

*Epiphany of Our Lord  
January 4, 2026*

**Ascension Lutheran Church**  
**1105 N. Washington Blvd.**  
**Ogden, UT 84404**  
**801.782.2810**

**Welcome to Worship...**

Welcome to all God's guests, including those who call themselves "members" of this church named Ascension Lutheran Church more than 65 years ago.

A special welcome to guests who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community. It is at God's invitation, through worship, the Holy Spirit calls each of us to come to a place of **community, communion** and **commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

**Children are always welcome in worship services;**

**However, please know the cry room at the back of the sanctuary is available for parents who need to tend to their little ones.**

*Welcome to Worship*

*Call to Worship*

*P* Arise! Shine! The light you have been waiting for is here!  
Darkness has been banished!  
God's light of hope floods the earth and comes to us all.  
Lord, make us ready to journey to this Light.  
Prepare our hearts to receive this Light.

*All* Amen

## Opening Song

Pastor



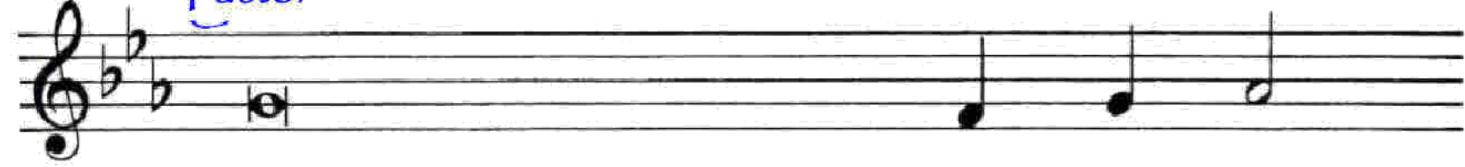
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All



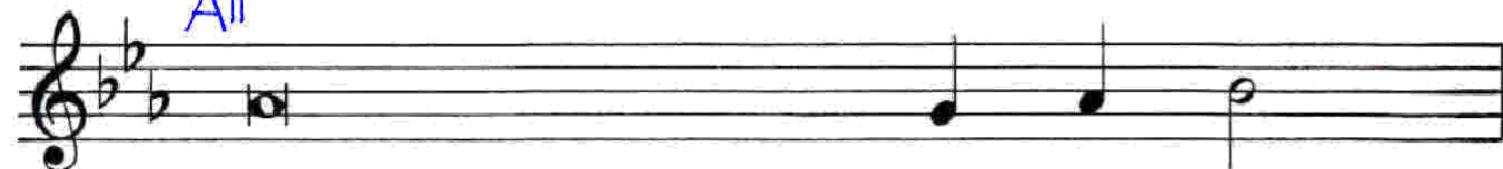
the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

Pastor



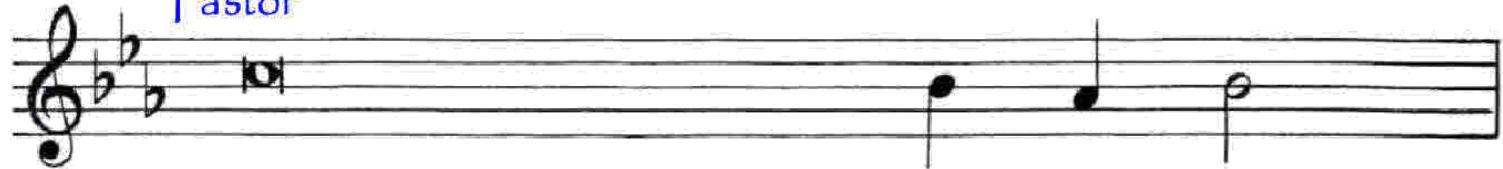
Stay with us now, for it is morning,

All



and the day is just be - gun.

