concordia church



Epiphany of Our Lord

January 7, 2024

concordia church

Love God. Love Your Neighbor.

www.concordiafaith.org

773-281-1225

Concordia on Seeley

3855 N. Seeley

Sunday mornings:

10:00am Worship (In-person & virtual options)

Join the 10:00am livestream on Sunday mornings or view recordings of our past services on our YouTube channel.

YouTube **Concordia Church Chicago**

Welcome, and thank you for worshipping with us this morning.

Holy Communion happens at every service and is open to all baptized.

Restrooms are located in the fellowship hall; exit the sanctuary through the back and follow the stairwell downstairs.

Masks and hand sanitizer are located in the back of the sanctuary should you need either.

Questions? Contact Desirae, Parish Admin, at dcontreras@concordiafaith.org

Prelude

Blessing of the Church

P: May peace be to this house (of God) and to all who enter here. By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.
Proverbs 24:3-4

Proclamation

P: As we prepare to ask God's blessing on our church, let us listen to the words of scripture.

A: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.
John 1:1-4, 14, 16

Inscription

20 + CMB + 24
20 two thousand
24 and twenty-four years ago.

The magi of old, known as

C Caspar,
M Melchior, and
B Balthasar

followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us

+ Christe mansionem benedica
+ Christ, bless this house, +
and remain with us throughout the new year.

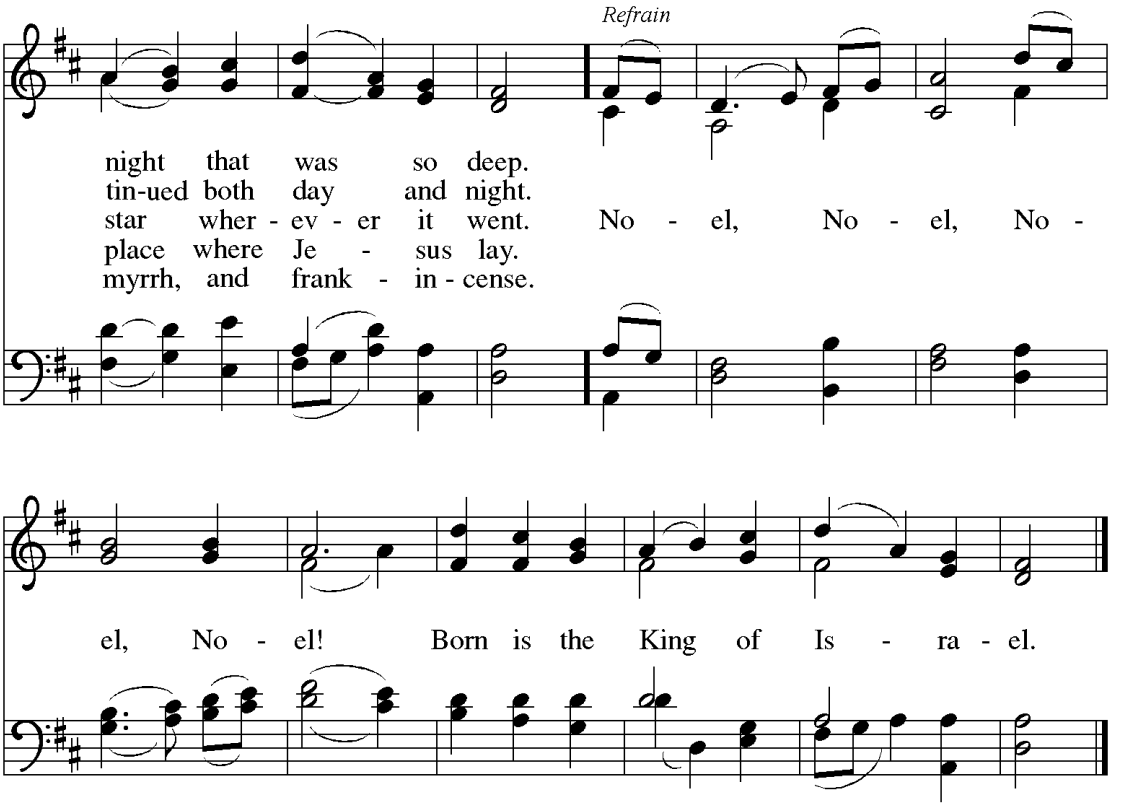
Processional Hymn — ELW #300 "*The First Noel*"

