

**TRINITY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

8:45 AM

JANUARY 4,
2026

Jeffery Gramza
Senior Pastor

Tim Jordan
Intern Pastor

**Jonathan
Lonsway**
Dir. of Music

Trinity Lutheran Church - Epiphany

3701 Jefferson Ave Midland, MI 48640

January 4, 2026, 8:45 am

PRELUDE

Dix

Wayne L. Wold

As with Gladness Men of Old

Brightest and Best of the Stars

stg. Ronald A. Nelson

Charly Sly, organ

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Arise, for light has come. The light of Christ shines in the darkness,
And the darkness has not overcome it.

Long have the shadows covered the earth—fear and doubt, division and despair.
Yet God’s light breaks through, revealing hope where we least expect it.

From a distant star to a humble child, from the margins to the center,
God makes known a glory meant for all people.

Come, let us worship the God who shines in the darkness,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. let it shine. let it shine. let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest.
And peace to God’s people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God’s redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Dix

Craig Phillips
Charly Sly, organ

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“Dix” by Craig Phillips
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“The Morning Star Doth Shine” by T. Charles Lee
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Title

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BENEDICTION

May God the Father, source of all light, send you into the world with courage to follow where the light leads.

May God the Son, the light made flesh, shine in your hearts and through your lives, revealing love where it is least expected.

May God the Holy Spirit, fire and breath of God, set your faith ablaze and carry you beyond familiar paths into God’s unfolding future.

And may the blessing of the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, now and always, rest upon you, guide you, and make you light for the world.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #677

This Little Light of Mine



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



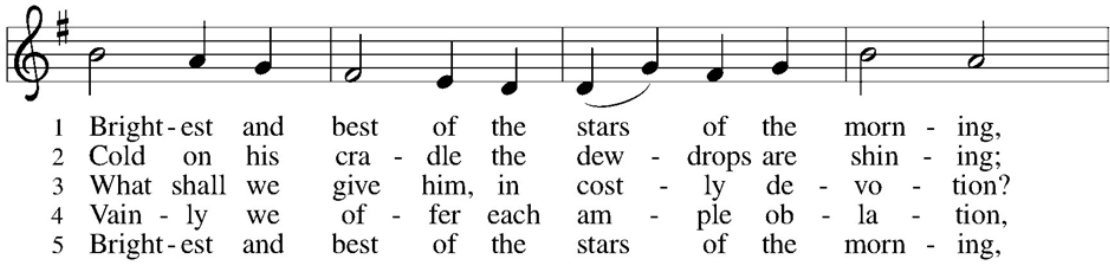
this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



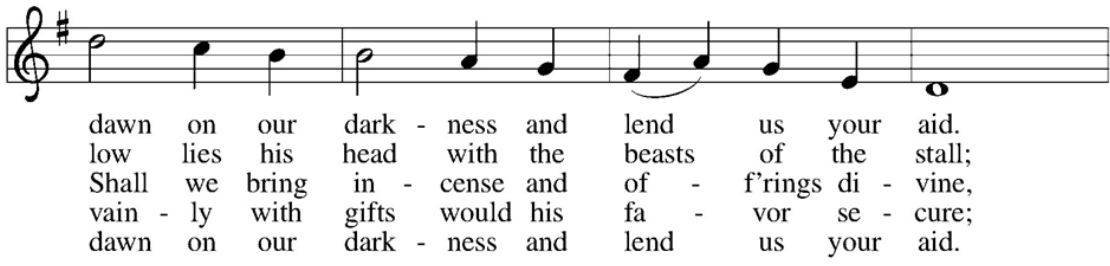
this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

For in Christ, the true light has come.

