

# WELCOME

We are glad that you have  
joined us for worship.

JANUARY 4, 2026

## Worship Theme

Love's Pure Light  
Beams From Thy  
Holy Face

Pastor Brian Roloff

alittleperspective.com  
matthew **2**one & two



Now WHEN JESUS WAS BORN IN  
BETHLEHEM of JUDEA in the DAYS  
of KING HEROD, BEHOLD, WISE MEN  
from the EAST CAME to JERUSALEM,  
SAYING, WHERE IS HE WHO IS BORN  
**King of the Jews?**

For WE SAW HIS STAR in the EAST, and  
HAVE COME to WORSHIP HIM.



# OPENING HYMN:

#372 *As with Gladness Men of Old* (vs.1-5)

V1. 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.



V2. 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.



V3. 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.



V4.            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.



V5. In the heav'nly country bright  
need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down.  
There forever may we sing  
alleluias to our King!



*Please stand*

# **INVOCATION**

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**P:** In the name of the Father and of  
the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.



# GOD DRAWS THE NATIONS TO THE MESSIAH KING (select verses from Psalm 72)

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P: Endow the king with your justice, O God,  
the royal son with your righteousness.

**C: He will judge your people in right-  
eousness, your afflicted ones with  
justice.**



**P:** The mountains will bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness.

**C:** He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor.



P: He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.

**C: In his days the righteous will flourish; prosperity will abound till the moon is no more.**



P: He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

**C: The desert tribes will bow before him and his enemies will lick the dust.**



**P:** The kings of Tarshish and of distant shores will bring tribute to him; the kings of Sheba and Seba will present him gifts.

**C:** All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him.



**P: Long may he live! May gold from  
Sheba be given him.**

**C: May people ever pray for him and  
bless him all day long.**



P: May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun.

**C: All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed.**

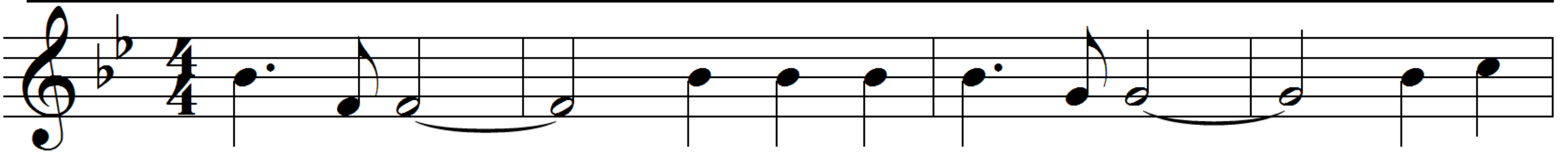


**P: Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds.**

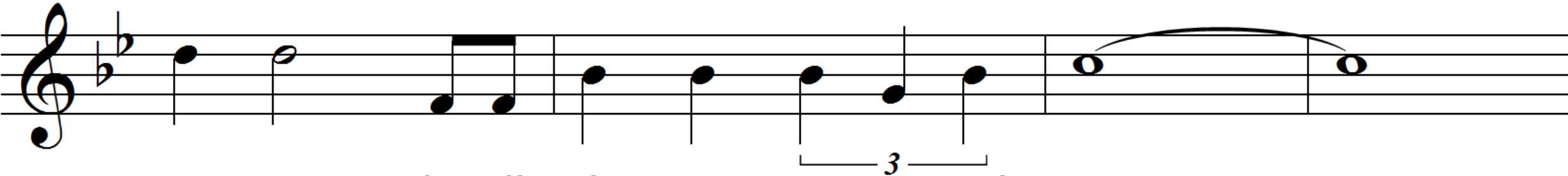
**C: Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.**