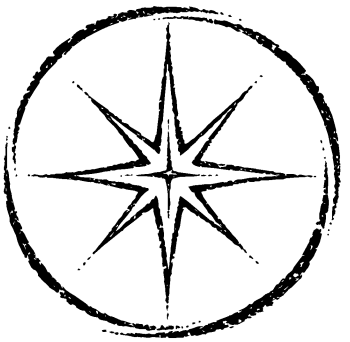
(Verses sung during the procession to the four corners of the sanctuary)



Processional Hymn con't ELW #300 "*The First Noel*"

(Verses sung during the procession to the four corners of the sanctuary)





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

First Reading — Isaiah 60:1-6

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

L: Word of Word. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Taize *sung by choir*

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—for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 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: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 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. 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, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 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. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *"Alleluia"*



P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel — Matthew 2:1–12

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." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 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.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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." 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And 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.

Gospel Acclamation (repeat acclamation)

Sermon — Rev. Nicholas Zook

Hymn of the Day **WOV #302 " *As With Gladness Men of Old*"**

verses 1, 4, 5



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.

Apostle's Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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 of Intercession

A: Remembering the Church, the world, and all those in need, let us offer our prayers to God. Lord, in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

A: Blessed be God, who gave us the light of the world and who desires that all people should come to know Christ's love and grace. Fill our hearts with your radiance and truth that we might walk as children of light. Lord, in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

A: Lord God, through the ministry of your Son we have received grace upon grace. Bring light to those who dwell in darkness, joy to those in sorrow, hope to those in fear and despair. We pray especially for: Bonnie, Glen, Lupe, Galen, Mike, Sandie, Julie, Sandy, and for those we name before you or silently in our hearts *[pause for names}* ...Lord, in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

A: Thanks be to God who calls us to witness to Christ's love in our community. We give you thanks for the ministries of our congregation, and the blessings of Concordia Church and Concordia Place. Use our gifts for those you have called us to serve. Lord, in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

A: God of light and truth, whose love knows no bounds in your Son, Jesus. Bring us to a deeper understanding of the Gospel, help us to accept the challenge of Christian living, and lead us to the joy of faith in the family of your church. Lord, in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

P: All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O Lord our God, through Jesus Christ, for your mercy is everlasting, and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
C: Amen.



The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

You are invited to share the sign of peace with others.

The Offering

We encourage you to use this time for reflection & gratitude as we prepare for communion.

Thank you for supporting our ministries with our financial gifts. Scan the QR code to the left to easily make a one-time gift or establish a recurring gift.

Offertory Anthem

"*We Three Kings*"

Offertory Hymn ELW #184 "*Let the Vineyards be Fruitful*"



Offertory Prayer

A: God of wisdom,

C: As the magi offered gifts to the Christ child, receive the treasures of ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body that we may be a light to all nations; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

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 our thanks and praise.



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.
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.

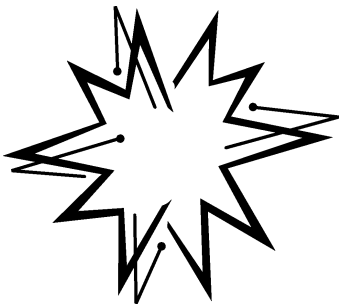
C: Amen

C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil,
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

