



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?"
Matthew 2:1-2a

Eve of the Epiphany

The 12th day of Christmas

January 5, 2020 | 8:30 am



St. John's Lutheran Church | Salisbury, NC

Welcome to St. John's!

For more information about today's worship, please refer to the pew card found in the hymnal.



Gathering

Welcome *Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to your neighbor in the pew.*

Prelude

Joy to the World
Kevin Agner, cello

arr. Christopher Phillips

Prayers of Confession. *Please stand.*

As we gather for worship, we make the sign of the cross as a reminder of our baptism.

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

Let us pray. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8-9*

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God,

Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion for give us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God's Promise of Forgiveness

Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! By his grace and mercy, you are forgiven all of your sins Rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace of Christ The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Entrance Hymn 314

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

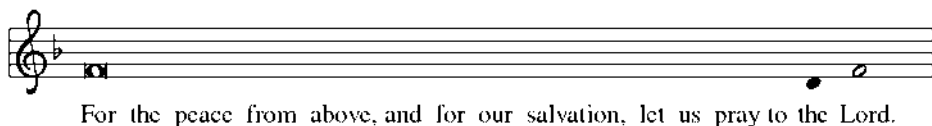
FESTAL SONG

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.**

Kyrie. *A centering prayer asking for God's mercy and peace.*



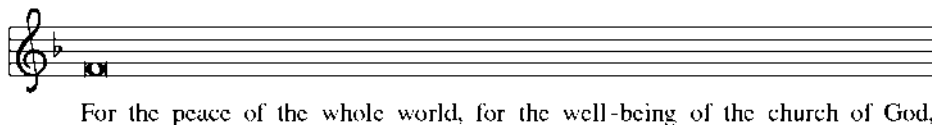
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



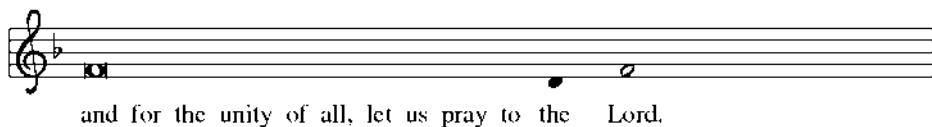
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



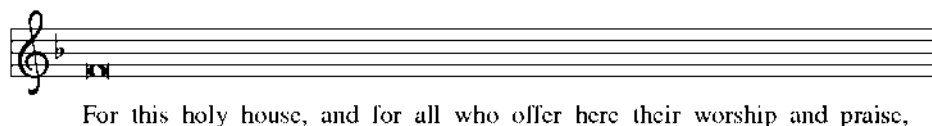
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



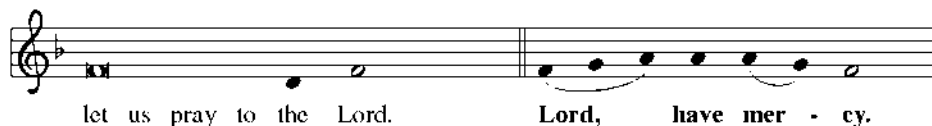
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



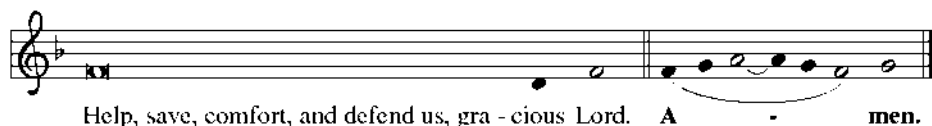
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him,
 born the king of angels.
 O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated



Word

We hear God's word in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Wise men from the East are prophesied

The Prophet writes: ¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. ⁶A 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Spiritual blessings in Christ

St. Paul writes: ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his

grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel. "Alleluia" is an ancient Jewish acclamation that means "God be praised." In the Christian tradition, Alleluia means "He is risen!"

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

The Holy Gospel: John 1: 1-5, 14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ¹⁴And 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.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated

Sermon

Pastor Rhodes Woolly

Please stand

Hymn 300

The First Noel

THE FIRST NOWELL

Apostles' Creed. *The three paragraphs of the Creed express our belief in the three-fold nature of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

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.**

Please be seated

Collection of our Tithes and Offerings

Offering Anthem

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

arr. Donald Busarow

Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger; there he lay, the Undefined,
to the world a stranger. Such a Babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race, who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth, Wisemen sought and found him; Heaven's star shone
brightly forth, glory all around him. Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
heard the angels singing; all the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger; He is still the Undefined, but no more
a stranger. Son of God of humble birth, beautiful the story; praise his name in all
the earth; Hail! the King of Glory!

Offertory Hymn *As the gifts are presented, the congregation stands and sings the Doxology.*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Prayers of Intercession. *Each petition ends: Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.***

The 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;
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.**



Sending

Benediction

Sending Hymn	302	<i>As with Gladness Men of Old</i>	DIX
		verses 1-4	
Dismissal	Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Thanks be to God!		
Postlude		<i>As with Gladness Men of Old</i>	arr. Janet Linker

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January 6 is the Feast of The Epiphany. It brings to an end the 12 days of Christmas (December 25 through January 5) and ushers in a new liturgical season, Epiphany, which draws its name from the Latin word, epiphania, which means "manifestation." During Epiphany, the church celebrates the manifestation of God through Jesus by remembering the many ways he became a "light to the nations" (Luke 2:32).



Let's connect faith and life. *Together.*