

Living Christ Lutheran Church (L.C.M.S.)

Faith | Love | Outreach | Worship

726 Moon Road, Plainfield, IN 46168 (317) 839-4800 (317-450-7505 cell)

Pastor Steven D Latzke 574-261-4427

www.livingchristplainfield.com

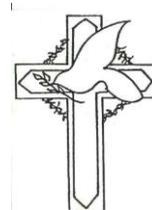
The Epiphany Our Lord

January 4, 2026



As We Gather

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. *Galatians 4:4-7*



***Christian educational childcare for infants thru 11 years Mrs. Kim Willis, Director
317-837-9998***

Visitors, we welcome you and thank you for being with us today. May we be a blessing to you and you to us.

Please come again soon to receive with us and hear of God's gifts of forgiveness, peace and life in the name of Jesus Christ.

Join us each Sunday at 10:30 am to hear the Word from Scripture and to share in worship of our Savior and Lord.

Pre-Service Meditation

On entering: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

Before worship: O Lord, my Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Jesus. Amen.

Each Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays
Sunday Morning Bible Class continues studying Job at 9:00 am. Join us!

This week:

Saturday, January 10 Take down Nativity and Christmas tree -10:00 am
Adult Study Lutheranism 101 will meet this week Wednesday at 5:00 pm

PREPARATION

Opening Hymn

395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

(Please stand for the last stanza.)



1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
2 Come, heav'n-ly Bride-groom, Light di-vine, And deep with-in
3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls
4 Al-might-y Fa-ther, in Your Son You loved us when



own truth and light, A-glow with grace and mer-cy!
our hearts now shine; There light a flame un-dy-ing!
from God a-bove A ray of pur-est plea-sure.
not yet be-gun Was this old earth's foun-da-tion!



Of Ja-cob's race, King Da-vid's son, Our Lord and mas-
In Your one bod-y let us be As liv-ing branch-
Your Word and Spir-it, flesh and blood Re-fresh our souls
Your Son has ran-somed us in love To live in Him



ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on - ly!
 es of a tree, Your life our lives sup - ply - ing.
 with heav'n-ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure!
 here and a - bove: This is Your great sal - va - tion.



Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, All vic - to - rious,
 Now, though dai - ly Earth's deep sad - ness May per - plex us
 Let Your mer - cy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, To us giv - ing



Rich in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
 And dis - tress us, Yet with heav'n - ly joy You bless us.
 For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.
 Life for - ev - er, Keeps us Yours and fails us nev - er!

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

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

Exhortation

LSB 184

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
 C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
 C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession and Absolution

P In Christ, we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.

C **May all kings fall down before Him, all nations serve Him!**

P In repentant faith, we come before our Lord in confession.

Silence for reflection.

P Almighty God, King of all,

C **we confess to You that we are sinful by nature. We have lived in darkness rather than light. Our selfish thoughts, harmful words, and faithless actions reveal our sinfulness. But for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, who became flesh for us, we pray, forgive us our sins. Amen.**

P God's grace is revealed in the birth, life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He has brought light to this world darkened by sin. In the stead and by the command of Jesus, I announce to you the full forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 45:6–8a; antiphon: v. 17

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

**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.**

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.

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

Gloria Patri

LSB 186



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Kyrie

LSB 186



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



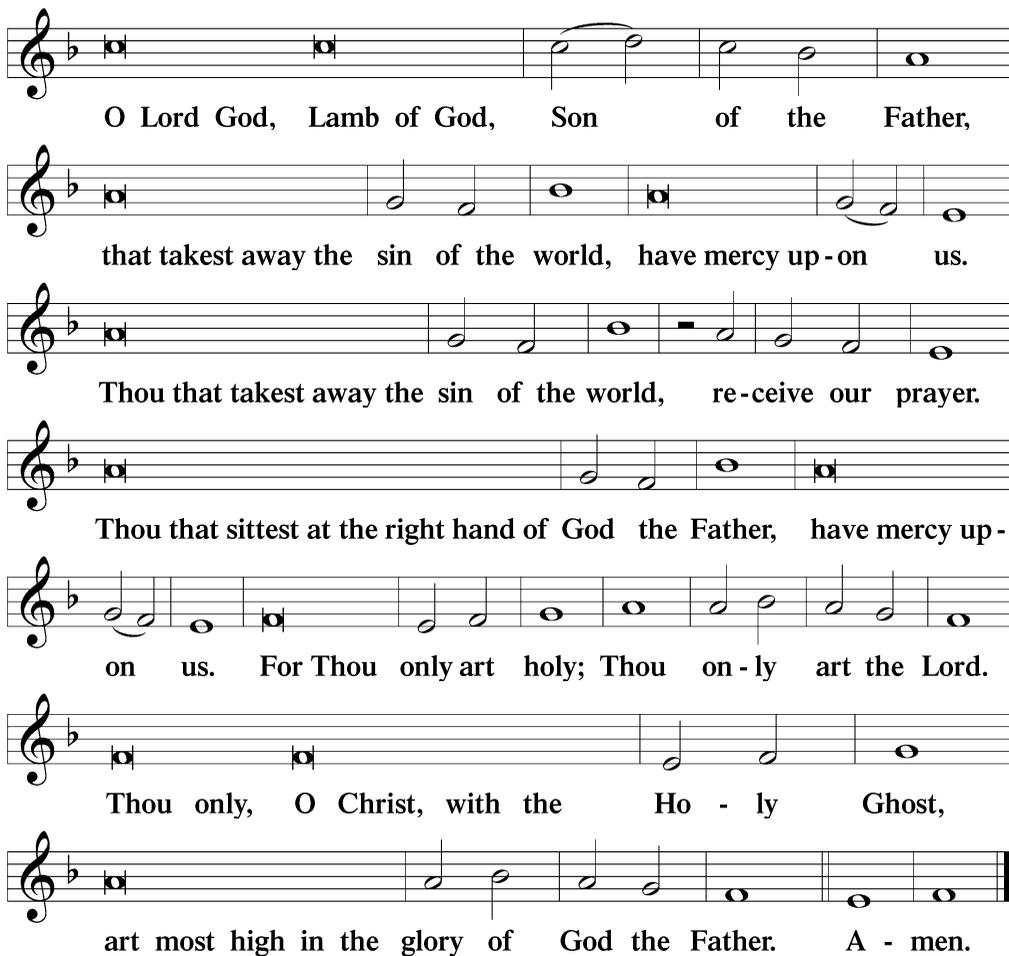
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P 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.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