# SONG OF PRAISE: *Majesty*



Ma - jes-ty, \_\_\_\_ wor-ship His ma-jes-ty. \_\_\_\_ Un-to



Je - sus be all glo - ry, pow-er and praise. \_\_\_\_

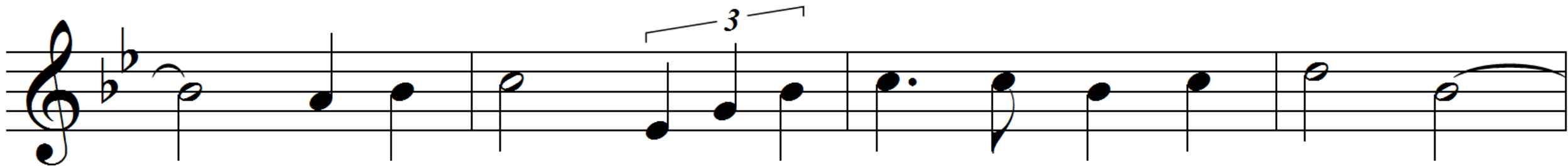


Ma - jes-ty, \_\_\_\_ king-dom au-thor-i-ty. \_\_\_\_ flow from His

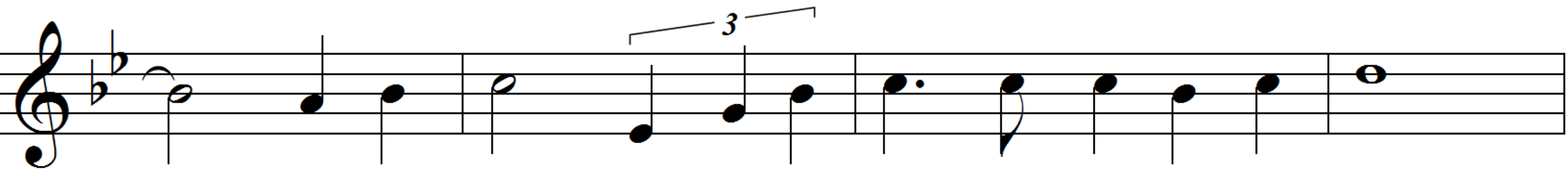




throne un - to His own. His an - them raise.\_\_\_\_

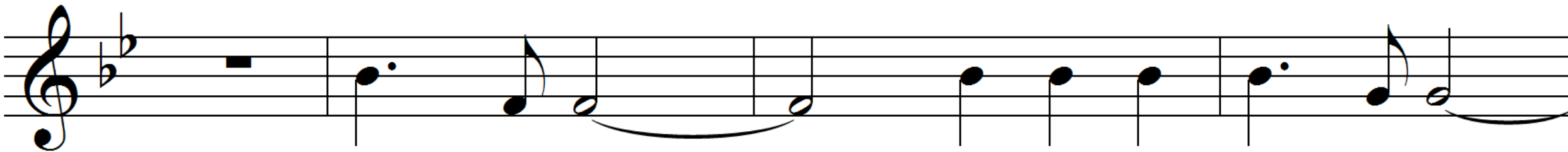


\_\_\_\_ So ex - alt, lift up on high the name of Je - sus.\_\_\_\_

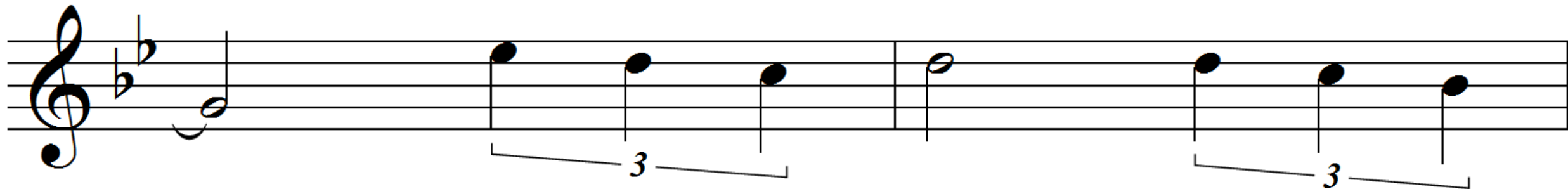


\_\_\_\_ Mag - ni - fy, come glo-ri-fy Christ Je-sus the King.

