



# The Epiphany of Our Lord

ELW Holy Communion Setting One

January 7, 2024

10:30 AM

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

[www.oslc-warrenton.org](http://www.oslc-warrenton.org)

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister may the prayer of preparation.*

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.*

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The assembly stands. The service continues with gathering song.*

## GATHERING SONG

### *Bright and Glorious Is the Sky (st. 1, 3, 5-6) ELW 301*

- 1 Bright and glorious is the sky,  
radiant are the heavens high  
where the golden stars are shining.  
All their rays to earth inclining  
beckon us to heav'n above,  
beckon us to heav'n above.
  
- 3 Sages from the East afar,  
when they saw this wondrous star,  
went to find the king of nations  
and to offer their oblations  
to the child, the newborn king,  
to the child, the newborn king.
  
- 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.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877-1970, alt.  
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## GREETING

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Children come forward as we sing:*

This little light of mine, I'm goin-a let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm goin-a let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm goin-a let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

### FIRST READING: ISAIAH 60:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>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 word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14**

*The psalm is sung by a cantor. The assembly sings the refrain.*

Refrain:



- <sup>1</sup>Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,  
and your righteousness to | the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your | people righteously  
and the | poor with justice;**  
<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,  
and the | hills, in righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R**



- <sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,  
from one generation | to another.  
<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,  
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**  
<sup>7</sup>In his time may the | righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.  
<sup>10</sup>**May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts. R**



- <sup>11</sup>May all kings bow | down before him,  
and all the nations | do him service.  
<sup>12</sup>**For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**  
<sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,  
and preserves the lives | of the needy.  
<sup>14</sup>**From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,  
and precious is their blood | in his sight. R**



## SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 3:1-12

A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>1</sup>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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(MATT. 2:2)

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*

*Alleluia.* We have observed his star<sup>1</sup> at its rising,\* and have come to<sup>1</sup> worship him. *Alleluia*



## **GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12**

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>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:

<sup>6</sup>‘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.

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*As With Gladness Men of Old (st. 1-4)*

**ELW 302**

- 1 As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led by thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,  
Savior, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare  
at thy cradle, rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.
- 4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day  
keep us in the narrow way;  
and when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.

*Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

*A brief silence.*

As the Magi witnessed to the birth of Christ, make your Church witness to his enduring gift of new life. Be with Elizabeth and Phyllis our bishops, Terri and Michael our pastors, Pastor Toby and our partners in Papua New Guinea, and with each of us as we reveal your grace to a world in need. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nations shall come to your light and kings to your dawning. Make leaders and authorities bold in pursuit of peace and justice. Bless the people of Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, Japan and Iran. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

As the Magi offered gifts to the Christ child, empower us to give generously. Prosper the work of ministry partnerships in our community, especially People Helping People, the Family Shelter, the Free Clinic and the Mental Health Association. Together, help us to ensure that our neighbors have food, resources, and opportunities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You are the source of healing and wholeness. Remember the sick and suffering, especially (*names*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You have redeemed the lives of your faithful departed (*especially ...*). Through the love of Christ, gather us into one body with them, and reveal to us the mystery hidden for ages in the One who created all things. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

**Amen.**

## **INSTALLATION OF THE 2024 CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

*The assembly is seated. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

*The offices and names of those who are to be installed are read.*

*A reading from First Corinthians:* There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (*1 Corinthians 12:4-7*)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

*The presiding minister addresses those being installed.*

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been *elected*?

*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

*The assembly stands. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

*Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.*

I now declare you installed as *officers / council members* of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

**Amen.**

<p><b>MEAL</b></p> <p><i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i></p>
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**PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of Christ.*

**OFFERING**

Let us offer back to God what God has first given us: our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of God's gracious love.

**OFFERTORY SONG**

*ELW 181*

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 the 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.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

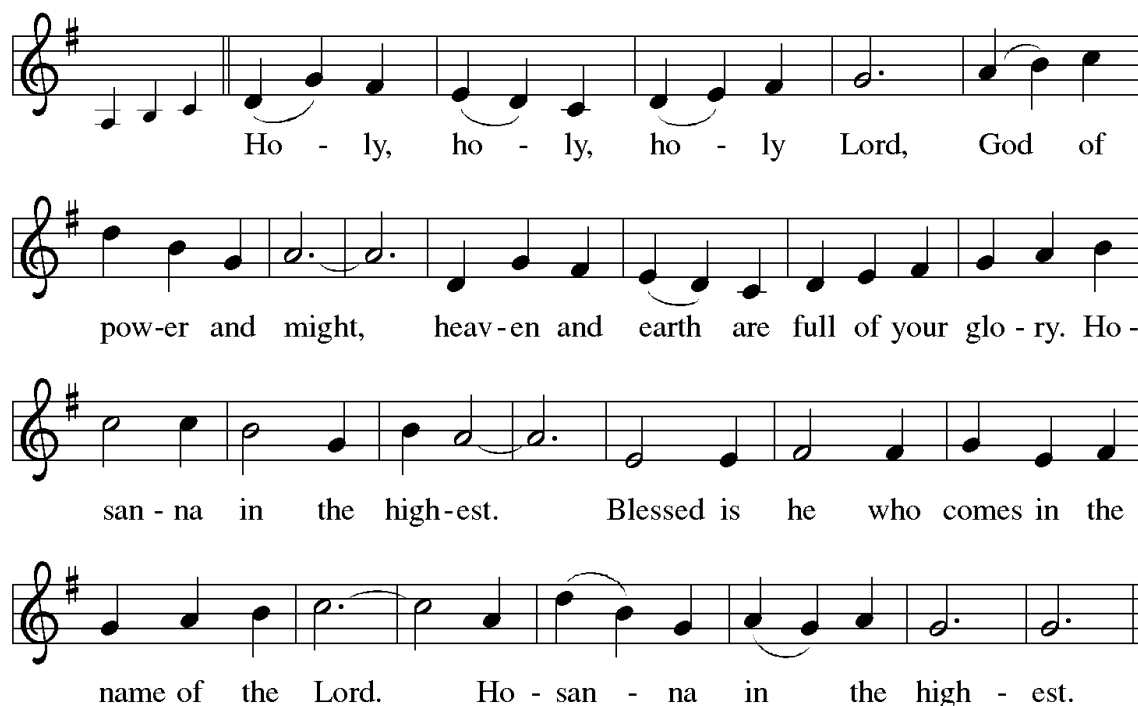
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. 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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*On behalf of the assembly, the presiding minister offers a sacrifice of praise and thanks.*

