

## Epiphany of Our Lord

8:30 a.m., January 5, 2025

## Worship Leadership

Rev. Christian Marien, *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Anthony Acompañado, *Pastor*

Rev. Edwin Aparicio, *Pastor*

Vicki Taylor, *Director of Music Ministries*

**Acolyte:** Shelby Leatherwood

**Altar Guild:** Gary Bauer

**Choir Accompanist:** Kathy Johnson

**Communion:** Carol and Steve Spieker

**Greeters:** Lauren Birner, Amy Koenig

**Media:** Kurt Werner

**Ushers:** Bill Klippel, Dennis Mohr, Paul Wehmeier

# PRELUDE

## O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright, *Dietrich Buxtehude*

## WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING HYMN

# Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

**ELW 301**

## 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.**

## KYRIE

**p. 147**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

## Glory to God

**p. 148**

## 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.**

## ANTHEM

## Brightest and Best

## Ascension Choir

*Southern Harmony, arr. Vicki Tucker Courtney*

## CHILDREN'S TIME

## Pastor Tony

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

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

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL READING

**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.**

## SERMON

**Pastor Tony**

## HYMN

**The First Noel** (v. 1, 3, 4, 5)

**ELW 300**

## NICENE CREED

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; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Thanksgiving:** Ariel and Cameron Wieland, for the birth of a son, Harrison Marcella Durbin, celebrating her 94th birthday

**Healing:** Diane Dowling

**God's Care:** With Linda Hansen for Shannon's dad, Matt, in hospice

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

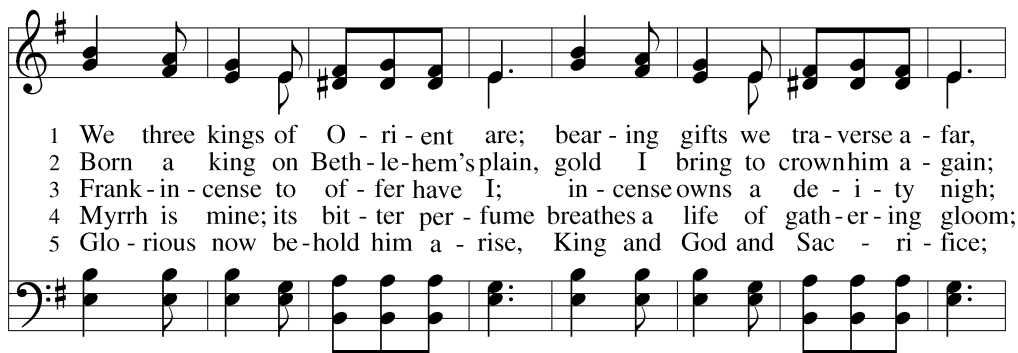


### Many Ways to Give Electronically

- *QR code*
- *VancoMobile Giving app on your smartphone*
- *Online at [tinyurl.com/SupportALC](http://tinyurl.com/SupportALC)*
- *Via text to 262-214-3681 with the amount*

