

**THE DAY OF EPIPHANY** (transferred)  
**January 7, 2024**

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**  
**TEN O'CLOCK**



**ST JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**104 UNION STREET SOUTH**  
**PO BOX 684**  
**CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026**  
**704-786-0166**

## Welcome!

*St. James is a house of prayer where all people can come to know the compassionate heart of Jesus. We are a community of Christians where you can belong before you believe. At St. James the beauty of ancient worship and traditional spiritual practices transform contemporary lives. Join us as together we discover the sacred in the heart of our city. Our worship includes ancient and contemporary symbols and practices along with preaching and music to inspire you to follow Jesus in your daily life. We welcome both the spiritual seeker and seasoned disciple to find their home in God with us. If you are looking for a spiritual home or just exploring the life of faith, we hope you will walk with us on that journey of discovery.*

**Newcomers and visitors**, we hope that you will feel at home in this place and in this liturgy. Ushers are available in the Narthex during the liturgy should you have any questions or concerns. Please be sure and sign the guestbook located in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor or to an usher so that we can extend to you a warm welcome.

**Although there are customary postures** (such as standing and kneeling) in Lutheran worship, you are invited to be seated at any point, according to your needs and comfort.

**Children are most welcome in worship** at Saint James Church. For those who desire it, nursery care is provided on the first floor of the Education Building (ages 0-up to and including ages 5)

**First Aid Kits and the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED)** are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary, at the bottom of the stairs in the Portico area and in the Narthex. Fire extinguishers are located in the Sacristy and in the Narthex.

**If you are interested in membership** to this parish or desire a call from the Pastor, please indicate this to an usher or to the Pastor.

**Restrooms are available** on the first and second floors of the Education Building.

**Pew Pads** are on the end of each pew (*near center aisle*), please sign and pass so that we have a record of your attendance and communion.

### **St. James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups**

Send Joseph Beasley any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted at [joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com) @stjamesnc

## **SAINT JAMES STAFF**

Rev. William C. Ridenhour, Senior Pastor  
[prbill@sjnc.net](mailto:prbill@sjnc.net)

Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator  
[jill@sjnc.net](mailto:jill@sjnc.net)

Scott F. Foppiano, Organist and Director of Music  
[scottfop@gmail.com](mailto:scottfop@gmail.com)

Debbie Wilkinson, Interim Parish Administrator  
[info@sjnc.net](mailto:info@sjnc.net)

Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator  
[Krad3700@gmail.com](mailto:Krad3700@gmail.com)

Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian  
[Tfh1990@yahoo.com](mailto:Tfh1990@yahoo.com)

### **Lector Training**

With the beginning of the new year, it seems appropriate to invite all the faithful to serve as Lectors. Please plan to attend a brief training session after worship on either January 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>. These sessions are intended for both experienced and new volunteers. Scheduling for 2024 will begin after January 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your willingness to serve in this vital role.

### **Social Ministry Committee**

will meet today, January 7<sup>th</sup>, at 11:15 a.m. (following worship) in the Parlor.

### **Lively Leisures**

will meet Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at noon.

### **Bible Study Returns**

Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. (Passion Narratives)

Requirements: Bible and a Sense of Humor

The study is likely to last 8-9 weeks.

### **Invitation to Feed your Neighbor**

St. James is invited to feed our neighbors dinner at the new Salvation Army Center located at 45 Ashlyn Drive, SE (the corner of Ashlyn Drive SE and Patterson Ave SE) in Concord during the week of January 21-27.

Please consider providing a meal for roughly 35 individuals. There are no restrictions as to cuisine or style. Join up with a friend or two or three or four and share the load. Please deliver your meal to the center at 5pm.

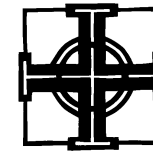
Can't cook? Buying dinner also feeds your neighbor.

Please contact Chip Popovici (484-772-5963) with any questions and to sign up AND look for Chip at the lectern at the beginning of worship on January 7th to learn more.

### **Sign-Up Sheets for Communion Assistants and Videographers**

Are located on the board in the Portico Area – if you are interested in serving in one or both of these ministry areas – please sign up or call the church office.

2024 ALTAR FLOWER CHART – posted in portico area...



## **THE EPIPHANY THE HOLY COMMUNION**

### **Gathering**



### **Chimes of the Trinity and Welcome**

**Opening Voluntary**     *Fantasy on When Morning Gilds the Skies*     H. A. Matthews

*Please stand.*

### **THE INVOCATION**

**P**     In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C**     **Amen.**

**THE ENTRANCE HYMN**     *When Morning Gilds the Skies*     Laudes Domini



1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:  
 2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:  
 3 To him, my highest and best, I sing, when love pos - sessed:  
 4 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known



may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,  
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer  
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! What - e'er my hands be - gin,  
 than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word



this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"  
 this bless - ing shall break in: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!

5 Let all of humankind  
 in this their concord find:  
 may Jesus Christ be praised!  
 Let all the earth around  
 ring joyous with the sound:  
 may Jesus Christ be praised!

6 Sing, sun and stars of space,  
 sing, all who see his face,  
 sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"  
 God's whole creation o'er,  
 today and evermore,  
 shall Jesus Christ be praised!