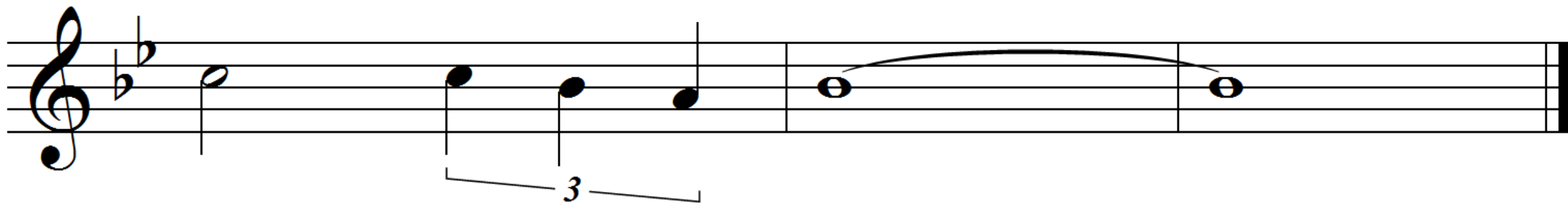




Ma - jes-ty, \_\_\_\_\_ wor-ship His ma - jes-ty.\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ Je - sus who died, now glo - ri -



fied, King of all kings.\_\_\_\_\_



# GOD'S MERCY REVEALED IN JESUS

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P: We praise you, O God, that your Son became poor so that we might become rich. He humbled himself and took on the form of a servant so that he might raise lowly sinners like us to share in his glory. For we were in darkness, but he has given us light; we were without hope, but we have received grace upon grace. ...



**P:** Brothers and sisters, in Christ God declares your sins forgiven! You are set free to serve him in joy and holiness. Arise, shine, for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen over you!

**C:** Amen.



# PRAYER OF THE DAY

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P: Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who now know him by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Please be seated*





# THE WORD

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6



“Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.  
See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the LORD rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.  
Nations will come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.



“Lift up your eyes and look about you:  
All assemble and come to you;  
your sons come from afar,  
and your daughters are carried on the arm.  
Then you will look and be radiant,  
your heart will throb and swell with joy;  
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,  
to you the riches of the nations will come.



“Herds of camels will cover your land,  
young camels of Midian and Ephah.  
And all from Sheba will come,  
bearing gold and incense  
and proclaiming the praise of the  
LORD.”





# REFLECTIVE RESPONSE

*Goodness of God*

(Ascension Worship Band)





# THE WORD

## SECOND LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”



When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born.

"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:



“ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for out of you will come a ruler

who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.’ ”



Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”



After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.



Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.



# NICENE CREED

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We believe in one God, the Father,  
the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.



We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.



For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.



We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



# SERMON HYMN:

## *The People that in Darkness Sat (vs.1-5)*

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V1. The people that in darkness sat  
A glorious light have seen;  
The light has shone on them who long  
In shades of death have been,  
In shades of death have been.



V2.

To us a child of hope is born,  
To us a son is giv'n,  
And on his shoulders ever rests  
All pow'r in earth and heav'n,  
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.



V3.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
The Everlasting Lord,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor,  
The God by all adored,  
The God by all adored.



V4.

His righteous government and pow'r

Shall over all extend;

On judgement and on justice based,

His reign shall have no end,

His reign shall have no end.



V5.

Lord, Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
And make us yours alone,  
For you are with the Father and  
The Spirit ever one,  
The Spirit ever one.





# THE WORD

SERMON TEXT

Ephesians 3:2-12



Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.



In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.



This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.



Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.



His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.













# SERMON THEME

God's Plan for  
the Gentiles Is  
Revealed In The  
Gospel





“..all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through  
you.”