Pastor



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

All



and shine within your peo - ple here. —

All:



1. Joy - ous light of heav - 'nly glo - ry, lov - ing  
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the  
3. You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's  
blaz - ing sun of dawn, of the light of peace and  
danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle



sto - ry, shine on ev 'ry land and race. Now as  
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that  
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



morn-ing dawns a - round us, we shall raise our songs to  
fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry  
God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and  
soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us  
way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us



light our hearts a - new. \_\_\_\_\_  
free and make us whole. \_\_\_\_\_  
on to end - less day. \_\_\_\_\_

## *Confession and For-*

*P*      Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty Savior,  
Prince of Peace.

*All*    Amen.

*P*      Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,

*All*    **we yearn for your presence to transform  
our grief, pain, and despair.**

**We confess that we have not always prepared  
room in our hearts for your love;  
we have not always recognized your presence among us;  
we have not always embraced your message of peace.**

**We cry out, weary with the burden  
of violence, oppression, and fear.**

**We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge;  
our participation in violent systems  
that harm your innocent ones;  
our reluctance to embody your good news.**

**Be born in us today  
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.**

**Amen.**

*P*      God's grace upon grace flows over you.  
+ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.  
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

*All*    Amen.

## Prayer for This Day



All Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the



lift-ing up of my hands as an of - fer-ing to you.



Women O God, I call to you, come to me now; oh, hear my



Men O God, I call to you, come to me



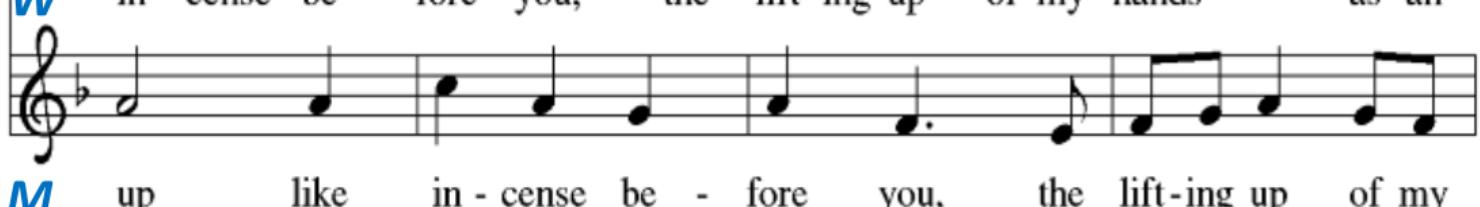
W voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise up like



M now; oh, hear my voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise



W in - cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an



M up like in - cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my

W of-fer-ing to you. Keep watch with - in me, God;

M hands as an of-fer-ing to you. Keep

W deep in my heart may the light of your love be burn - ing

M watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your

W bright. Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

M love be burn - ing bright. Let my prayer rise up like

W fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to

M in - cense be - fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an

**W** you. All praise to the God of all— Cre - a - tor of

**M** of-fer-ing to you. All praise to the

**W** life; all praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.

**M** God of all— Cre - a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the

**W** Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the

**M** Spir-it of love. Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

**W** lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

**M** fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

Text: *Holden Evening Prayer*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 141

Music: Marty Haugen

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*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

*A Reading from Isaiah, the 60<sup>th</sup> chapter*

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth  
and thick darkness the peoples,  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> Lift 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 in their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup> Then 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.

<sup>6</sup> A 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.

***Isaiah 60:1-6***

WA Word of God, Word of Hope.

**All Thanks be to God!**

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 salvation.

### *A Reading from Ephesians, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter*

<sup>1</sup> This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, <sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup> that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ <sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*Ephesians 3:1-12*

WA Word of God, Word of Life.

**All** Thanks be to God!

### *Gospel Acclamation* Please stand in body or spirit.



0 - pen the eyes \_\_\_\_\_ of my heart, \_\_\_\_\_ Lord, \_\_\_\_\_

o - pen the eyes of my heart; I want to see You,  
I want to see You.

### Gospel Reading

*P* The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.*

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘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.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

<sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*Matthew 2:1-12*

*P* The Gospel of our Lord.

