

welcome to worship
THREE KINGS DAY
(EPIPHANY OBSERVED)
January 4, 2026 ♦ 10:00 am



The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement
5 Wyomissing Boulevard
Wyomissing, Pennsylvania 19610-2081
phone: 610-375-3512 ♦ www.atonementwyo.org
The Rev. Katie Lyon ♦ Deacon Tom Yenser, director of music

The assembly's responses are in bold print.

PRELUDE

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

arr. Wood

WELCOME

Pastor Katie

The assembly remains seated.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God, we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. **Amen.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you. † Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

We Three Kings of Orient Are

♪ We three kings of orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain:

Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us by thy perfect light!

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Heav'n sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Katie and the Three Kings

READING *Ephesians 3:1-10 (The Message)*

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

A reading from Ephesians.

3 ¹⁻³ This is why I, Paul, am in jail for Christ, having taken up the cause of you outsiders, so-called. I take it that you're familiar with the part I was given in God's plan for including everybody. I got the inside story on this from God himself, as I just wrote you in brief.

⁴⁻⁶ As you read over what I have written to you, you'll be able to see for yourselves into the mystery of Christ. None of our ancestors understood this. Only in our time has it been made clear by God's Spirit through his holy apostles and prophets of this new order. The mystery is that people who have never heard of God and those who have heard of him all their lives (what I've been calling outsiders and insiders) stand on the same ground before God. They get the same offer, same help, same promises in Christ Jesus. The Message is accessible and welcoming to everyone, across the board.

⁷⁻⁸ This is my life work: helping people understand and respond to this Message. It came as a sheer gift to me, a real surprise, God handling all the details. When it came to presenting the Message to people who had no background in God's way, I was the least qualified of any of the available Christians. God saw to it that I was equipped, but you can be sure that it had nothing to do with my natural abilities.

⁸⁻¹⁰ And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of Christ. My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along. Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

ACCLAMATION HYMN 275 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* – stanzas 1 and 3

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12 (The Message)

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁻² After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory—this was during Herod's kingship—magi arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him."

³⁻⁴ When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

⁵⁻⁶ They told him, "Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:

It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land,

no longer bringing up the rear.

From you will come the leader

who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel."

⁷⁻⁸ Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the magi from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, "Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I'll join you at once in your worship."

⁹⁻¹⁰ Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on. When they saw that the star had stopped over the place of the child, they were overwhelmed with joy. They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

¹² In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition concludes ... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

*The prayers conclude ... through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.***

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

If you brought an offering or your pledge card today, please place it in an offering plate that ushers will pass at this time. Thank you for your generous gifts! Did you know you can give using a credit card? Scan the QR code to the right.



OFFERTORY

The First Noel

arr. Greer

HOLY COMMUNION

Following the words of institution...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion at Atonement. Follow the directions of the ushers to receive bread and a pre-filled cup of wine or grape juice (in purple cups) from the communion assistants. Deposit your empty cup in the basket at the end of the front pew and return to your seat by the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Children are welcome to receive communion with their parents' permission.

Please take a moment to sign and pass the attendance pads found in the pews, check in to Atonement on your favorite social media platform, share a photo with your digital community, and say something gentle in the spirit of Jesus!

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

ELW 301

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God-come-to-earth, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May God bless you, keep you, ☩ be gracious to you.

May God give you grace never to sell yourself – or God – short.

Grace to risk something big for something good.

Grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love.

So may God take your mind and think through it.

May God take your lips and speak through them.

May God take your hands and do good with them.

May God take your heart and set it on fire. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN 302

As with Gladness Men of Old

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest! **And peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in joy. Let your light shine! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

We Three Kings of Orient Are

arr. Linker

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Assisting with Worship

Patty Lehr, greeter

Daral Woerle, head usher

Pete Calder, lector

Emily Shirk, assisting minister

Gail Dawson-White, Precious Johnson-Agiri, Bryan Wang, Karen Wang, communion assistants

Crystal Shirk, Matt Shirk, audio/visual

Cathy Durand, Jon Durand, nursery

Susan Mehos, altar captain

Kaia Arana Lyon, sexton

Three Kings: Anthony Arana, Dami Johnson-Agiri, Bill Laubach

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 11
8:45-9:45AM

Join us for a HOLOCAUST PRESENTATION by Leah Leisawitz, an 8th grader from Wyomissing, whose great-grandparents survived the Holocaust Room F122, all teens and adults are invited.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION continues, all children meet in the choir room.

Atonement Staff

Katie Lyon, *Pastor*
Tom Yenser, *Deacon*
Jen Dauber, *Preschool Director*
Laurynn Lacis, *Director of Children's Ministry*
Arthur Wyse, *Visitation Pastor*
Crystal Shirk, *Office Manager*
Amy Rogers, *Financial Secretary*
Tom Scornavacchi, *Mission Developer*
Michelle Endy, *Room Coordinator*
Ken Lord, *Congregational Health Advocate*
Ellen Bryan, *Pastoral Care Coordinator*

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pastortom@cgrcommunity.org
calendar@atonementwyo.org
klord@atonementwyo.org
ebryan@atonementwyo.org

WARMEST WELCOME to this congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America! We are a Lutheran church, but we're not just for Lutherans—we belong to our community! Together we are on the journey of discipleship with Jesus, who guides us from worship to formation, from formation to fellowship, and from fellowship to Christ-like servanthood.