(Genesis 12:3)





All kings will bow down  
to him and all nations  
will serve him. ...All  
nations will be blessed  
through him, and they  
will call him blessed.

(Psalm 72: 11,17)





“In those days ten men  
from all languages and  
nations will take firm hold  
of one Jew by the hem of  
his robe and say, ‘Let us  
go with you, because we  
have heard that God is  
with you.’”

(Zechariah (8:23))





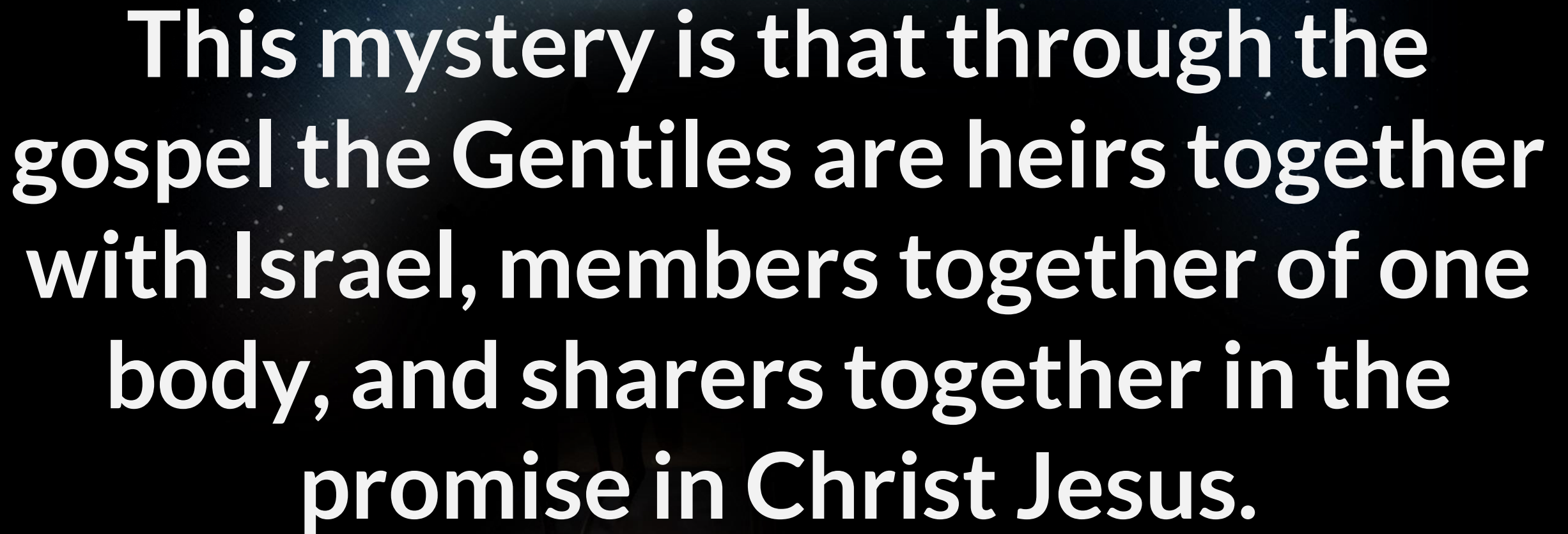
## Notable Gentile believers:

- Melchizedek
- Job
- Moses' father-in-law, Ruel
- The widow of Zarephath
- Naaman











**This mystery is that through the  
gospel the Gentiles are heirs together  
with Israel, members together of one  
body, and sharers together in the  
promise in Christ Jesus.**






This mystery is that **through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel**, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.





This mystery is that **through the gospel the Gentiles are** heirs together with Israel, **members together of one body**, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.





This mystery is that **through the gospel the Gentiles are** heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and **sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.**



I became a servant of this gospel by  
the gift of God's grace given me  
through the working of his power.  
Although I am less than the least of all  
God's people, this grace was given me:  
to preach to the Gentiles the un-  
searchable riches of Christ...



His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known...