*All* Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be Seated

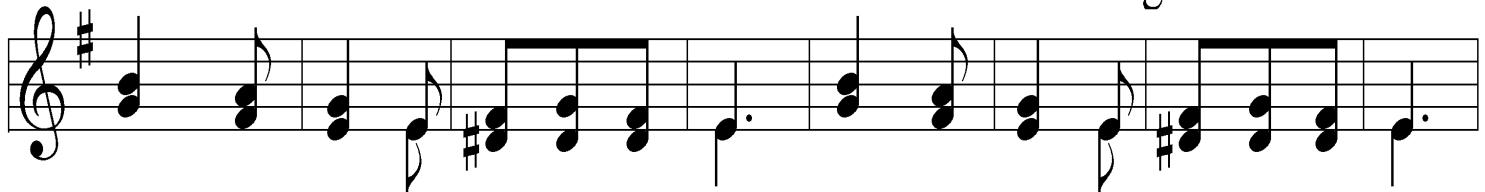
## Children's Sermon & Noisy Offering

*Message*

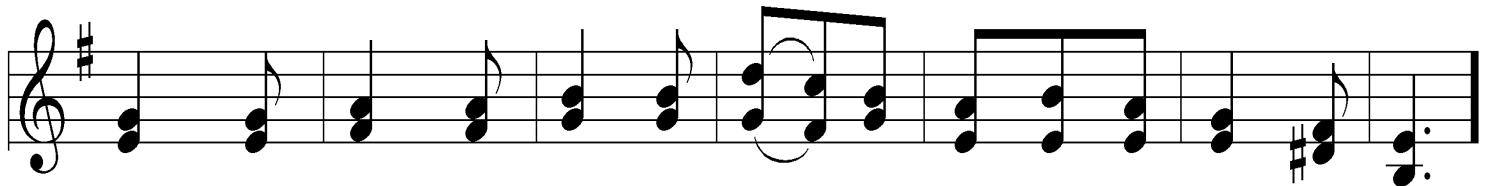
**Pr. Debra Jimenez**

*Hymn of the Day* | Please stand in body or spirit.

## We Three Kings of Orient Are

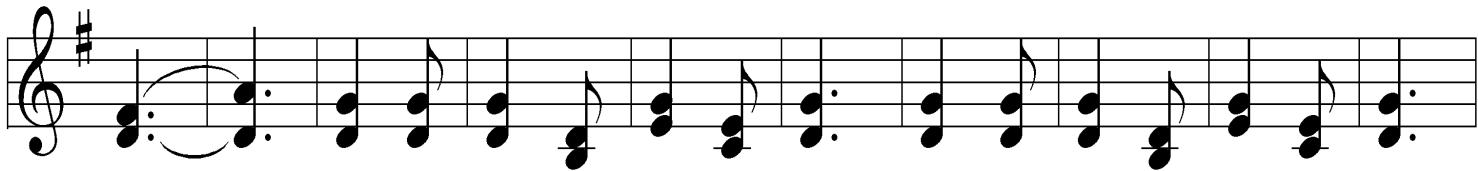


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
2 Born a king on Beth - le-hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;  
5 Glo - rious now be-hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

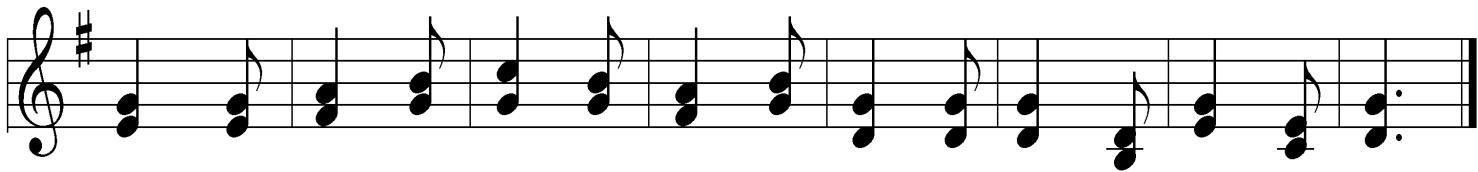


field and foun - tain, moor and moun-tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

*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!