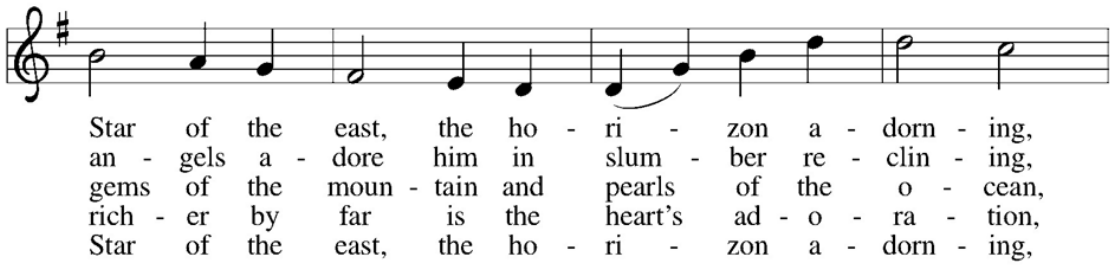
Brightest and Best of the Stars



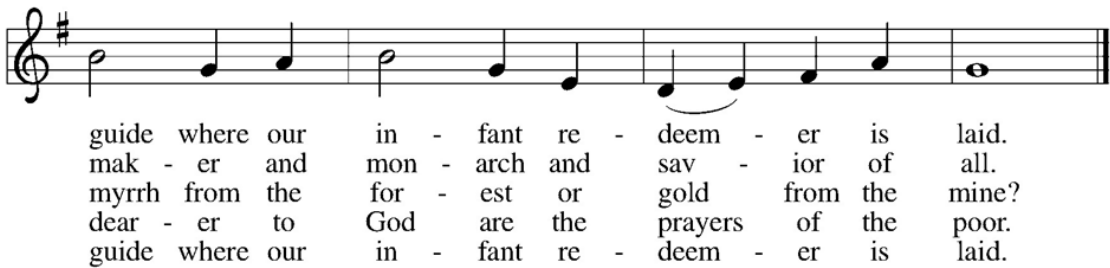
1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,
vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.


Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.
Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

GATHERING HYMN
GREETING

ELW #303

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.


Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.




1 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.


Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 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


DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be distributed by coming forward and receiving the bread and wine. The center cups (white) are non-alcoholic grape juice. Upon receiving, please put empty cups in baskets provided. If you prefer gluten free, please ask Pastor who is distributing. Please proceed up the center aisle returning to your seat via the side aisles.


COMMUNION HYMNS

In the Bleak Midwinter ELW #294
The First Noel ELW #300


SONG AFTER COMMUNION: Now, Lord




Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal-va-tion which you have pre-



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo-ple: a light to re-veal you to the

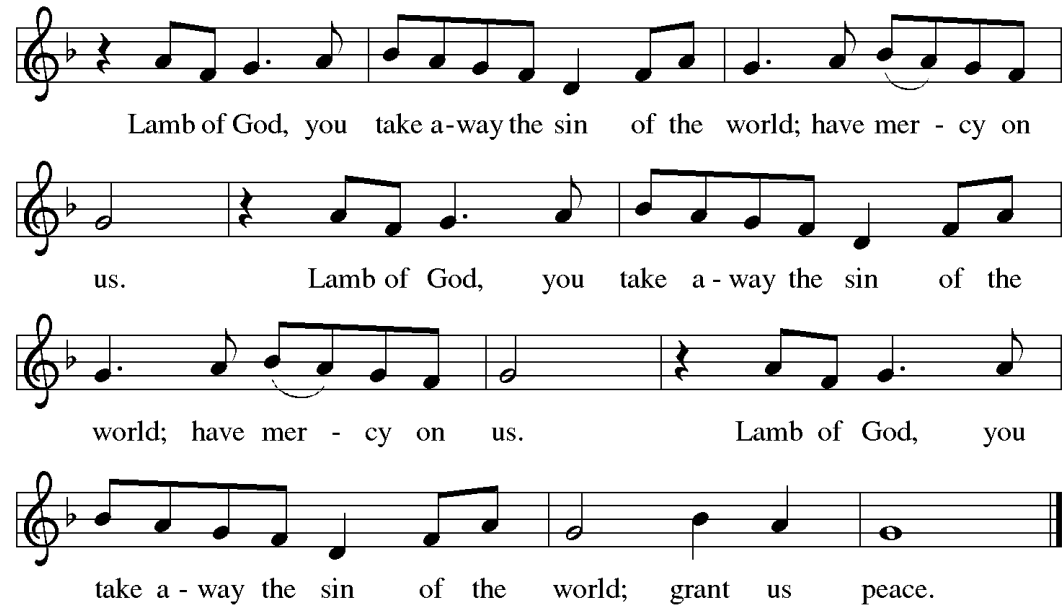


na-tions and the glo-ry of your peo-ple Is-ra-el.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD’S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
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.

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.



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God’s peo-ple on earth.

3 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.

Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God’s peo-ple on earth.