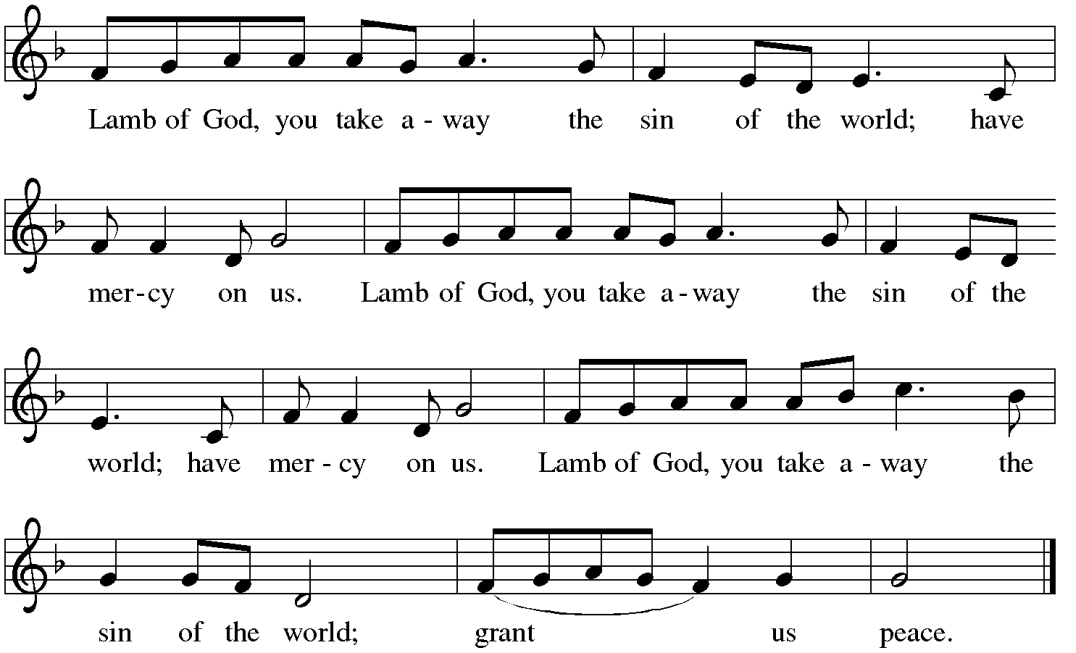
Communion Invitation

We invite all who are baptized in Christ to come forward for communion. All are welcome at the Lord's table. Parents of young children are asked to let the pastor know if they want their child to receive communion or a blessing.

Communion is served by continuous table around the altar, and you are asked to take a place as openings appear.



Communion Hymn "*Lamb of God*"

