



**The Epiphany of Our Lord
January 5, 2025**

**Grace Lutheran Church
40 N. Main St., Hatfield, PA 19440**

Rev. Nancy M. Raabe, Pastor
Susanna Faust, Minister of Music
Annette Dittman, Director of Youth Ministries
Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator
Jessica Moran, Stepping Stones Director

Prelude: We Three Kings

Wendy Lynn Stevens

Please stand.

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

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us,
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.
C. Amen.

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.**

GATHERING HYMN: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright! ELW 308

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. 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

WORD**First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6**

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift 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.

⁵Then 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.

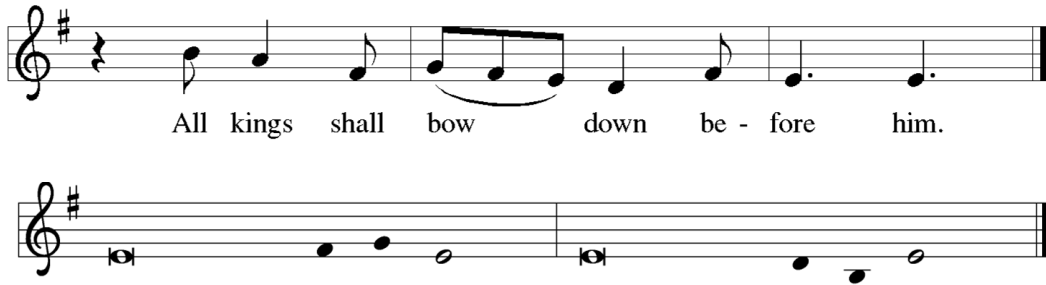
⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

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

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Refrain



- Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
**2 that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**
**3 that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.**
**4 Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R**
**5 May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.**
**6 Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**
**7 In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.**
**10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts. R**
**11 May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.**
**12 For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**
**13 He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.**
**14 From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight. R**

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—² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ 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: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

Children's Message

Please stand.

Annette Dittman

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting 4



Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

P. The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “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.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶‘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.’”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.” ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And 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.**

Please be seated.

Sermon: What Happened Next....

Pastor Nancy Raabe

HYMN of the DAY: The First Noel

ELW 300

APOSTLES' CREED

**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

To the petition "God of grace," please respond, "Receive our prayer."

GREETING OF THE PEACE

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

Please be seated.



OFFERING



*The offering will be collected at this time by the ushers, who will pass the offering plates. You may also use this QR code to give using your credit card, or text a gift to Grace at our special number, **844-613-0815**. We rely on your gifts to sustain Grace and all its ministries. Forms for electronic giving are in the narthex or ask us for help.*

Music at the Offering: Before the Marvel of This Night
Grace Choir

Carl Schalk

Please stand. The offering is brought forward as the Offertory is sung.

OFFERTORY: Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 184

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

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 God thanks and praise.
P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Setting 4



Holy one, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:...

In the night in which he was betrayed...

P. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C. Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father, who art in heaven....

Invitation to Communion

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

Please be seated.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW Setting 4



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.

Communion Hymn: O Bread of Life from Heaven

ELW 480

Please stand.

TABLE BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand.

BENEDICTION

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



SENDING HYMN: Jesus, the Light of the World All Creation Sings 914



- 1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
- 2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;
- 3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
- 4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;



“Glo - ry to the new-born king,” Je-sus, the Light of the world.
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Refrain



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, stanzas; George D. Elderkin, 1845–1928, refrain
Music: WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT, Traditional; arr. George D. Elderkin

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Go Tell It on the Mountain

Norah Duncan

Serving today – Thank You!!

Preacher and Presider: Rev. Nancy Raabe

Minister of Music: Susanna Faust

Lector: 8:00, W. Walter; 10:30, B. Krout

Ushers: 8:00, D. Capanear & R. Smyrl;

10:30, J. Krout & K. Deussing

Communion Asst: 8:00, D. Kunkel;

10:30, B. Hess

Altar Guild: 8:00, J. Swartz;

10:30, E. Woltmann & L. Boyer

Acolyte: 8:00, Usher; 10:30, Usher

Coffee Hour: Cathy Farrell

Council Offering & Lockup:

8:00, D. Kunkel; 10:30, C. Farrell

Video Team: Harold Schaefer, Dan &

Tami Sarm

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