**THE APOSTOLIC 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.**

**THE KYRIE**

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

**Lectors/Intercessors:**

**Communion Assistant:** Elizabeth Hurley

**Acolyte/Crucifer:**

**Ushers:** Dale Merrell, Gretchen Walker, Robert Davis, Lex Patterson,  
 and Samantha Hillegass

**Videographer:**

**Greeter:** Maureen Hollmeyer

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**

Contributions / Receipts for December 31, 2023 - \$2,138.25

(\$7,371.00 needed weekly)

In-Person Attendance – 100

**PRAYER LIST**

Patsy Black

Tom Grady

Linda and Paul Jones (family members of Barbara & Dale Merrell)

Jerry Kiser (nephew of the Marlows)

Tom Ridenhour

Noah Clifton

**COPYRIGHT**

**MUSIC:** Used with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002 All rights reserved.

**LITURGY:** From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License SAS002140

## THE BENEDICTION

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

## THE SENDING HYMN *As With Gladness Men of Old*



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.

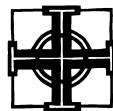
## THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Closing Voluntary

*In Thee is Joy*



J. S. Bach



Ⓐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



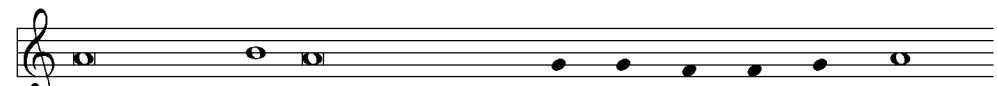
Ⓐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. ☩ A - men

## THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

**A** Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:

We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men

### THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray . . . (A brief silence is kept before the prayer.)

pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo-ple: A light to re-veal you to the

na-tions and the glo-ry of your peo-ple Is-ra-el.

Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it,

as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now,

and will be for-ev-er. A-men

### THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**A** Let us pray,

**A** O God, in this meal we have been given a foretaste of the feast that is to come. Help us always to be alert to your gifts in our midst; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen

*Silence for reflection.*

**Sending**



Q: What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?

A: We are told in the words “for you” and “for the forgiveness of sins.” By these words the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there are also life and salvation.

*-Luther’s Small Catechism Part V*

*Jesus bids all the baptized to feast at his table. Please come by way of the center aisle and return by the side aisle. If you need help figuring out where to and when to go, an usher or fellow worshiper will help you. At one time we too were confused. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.*

## THE DISTRIBUTION

*Please stand.*

## THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**

## THE NUNC DIMITTIS



Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -

P Lord 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.**

*Please sit.*

## Word



## THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

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.

### THE SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

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.

*Please stand.*

### THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



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

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.

*Please sit.*

### THE AGNUS DEI



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.

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

A: Instituted by Christ himself, it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and to drink.



It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This is my blood poured out for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you: Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

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

**C Amen**

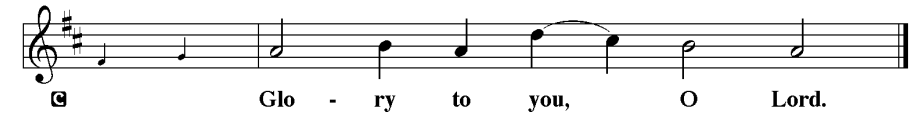
### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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,**

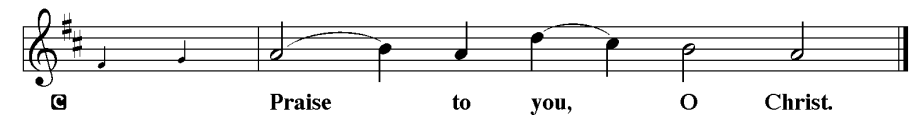
### THE HOLY GOSPEL

**P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.**



In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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: '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.



*Please sit.*

## THE SERMON

*Please stand.*

## THE HYMN OF THE DAY *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

Salzburg



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su - preme;  
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint-ing soul;  
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,  
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;  
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;  
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:  
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,  
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,  
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.  
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

## THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,**

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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:

## THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:



Heav'n 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.

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you. Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

## THE OFFERTORY CANTICLE



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.  
A Merciful Father,  
C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our  
selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.  
Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen.

## THE 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 him thanks and praise.**

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate  
from the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his  
kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
With the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those  
in need, and all of God's creation.

A Let us pray for the church:

*Silence for prayer.*

A God, whose promise is for all nations; sustain the Christmas glory still. May the Lord shine upon us. By the Holy Spirit, reveal your plan. We pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, lead us to glory.**

A Let us pray for God's light:

*Silence for prayer.*

A May the nations walk by your light and kings and queens by your shining radiance. Let all search together for profound peace. We pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, lead us to glory.**

A Let us pray for those without strength:

*Silence for prayer.*

A Save the lives of the poor. Rescue them when they cry out. Govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with careful judgement. We pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, lead us to glory.**

A Let us pray for unity among believers:

*Silence for prayer.*

A Bring the new epiphany where all will share the promise and rise in splendor. In the Spirit all are called to love. We pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, lead us to glory.**

A Let us pray for all travelers:

*Silence for prayer.*

A May those who study the heavens follow the star to the place where Christ is and there, like the Magi, do him homage. Reveal your plan by the Holy Spirit. We pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, lead us to glory.**

A Let us remember the dead:

*Silence for prayer.*

A May the Beloved rise in splendor. Banish the darkness that covers the earth. Let glory appear. We pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, lead us to glory.**

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

### THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*Please sit.*

### THE ANTHEM

*We Three Kings*

Stephen Paulus

### THE OFFERING

#### Table



*Please stand.*