(The Lord's coming will be good news for

- 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 72:1–11; antiphon: v. 18

- ¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!
- ²**May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!**
- ³Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!

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

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

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

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

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

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

**¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands
render him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!**

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

Epistle

Ephesians 3:1–12

(Everyone is welcome to partake in the promise in Christ Jesus.)

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.

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

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.
C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

(Gentiles bring gifts for the baby.)

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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.
**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life T of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

Hymn of the Day

397 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 - 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.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt.

Tune: Conrad Köcher, 1786-1872

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Wise or - Guided Men?

Votum

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
C **Amen.**

Stand

Offering

(Please place your offering in the offering plate in the back.)

Offertory

LSB 192



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Sit

Prayer of the Church

P Arise, shine, for your light has come. We pray for the church here and around the world. For as the Magi saw the star, many people will see the glory of the Lord and come to faith, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Wonderful Counselor, hear our prayer.**

P For the leaders of this nation and the nations of the world, that they use their many resources for the poor, remember the disadvantaged, provide for lawful order within their borders, and seek peace with their neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Mighty God, hear our prayer.**

P Lift up your eyes all around and see. We pray for the lonely—those alone at home; those separated from loved ones, including armed forces deployed; and all those forgotten by the rest of society—that

God would move caring people to surround them with His love. Let us pray to the Lord.

C Everlasting Father, hear our prayer.

P The Magi brought gold and frankincense. We pray for charitable organizations in our parish and community, that by the grace of God, we all may experience growth in faith as the Gospel moves from ears to heart, and from conviction to serving God and loving one another. Let us pray to the Lord.

C Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, gracious God, who sent Your Son to be light in this dark world, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Full)

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of

heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising
You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

162

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 Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



Sit

Distribution

Before communing: "Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament: "I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal"

Distribution Hymn

395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright v.6,7

5 O let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all
 6 What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love

with mu - sic crowned, Our voic - es glad - ly blend - ing!
 is first and last, The end and the be - gin - ning!

For Christ goes with us all the way— To - day, to - mor -
 He will one day, oh, glo - rious grace, Transport us to

row, ev - 'ry day! His love is nev - er end - ing!
 that hap - py place Be - yond all tears and sin - ning!



Sing out! Ring out! Ju - bi - la - tion! Ex - ul - ta - tion!
A - men! A - men! Come, Lord Je - sus! Crown of glad-ness!



Tell the sto - ry! Great is He, the King of Glo - ry!
We are yearn - ing For the day of Your re - turn - ing!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110018662

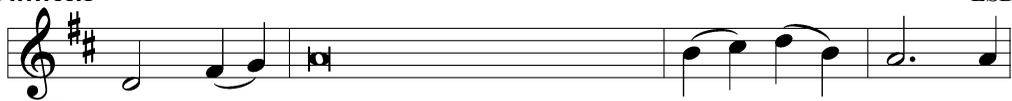
Text and tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608
Tune: Public domain

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



Thanksgiving

LSB 200

- A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
 C **and His mercy endureth forever.**

Post-Communion Collect

- A Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
 C **Amen.**

Salutation

LSB 201

- P The Lord be with you.
 C **And with thy spirit.**

Benedicamus

LSB 202

- A Bless we the Lord.
 C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

LSB 202

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and T give you peace.



- ☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn

397 As with Gladness Men of Old sts. 1-2, 4



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,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;



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;
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last



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.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt.

Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

For our Visitors: The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this altar in the confession and glad confidence that, as HE says, our LORD gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but HIS very BODY and BLOOD to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with HIM and with one another. Our LORD invites to HIS table those who are baptized, who trust in HIS WORDS who repent of all sin, and who set aside any refusal to forgive as HE forgives us, that they may show forth HIS death until HE comes.

Because those who eat and drink our LORD's BODY and BLOOD unworthily (without discernment) do so to their great harm and because HOLY COMMUNION is a confession of faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from this congregation and the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the SACRAMENT, are asked first to speak with the pastor. For further study see Matthew 5:23, 10:32, 18:15-35, 26:26-29, and 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.

PLEASE NOTE: Because the sacrament can be taken to one's spiritual harm if not properly understood (1 Corinthians 11:27), we ask all members and guests to refer to our statement of belief . Our desire is for you to participate fully in every aspect of this ministry, but we also do not want to compromise any portion of God's Word among us. For those sensitive to alcohol, there is white grape juice in the center of the communion trays. If you would like to come forward for a blessing, please kneel and cross your hands over your chest