

# The Service for the Lord's Day

Epiphany Sunday

*Welcome! We are glad that you are here. We hope that you are blessed by your encounter with God today.*

*The \* indicates points in the service where you are invited to stand, if that is comfortable for you.*

*However, if it is better for you to remain seated, feel free to do so.*

*All are invited to join in speaking or singing when **Bolded** words appear.*

January 6, 2019

The service begins with the music of preparation.

9:30 am

## Gathering the Community of Faith

Prelude

Brightest and Best

John Rasley

Call to Worship

One: A new day has dawned and a new year begun.

**All: O Lord, call us so we may hear your voice.**

One: The world turns to hopes and dreams of the future.

**All: O Lord, keep us in your ways and on your path.**

One: We enter this New Year with hope and excitement.

**All: O Lord, remind us that you lead us. O Lord, guide us as we look to you.**

**Let us worship God!**

\*Hymn 150 As With Gladness Men of Old

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ, but we have preferred to live in darkness. Your justice protects the weak and the distressed, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power. Your righteousness redeems the poor and the needy, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions. Your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution. Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

Silent Reflection and Prayer

Choral Response

Lord Have Mercy

Choir

Assurance of Grace

One: Friends, God knows your heart and God has heard your request for forgiveness.

**All: Lord, our hearts are turned back toward you and your ways of showing love in this world.**

One: God's love is offered in this way: In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven!

**All: God, we gratefully receive your forgiveness and do promise to begin anew as your followers. Grant us courage and wisdom as we walk in your way and shine your light in this world. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Joy (refrain hymn 113)

**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

\*Greeting and Sharing Christ's Peace

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**



## Responding to God's Word

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

There Shall a Star

Felix Mendelssohn

There shall a star from Jacob come forth and a scepter from Israel rise up, and dash in pieces princes and nations. As bright the star of morning gleams, so Jesus sheddeth glorious beams of light and consolation! Thy Word, O Lord. Radiance darting, truth imparting, gives salvation. Thine be praise and adoration!

\*Doxology (hymn 108, stanza 6)

**Christ, to thee with God the Father; and O Holy Ghost to thee;  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving; and unwearied praises be.  
Honor, glory and dominion; and eternal victory; evermore and evermore! Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

**Glorious God, you led men of wisdom to seek Jesus, your Holy Child, born of Mary. Overjoyed in the presence of his radiant light, the men knelt down at the manger and offered him precious gifts. We, too, offer our gifts in gratitude, reverence, and thanksgiving for the birth of your child, whom you called to lead the world into fullness of life. Receive and bless this offering as a joyful sign of the boundless love and abundant life we are called to share in Christ. Amen.**

## Sealing God's Word

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right and our joy, Creator God ... And now we join the ancient and eternal hymn: ....

Mark L. Williams

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of pow-er and might!  
Heav'n 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!

for you are the light of the world, shining still.

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ - will come a - gain! —

Prayers of the People and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution and Sharing the Meal

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

**Eternal God, we thank you for feeding us with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation to nourish our journey of faith. In Jesus Christ your light shines in our darkness, giving joy in sorrow and comfort in loneliness. Fill us with the mystery of your Word made flesh, until our hearts overflow with praise and joy, and reflect Christ's light to the world. Amen.**

## **Sending the Faithful Into God's World**

\*Hymn 151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

\*Charge and Benediction

Response

Light Before Us

Lloyd Larson

Light before us, light behind us, light beneath our feet. Light within us, light above us, let all around us be light.

Postlude

Improvisation on "We Three Kings"

J. Smith