# OFFERING

## We Three Kings

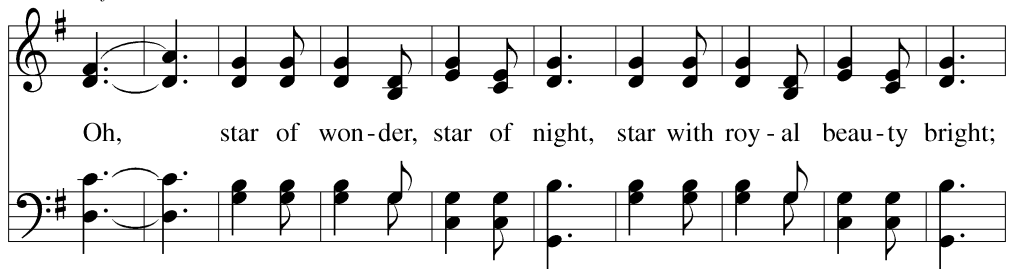


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

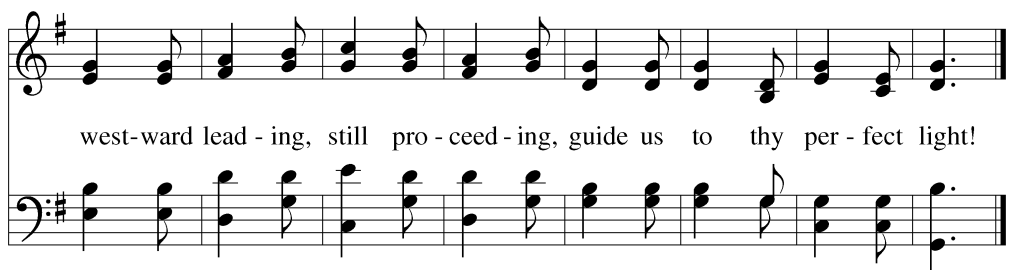


field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
 prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

### Refrain



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Let us pray ... Merciful Father,

C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

p. 152

## **PROPER PREFACE**

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

p. 153

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

All those believing in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection are welcome to receive communion at this table of grace. We offer both bread and wine for holy communion. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.

## **PRAYER STATION**

If you desire private prayers of healing for yourself or someone you know, please receive communion and then make your way to the kneeler at the altar where one of the pastors or pastoral assistants will listen to your request and then offer a moment of prayer.

## **LAMB OF GOD**

p. 154

## **HYMNS**

**Now We Join in Celebration**

**ELW 462**

**Brightest and Best of the Stars**

**ELW 303**

**By Your Hand You Feed Your People**

**ELW 469**

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Let us pray...We give you thanks, O God, for making your love known since the very beginning of time when you spoke the word which replaced the darkness of chaos with life-giving light. A light which has nurtured generations of people, and plants and creatures, great and small. Through your love for the world the Word became flesh and lived among us full of grace and truth. The angels brought praise to your manger throne, singing glory to you in the highest heavens and peace to all people on earth, and we join with them and with all people to praise your holy name. Send us out, telling all the world, you have come.

C: Amen.

## BLESSING & SENDING OF EL SALVADOR DELEGATION

### BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son ☩, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

### CLOSING HYMN

**Songs of Thankfulness and Praise**

**ELW 310**

### SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

**How Brightly Shines the Morning Star, Johann Pachelbel**

Worship Support <a href="https://tinyurl.com/worshipsupport">https://tinyurl.com/worshipsupport</a>		
Sunday, Jan. 12	8:30	10:45
Acolyte	Mikael Wagner	Ryan Rees
Altar Guild	Marge Schroeder	Mary Kolberg, Sue Mathews
Communion	Marge and Todd Schroeder	Mary Kolberg, Sue Mathews, Gary Wipperman
Greeters	Sarah, Emily and Jon Boales, Becky Pepper	
Media	Adam Boales	Jeff Froh
Reader	Darlene DiBrito	
Ushers	Bill Klippel, Dennis Mohr, Al Woll-schlager	Cynthia and Mike Carlson



**Children Are God's Gift:** We are a noisy church. We are happy to celebrate the sounds of children during worship. You are welcome to step into the lobby with your child for a break if needed. There are also Busy Bags available in the lobby.

**Pew Pads:** Please fill-out the blue pew pad and pass it to your neighbor. You might make a new friend!

**Offering Envelopes:** 2025 offering envelopes are ready for pick-up from the table in the narthex. If you'd like yours mailed, please contact the church office, [admin@ascensionelca.org](mailto:admin@ascensionelca.org).

**Choir Schedule:** Handbells and adult choir resume Wednesday, Jan 8, at 6 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. respectively.

**Chosen Resumes:** Chosen Season 3 starts on Monday, Jan. 6, at either 10 a.m. or 6 p.m.

**BLAST:** BLAST resumes today between services.

**CRASH:** Students, if you want to participate in the coffee fundraiser, please pick-up the form from Pastor Edwin's office today.

