

\*\*Please let us know the names of those you would like included on the prayer list.

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle—This week

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JANUARY 1, 2016

### Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine

**Give thanks for:** Steadfast faith of the Christians in the Middle East amidst persecutions, conflicts and wars; Faithful Christians who guard the ancient Christian sites in the Middle East and traditions; The leaders of churches from different confessions who work for Christian unity and the establishment of justice and peace in the Middle East; Revivals among young Christians that bring hope through their ecumenical and vibrant lives and activities; Christian organizations who give service to the communities in the Middle East without prejudice; All initiatives done by Christians and non-Christians that support Middle East communities in their quest for justice and peace; Humanitarian works done among the poor.

**Pray for:** Peace, security and justice in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Israel; Unity and cooperation among Christians and different churches, so that they can witness God's love in Jesus Christ; Tremendous power of love and forgiveness in the hearts of Christians as we seek to follow to the teachings of Jesus to pray for our attackers and persecutors and forgive them; Families and friends of the Christians killed, kidnapped and displaced, as they grieve their loss, whilst facing serious threats to own lives and security; The poor and the unemployed, so they can find what they need to be able to live their lives in fullness move people to help them; People living in refugee camps. May God protect them from any harm, strengthen their faith to persevere in difficult situations, and bring them to peaceful and safe places; For political leaders in the region and the international community. May God give them wisdom of peace and courage of justice as they administer peoples' lives. May they seek for ways to end violence and injustices in this region; "Ya Rab Erham" (God have Mercy) and save the Middle East from evil!

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### **Financials/Attendance for Dec. 25:**

Attendance:

Offering:

Social Concern of the Month:

Lord's Pantry:

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Social Concern of the Month**

# Faith Lutheran's Hospitality Credo

*Mission: By the Power of God: Caring, Sharing, Praying, Growing*

## **Caring & Growing**

1. All are welcome  
We are inclusive  
We value you being here

## **Caring & Praying**

2. We expect to meet Jesus  
Every Sunday when we gather  
Communion/ Lord's Supper is open to everyone without restrictions

## **Praying & Sharing**

3. Service  
Worship on Sunday is when we gather to receive God's service to us,  
and to thank and praise God.  
Serving our neighbor and the stranger is what we are sent out to do.
4. Grateful and Thankful  
We know all of life is a gift and blessing from God.  
We are sent out to be a blessing to everyone we meet.

## **Sharing**

5. Sharing our resources  
Financial: One of God's many blessings is our financial gifts  
FLC shares 15% of all our offerings, plus the social concern of  
the month offerings with:  
The broader Lutheran church  
The world  
Our neighbors  
Energy: We give our time and passion to 6 local community charities

## **Praying & Growing**

6. We are human  
We struggle with our lack of faith & human condition  
We confess our sins  
We repent – that is turn around to Jesus  
We accept forgiveness, sometimes  
We are blessed with God's love and forgiveness  
As Lutherans, we live daily as both saint and forgiven sinner.  
Which means we are human.