# Supporting Us...

2 Corinthians 9:7 *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give... for God loves a cheerful giver.*

***If you feel encouraged to support our ministry you can give electronically today.*** You can also set up recurring offerings automatically just scan the QR.

If you already support us place this card in the offering plate as a sign of your commitment.

***Thanks for your generosity!***

An illustration of a light-skinned hand holding a large, vibrant red heart. The background features a sunburst pattern of light gray rays emanating from behind the heart. The hand is positioned on the left side of the card, with the heart held palm-up.

*Give*



# OFFERING PRAYER:

P: Since all that we have comes from and belongs to you, O God, guide us to use all the resources you have put at our disposal to the glory of your name and for the good of your kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who gave his whole life to you as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Amen.



# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH



- ✝ Stacy Siewert is hospitalized undergoing chemotherapy for leukemia
- ✝ Yarmeto's Helping Hand Foundation and Peterson Ballah's humanitarian and ministry efforts in Nebowin, Liberia



# LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but  
deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the  
power, and the glory are yours now and forever.  
Amen.

*Please be seated*



# THE SACRAMENT

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P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**C: It is good and right so to do.**



P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your Son, full of grace and truth.

**C: Amen.**



# WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.





# AGNUS DEI: *O Christ, Lamb of God*

---



O Christ, Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,

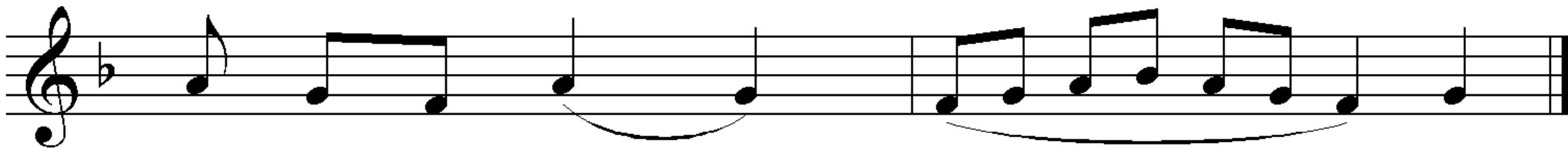


You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.





O Christ, Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us Your peace.

A - - - - men.



# DISTRIBUTION

*Communicant members of Ascension Lutheran and other churches in fellowship in the WELS or ELS are invited to receive the Lord's Supper. If you have never communed with us before, we ask that you first speak with our pastor to learn how you can establish a communing fellowship with us. We are eager to help anyone to take this step.*

*Please Note: The center cups of the individual trays contain white grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are labeled on a separate center tray.*



# DISTRIBUTION HYMN: #370

## *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star (vs.1-5)*

V1. How lovely shines the Morning Star!  
The nations see and hail afar  
the light in Judah shining.  
O David's son of Jacob's race,  
my Bridegroom and my King of grace,  
for you my heart is pining.  
Lowly, holy, great and glorious,  
O victorious Prince of graces,  
filling all the heav'nly places.



V2. O highest joy by mortals won,  
true Son of God and Mary's son,  
the highborn King of ages!  
In your blest body let me be,  
e'en as the branch is in the tree,  
your life my life supplying.  
Sighing, crying for the savor  
of your favor, resting never  
till I rest in you forever.



V3. O mighty Father, in your Son  
you loved me ere you had begun  
this ancient world's foundation.  
Your Son has made a friend of me,  
and when in spirit him I see,  
I joy in tribulation.  
What bliss is this! He is living,  
to me giving life forever;  
nothing me from him can sever.



V4. Oh, joy to know that you, my friend,  
are Lord, beginning without end,  
the first and last, eternal!

And you at length—O glorious grace—  
will take me to that holy place,  
the home of joys supernal.

Amen, amen! Come and meet me,  
quickly greet me! With deep yearning,  
Lord, I look for your returning.