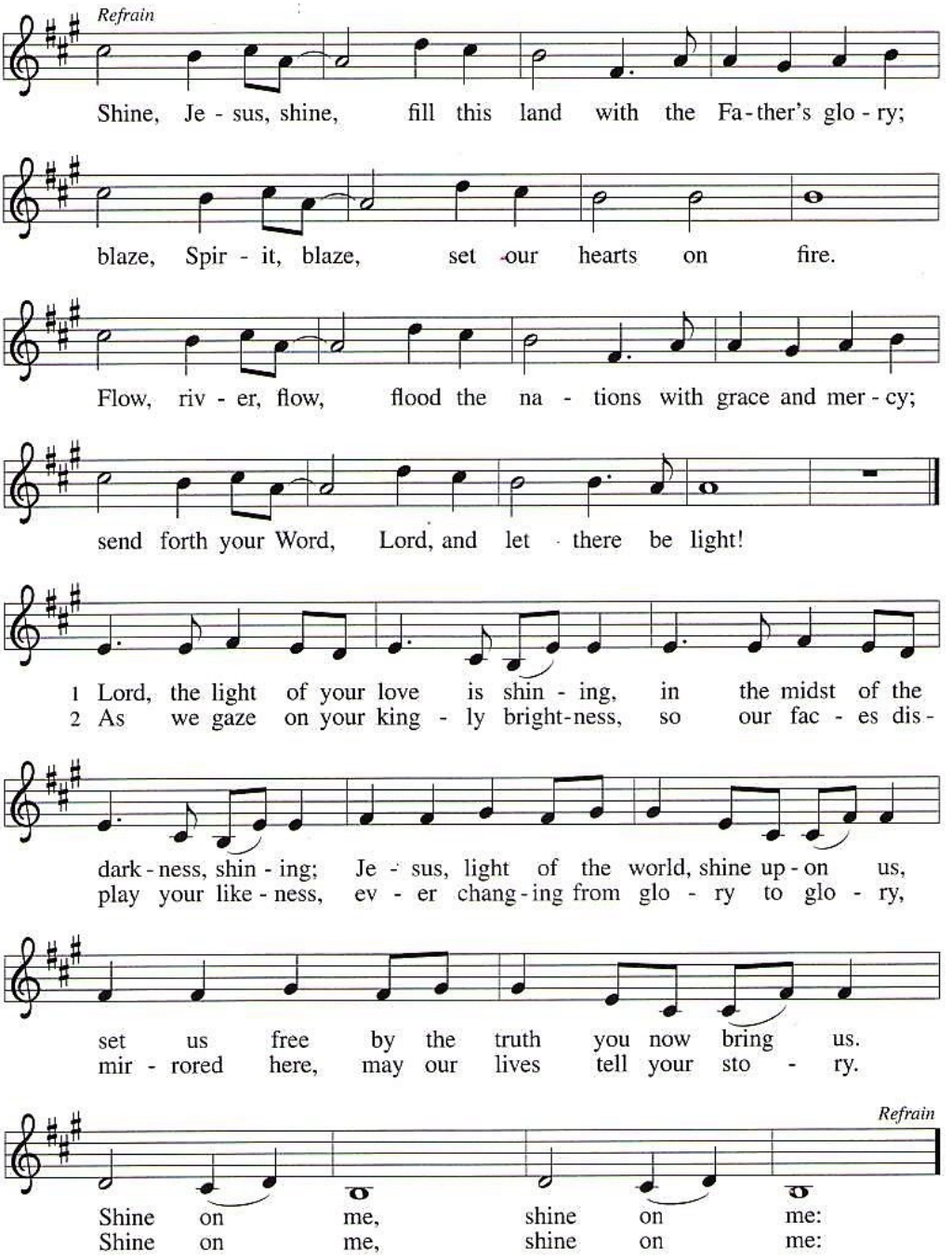


P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

P: God of glory, in this sacrament you unite us in the body of your Son. May we who have been guests at this table grow in love for one another, that through us your light may shine in all the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

Closing Hymn ELW #671 "*Shine, Jesus, Shine*"



Announcements

Benediction

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 give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son (**+**), and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Church De-greening—TODAY!

Please stay after worship today and help us 'de-green' (a.k.a. undecorate) the church! We'd appreciate your help!

Year-End Giving Statements

Giving statements for 2023 will be issued soon. We are counting and entering final gifts in order to issue accurate records to everyone. Please reach out to Desirae (dcontreras@concordiafaith.org) with any questions.

Concordia Ministries

A family of ministries serving people and communities

concordiaministries.org

Concert & Luncheon

Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 12pm

in the Swartz Pavilion at Concordia on Whipple

3300 N Whipple St.

We need your support!

also including:

Winter clothing drive

Children's book drive (English & Spanish books)

Volunteers needed to:

- organize clothing for giveaway
- organize books for giveaway
- set up tables & chairs for event
- greet and host at event
- lead children's activities
- clean up following event

To sign up to volunteer, scan the QR code!

SCAN ME

To donate to this event, visit https://concordiafaith.org/give

For more information or to get involved, connect with Desirae Contreras at dcontreras@concordiafaith.org.

Partnering Together:

Advocate Aurora Faith & Health Collaborative
Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern University
Concordia Place
Concordia Church

Important Dates to note:

- January 14th: Concert & Luncheon for new arrivals at 3300 N Whipple
- January 21st: Memorial for Ed Lauermann during 10am worship
- February 11th: Second Sundays concert
- February 14th: Ash Wednesday service at 7pm

Support the **ministries of Concordia Church** through your offerings. There are multiple ways for you to give:

1) Mobile: Text 'Concordia' to 73256 and follow the link or scan the QR code here
2) Online: Visit www.onrealm.org/concordiafaith/give
3) Via cash or check left in the offering plate or mailed to the church at:

   3855 N Seeley Ave
   Chicago, IL 60618

Copyright Information:

Below is a list of all the songs that we are using in today's liturgy with their copy right information located with them.

Opening Hymn **ELW #300 "*The First Noel*"**

Text: English traditional
Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840–1901

Gospel Acclamation **"*Alleluia*" Setting 3**

Hymn of the Day **ELW #302 "*As With Gladness Men of Old*"**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

Offertory Hymn **ELW #184 "*Let the Vineyards be Fruitful*"**

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Communion Hymn **"*Lamb of God*" Setting 3**

Closing Hymn **ELW #671 "*Shine, Jesus, Shine*"**

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950
Music: Graham Kendrick
Text and music © 1987 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

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Notes on the Liturgy:

1. All liturgical music is from ELW, Setting 4
2. The Liturgy is printed from **The Evangelical Lutheran Worship** and is used with permission.
3. The offertory prayer, introduction to the prayers and conclusion are taken from **Sundays and Seasons**, Augsburg Fortress, 2019, and used with permission: license number 23952.
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Church Staff Contact Information



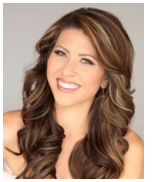
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