HYMN OF PRAISE: Glory to God

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Radiant God, you sent your light into the world not to blind us, but to guide us;
not to overwhelm us, but to lead us home. By the star’s glow, you drew seekers
from afar, by the child’s presence, you revealed your heart. Shine upon us now.

Open our eyes to your glory, our hearts to your grace, and our lives to your calling, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. **Amen.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

KIDS’ PRAISE

*At this time children age 3 – grade 5 are now dismissed,
at the parent’s discretion, to the Chapel.*

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-6

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Long before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Micah spoke hope into a time of fear and uncertainty. He points not to the powerful city of Jerusalem, but to the small and overlooked town of Bethlehem, reminding us that God often chooses what seems insignificant to bring about deep and lasting peace. In these words, we hear a promise of a shepherd-king whose strength comes not from power, but from care, presence, and faithfulness.

The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14

ELW #311

Hail to the Lord’s Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.

OFFERING PRAYER

Giver of light and every good gift, you have revealed yourself in Christ as grace freely given, love poured out. As we bring these offerings, we offer more than what is placed before you, we offer our gratitude, our trust, and our desire to reflect your light. Take what we give and let it shine in acts of mercy, in words of hope, in lives shaped by generosity and joy. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



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

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 OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE

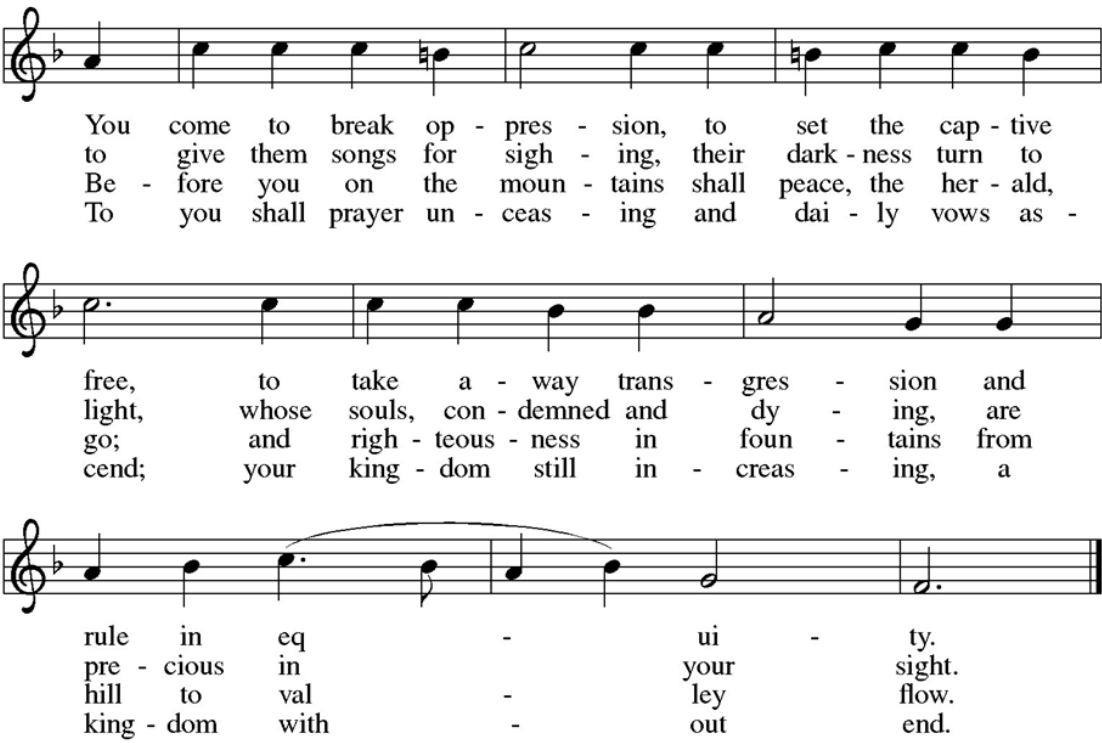
Offer a sign of peace with those around you

GATHERING OF GIFTS FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

OFFERTORY

The Morning Star Doth Shine

T. Charles Lee
Chancel Choir



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to
Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,
To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -

free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and
light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are
go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from
cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a

rule in eq - ui - ty.
pre - cious in your sight.
hill to val - ley flow.
king - dom with out end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.
Music: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

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*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 sal-
vation.*

The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

Page 2

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.

After the reading:
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Jeff Gramza

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #279

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv’n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;
A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d’ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav’n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.
yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893
Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908