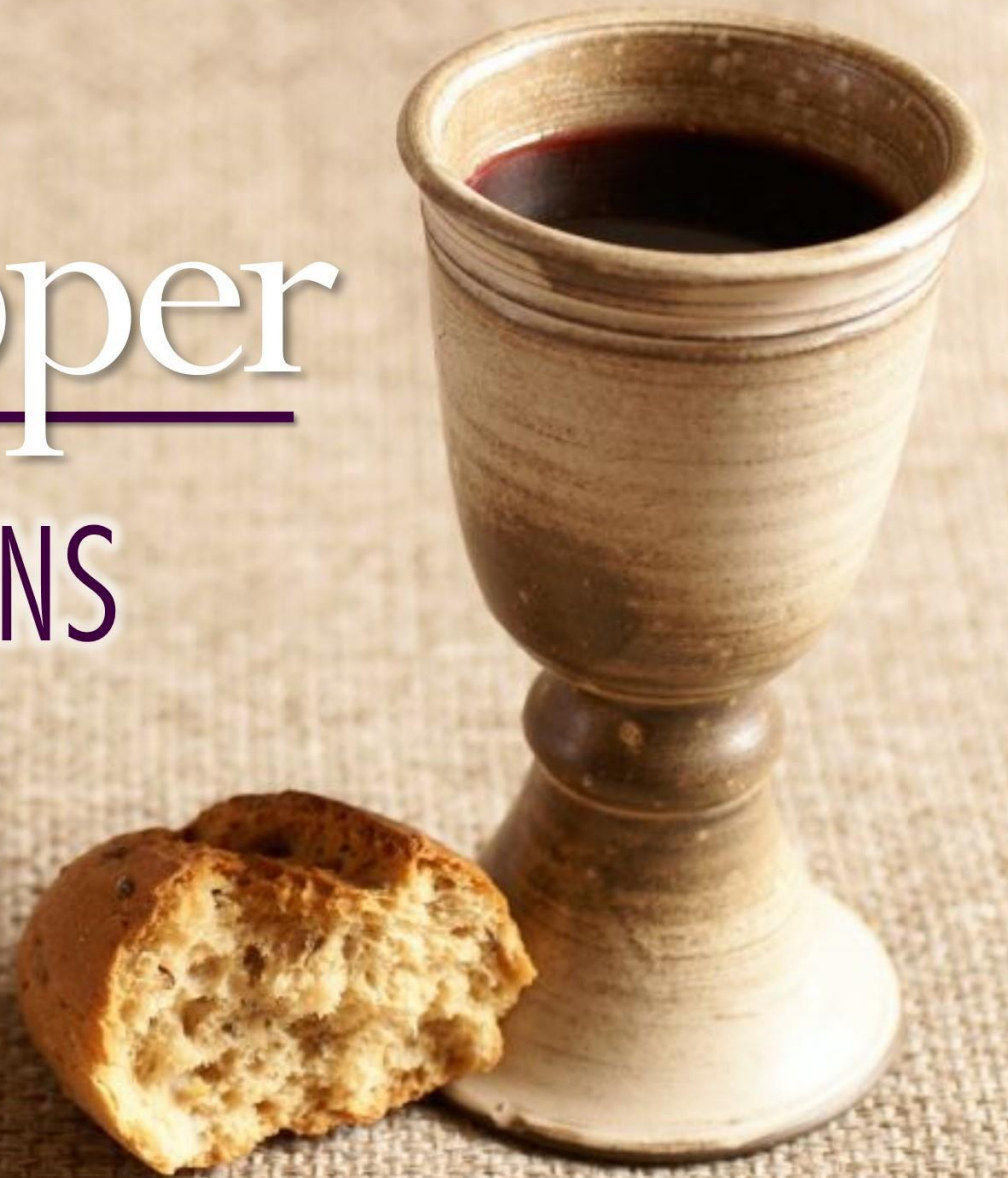


V5. Lift up the voice and strike the string,  
let all glad sounds of music ring  
in God's high praises blended.  
Christ will be with me all the way,  
today, tomorrow, ev'ry day  
till trav'ling days are ended.  
Sing out, ring out triumph glorious,  
O victorious chosen nation;  
praise the God of your salvation.