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, 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 be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

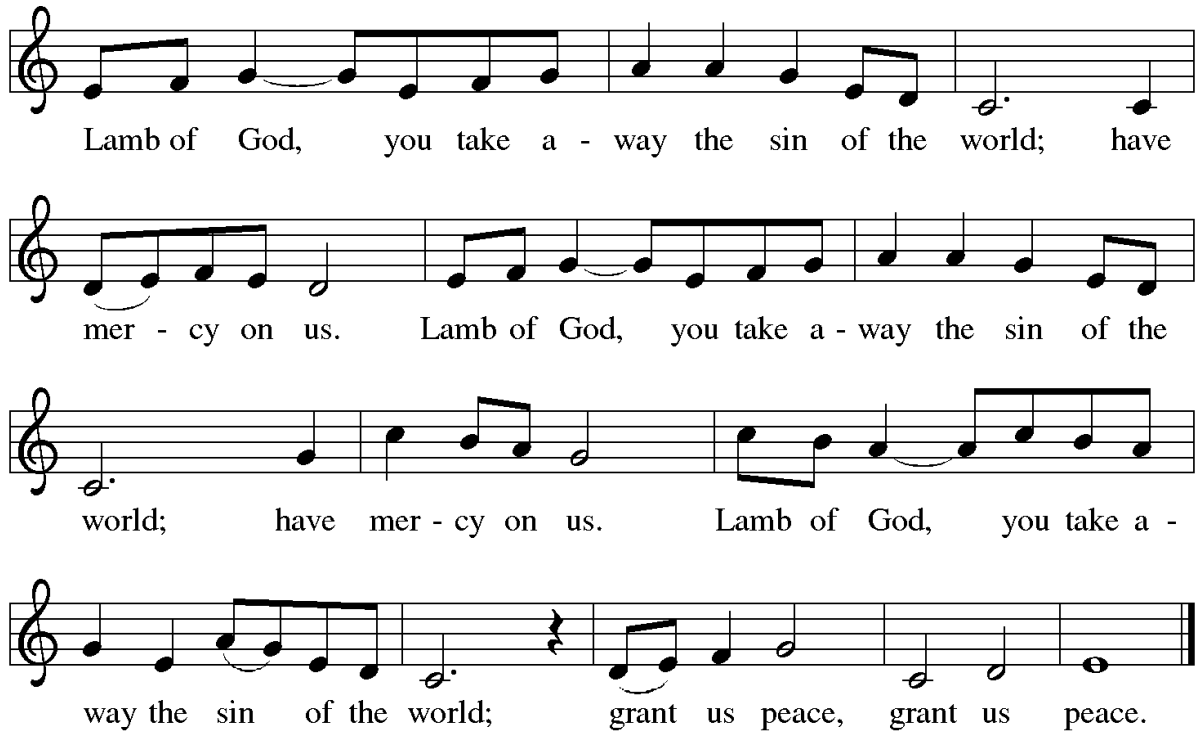
**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Arise, shine, the Light has come.  
**The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

**LAMB OF GOD**



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**

*We believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. All baptized Christians are invited to his table. To learn about being baptized, speak to a pastor.*

*You may eat the Body and drink the Blood from the cup, or you may dip the Body into the Blood before consuming them together. Alternatively, you may cross your arms in front of your chest to ask for a blessing instead of either or both elements. Those who refrain may do so trusting that Christ is fully present according to his promise.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*The assisting minister leads the following prayer after communion.*

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy

people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**

*Shall We Gather at the River*                      *ELW 423*

1 Shall we gather at the river,  
where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever  
flowing by the throne of God?

*Refrain*

Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.

2 On the margin of the river,  
washing up its silver spray,

we will walk and worship ever,  
all the happy golden day. *Refrain*

3 Ere we reach the shining river,  
lay we ev'ry burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver,  
and provide a robe and crown.  
*Refrain*

4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,  
soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
soon our happy hearts will quiver  
with the melody of peace. *Refrain*

*Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899*

**DISMISSAL**

*The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.*

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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