CHILDREN are very welcome at Atonement! Activity bags and children's bulletins are available at the entrance to the worship space.

THE NURSERY is available for children preschool age and younger in Room F 126 during worship, and the privacy room behind the nave is available for families who would like additional wiggle room.

HEARING DEVICES are available for those who have trouble hearing the service—ask an usher or stop by the sound booth on you way into the worship space.

RESTROOMS are located in the hall next to the worship space. A FAMILY RESTROOM with a changing table is also located in the Privacy Room at the back of the worship space.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are Monday—Thursday, 10:30am—2:30pm or by appointment.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION resumes January 18 in Room F122, where we will wrap up our year-long reading of the Bible.

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN continues next Sunday, January 11 in the choir room at 8:45.

A PLACE AT THE TABLE COMMUNION CELEBRATION will be held January 25 during 10:00 am worship.

ATONEMENT VOLUNTEERS SERVE AT OPPORTUNITY HOUSE the third Saturday of every month. Contact Bob Eisenbrown at 484-332-8788 if you would like to join the team.

DONATING TO THE COMMUNITY AID THRIFT SHOP can benefit Common Ground. Use the code **50244** when you make a donation.

DONATIONS FOR COMMON GROUND are being collected in the large bin next to the coatroom in the narthex. You can also donate using our Amazon wish list, available by going to atonementwyo.org and selecting Common Ground from the top menu of the home page. We are especially in need of **LARGER SIZED MEN'S CLOTHING**.

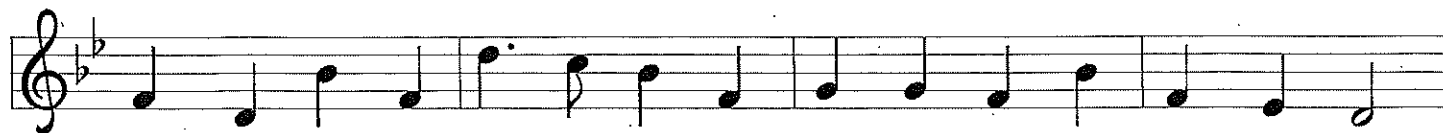
2025 PLEDGES should be fulfilled. If you are unsure of your remaining pledge, please email Amy Rogers at arogers@atonementwyo.org, or reach out at 610-375-3512 x110.

ADDITIONAL USHERS ARE NEEDED! The commitment is about once every 6 weeks. If you would like to be added to an usher team, OR if you would like to help with the usher scheduling, please email Crystal at cshirk@atonementwyo.org.

WINTER WONDERLAND DANCE for all ages will be held in Lundin Hall Saturday, January 17, 5-7 pm. Join us for dancing, snacks, and more! Do you have a FROZEN COSTUME we could borrow for the dance? Contact the office!

ACCLAMATION HYMN 275 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

stanzas 1 and 3



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;

3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:

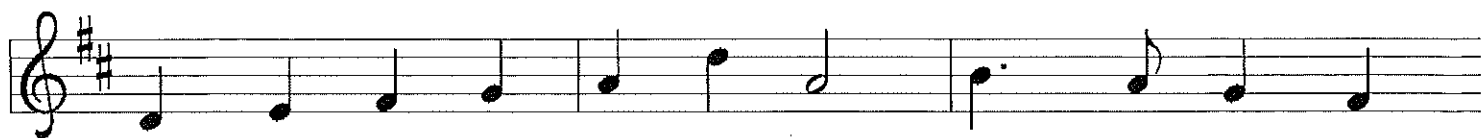
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

COMMUNION HYMN 301 *Bright and Glorious Is the Sky*



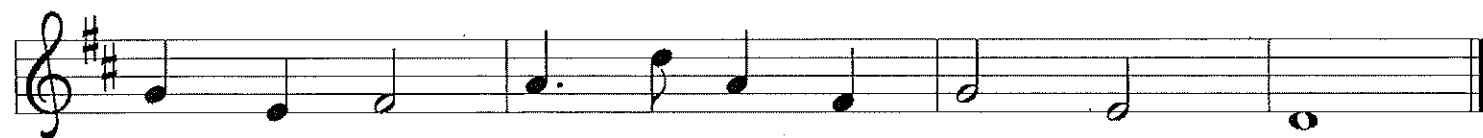
1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
 2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness
 3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this
 4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no



heav - ens high , where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
 beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,
 won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions
 di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly



All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to
 all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous
 and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the
 with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her



heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.
 star drew nigh, as the won - drous star drew nigh.
 new - born king, to the child, the new - born king.
 lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

5 Guided by the star, they found
 him whose praise the ages sound.
 We too have a star to guide us,
 which forever will provide us
 with the light to find our Lord,
 with the light to find our Lord.

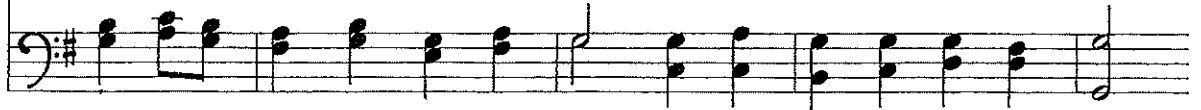
6 And this star, as bright as day,
 that will never lead astray
 with its message so appealing,
 is the word of God, revealing
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

As with Gladness Men of Old

302



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: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

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