**JOLT:** JOLT resumes Thursday, Jan. 9, at 6 p.m.

**2025 No Regrets Men's Conference Feb. 1:** AMen Ministry is offering Elmbrook Church's No Regrets conference here at Ascension in a small group format on Saturday, Feb. 1, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participation will be limited to 20 participants to enhance the small group setting. There is no charge but registration is required. To register, email Al Maechtle, [amaechtle@gmail.com](mailto:amaechtle@gmail.com), subject: "No Regrets Small Group" and include your name and phone number. Breakfast and snacks will be served. The theme this year is *Rescued by God*. Tickets to participate at the Elmbrook Church location are available through Elmbrook: <https://www.noregretsconference.org/elmbrook-church-site/>.

**SOPHIA Meeting:** Ascension will host a SOPHIA Immigration Task Force meeting in the Conference Room on Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 6:30 p.m. Please join us if you're interested.

**Blessing Box:** This time of the year, donations often decrease but the need is still high. We welcome donations placed either directly in the box or put in the designated bin in the Donation Center. With the colder weather, please be aware that not all items will survive extremes in temperature. If the temperature drops below freezing for several days, canned and jarred foods can break, so please do not put them in the box. Boxed food in its original package, dried food, hygiene items, winter scarves or mittens, school supplies, and cleaning items are all appropriate during the cold months. We cannot accept anything not in the original packaging.

**Christmas Light Recycling:** We are collecting broken or burned-out tree lights for proper recycling. Place them in the marked bin in the Donation Center. Creation Care will recycle them.

**Ark Encounter:** If you're interested in the trip in May to the Ark Encounter, please contact Linda Elder directly, [lindaelder323@gmail.com](mailto:lindaelder323@gmail.com). This is a privately-coordinated event.

## Are You Visiting?

Date of Visit: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Worship: \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### ***How did God invite you here?***

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### ***How can we share the life of Ascension with you?***

- ☐ E-alerts
- ☐ Newsletter: e-mail or U.S. Mail?
- ☐ BLAST (ages 3-5th gr.)
- ☐ JOLT (confirmation, 6-8th gr.)
- ☐ CRASH (high school)
- ☐ Bible study (small groups)
- ☐ Choirs or other music ministries
- ☐ Serving others (local/global options)
- ☐ Starting Point (membership)

**Please place in the offering plate.**

## CALENDAR <https://ascensionelca.org/>

### **Sun Jan 5**

**8:30am Worship S**

9:45am Blast

**10:45am Misa EH**

**10:45am Worship S**

12pm Tres Reyes Ma-  
gos WH, K

7pm AA WH

### **Mon Jan 6**

10am Chosen HR

6pm AMEN CR

6pm Chosen HR

6:30pm AA Sm Group  
WH

### **Tue Jan 7**

*7am AMEN zoom*

9:30am Women's Bible  
CR

### **Wed Jan 8**

*El Salvador Trip be-  
gins*

11:30am Staff Meeting

6pm Handbells S

7pm AA WH

7:15pm Adult Choir S

### **Thu Jan 9**

10am Al Anon CR

6pm JOLT EH

### **Sun Jan 12**

**8:30am Worship S**

9:45am Blast

**10:45am Misa EH**

**10:45am Worship S**

7pm AA WH

### **Mon Jan 13**

10am Chosen HR

6pm AMEN CR

6pm Chosen HR

6:30pm AA Sm Group  
WH

7pm Jubilate rehearsal  
S

### **Tue Jan 14**

*El Salvador Trip ends*

*7am AMEN zoom*

9:30am Women's Bible  
CR

6:30pm Immigration  
Task Force CR

7pm Holloway Mtg  
HR

### **Wed Jan 15**

12pm Young at Heart  
WH

6pm Handbells S

7pm AA WH

7:15pm Adult Choir S

### **Thu Jan 16**

9:30am TGIT HR

10am Al Anon CR

1pm Hansen Group CR

6pm JOLT EH

#### **Key**

CR	Conference rm
EH	East Hall
HR	Hearth Rm
MG	Memorial Garden
N	Narthex (Lobby)
PR	Prayer Room
S	Sanctuary
WH	West Hall (Kit)
<i>Italics</i>	<i>Virtual or offsite</i>



Ascension Lutheran Church  
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262-547-8518 [ascensionelca.org](https://ascensionelca.org/)