*The Blessings of*  
The Lord's Supper

RECEIVE FORGIVENESS OF SINS  
LIFE AND SALVATION





# PRAYER

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P: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



# BLESSING

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P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in  
harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.  
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be  
gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give  
you peace.

**C:Amen.**



# CLOSING HYMN:

## #363 *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice* (vs.1-4)

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V1.        Now sing we, now rejoice,  
             now raise to heav'n our voice;  
             he from whom joy streameth  
                 poor in a manger lies;  
             not so brightly beameth  
                 the sun in yonder skies.  
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!



V2.      Come from on high to me;  
            I cannot rise to thee.  
            Cheer my wearied spirit,  
            O pure and holy Child;  
            thro' thy grace and merit,  
blest Jesus, Lord most mild,  
            draw me unto thee!  
            Draw me unto thee!



V3. Now through his Son doth shine  
the Father's grace divine.  
Death was reigning o'er us  
through sin and vanity  
till he opened for us  
a bright eternity.  
May we praise him there!  
May we praise him there!



V4. Oh, where shall joy be found?  
Where but on heav'nly ground,  
where the angels singing  
with all his saints unite,  
sweetest praises bringing  
in heav'nly joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there!  
Oh, that we were there!



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



# CONNECTION CARD



Please take a moment and fill out the info on the connection card, located under the Worship Today button on our app or on our website. There is a tablet in entryway or scan the QR code.

Please fill out and submit.



NEW YEAR  
NEW BIBLE STUDY  
OPPORTUNITIES

**SUNDAY MORNINGS:**  
The Book of Colossians  
“Christ Is Enough”  
TODAY

**MIDWEEK (ZOOM):**  
Lessons From Elijah and Elisha  
January 8th

**MEN'S MONTHLY STUDY:**  
“The Theology of the Cross”  
by Daniel Deutschlander  
January 27th





# SUPPORTING THE GROWTH OF OUR MEMBERS

WELS NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON



LUTHERAN  
LEADERSHIP

**Freewill Offering on Sundays: Jan 4 & 11**

Pastor Isaac Cherney, Tony Perry, and Blake Zeitler

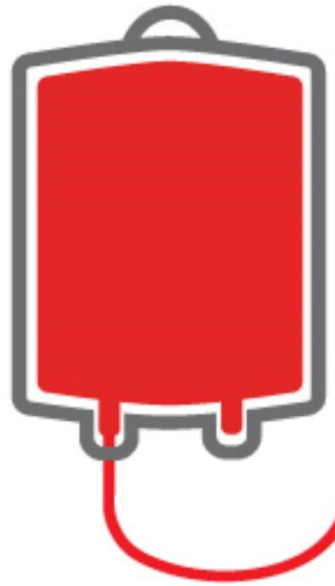




Thank You  
from the staff

For your continued support of ministry  
here at Ascension, the words of  
encouragement, and your generous  
Christmas gifts are greatly appreciated.





donate *blood*

**DONATE LIFE**

**Give · Donate · Volunteer**



**Friday, Jan., 23 | 10am - 4pm**

**VOLUNTEER  
ON OUR APP:**



**TO  
DONATE:**





# Sunday School Kid of the Week:

*My*  
*Name Is:* Gabby Yarmeto



*I Like To...*

Play with my  
dogs

*I Go To School At:*

Becker Primary

*I Live In:*  
Becker



*Other Things I'd Like You  
To Know About Me:*

- Spending time with my auntie
- Getting my nails done
- Favorite food:  
Mac & Cheese





# THANKS FOR SERVING

- ✝ Pianist/Organist: Marcia Michalik
- ✝ Ascension Worship Band
- ✝ AV Team
- ✝ Serving: Flock #5 – Randy Hebb

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