### *Apostles' Creed*

*P* Let us join together with the saints across the ages confessing our faith with the words of the 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

You may be Seated

WA Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.



O Lord, hear our prayer we of-fer up to you; O Lord, hear our prayer.

(each prayer petition ends with)

WA: Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

## Sharing the Peace of Christ

Please stand in body or spirit.

In our continued physical distancing out of love for the health of one another, we will share the Peace of our risen Lord by "speaking" that Peace through sign language.

P Christ become Peace with you.

All And also with you.

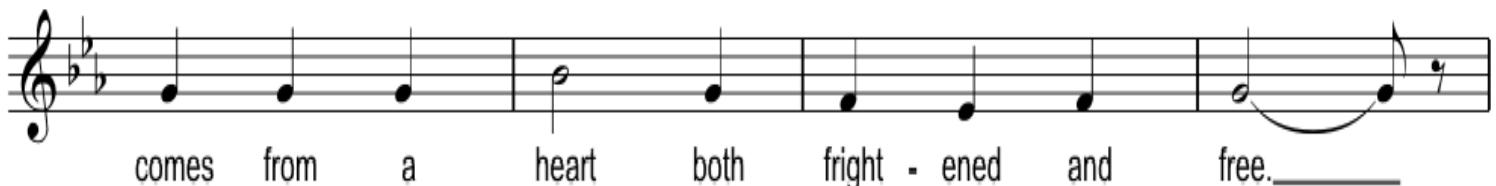
## Offering

You may be Seated

While we still will not physically pass the offering plates we will continue to have the plates available at the entrance to receive your offerings and will lift them up in thanksgiving before the throne of grace.



All that we have \_\_\_\_\_ and all that we of - fer \_\_\_\_\_



comes from a heart both fright - ened and free. \_\_\_\_\_

Take what we bring now and give what we need;

All done in His name.

### *Offertory Prayer*

*P* God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

**All** **Bless what we offer to your service:**  
**our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.**  
**Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,**  
**That all the end of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace.**  
**Amen.**

### *The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution*

*P* The Lord be with you

**All** **And also with you.**

*P* Lift up your hearts.

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

*P* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

In the night in which he was betrayed  
our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks;  
broke it and gave it to his disciples saying:

Take and eat; this is my body given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### *The Lord's Prayer*

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Let us together approach the throne of grace  
as we pray as Jesus taught us:

**All** 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.

## The Invitation

P God is now in flesh appearing.  
Come to the feast of joy!

Note: the communion cups on the periphery of the tray contain red wine while the cups in the center contain white grape juice.

**Gluten Free wafers available –ask the communion attendant**

## Communion Songs

You may be Seated

Mary Mary

Words and Music by  
Richard Kinsey Avery  
and Donald Stuart Marsh



Mar - y, Mar - y, what you gon - na name that ba - - by?

Fine



What you gon - na call that ho - - ly ba - - by? \_\_\_\_\_



1. Slaves \_ are we and look - ing for a mas - ter, why don't you call Him  
2. We like our sheep need some - one \_ to guide us, why don't you call Him  
3. Hun - gry and poor we need some - one to save us, why don't you call Him  
4. Kings of the world we seek some - one to rule us, why don't you call Him

D.C. al Fine



Lord? \_\_\_\_\_ Sh! Let's all call Him Lord! \_\_\_\_\_  
Shep - herd? Sh! Let's all call Him Shep - - herd!  
Sav - - ior? Sh! Let's all call Him Sav - - ior!  
King? \_\_\_\_\_ Sh! Let's all call Him King! \_\_\_\_\_

## Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory

1 Joy - ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own  
2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of  
3 You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry danc - ing star of

face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on  
dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can  
night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us

ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -  
hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with  
each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -

round us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of day - break,  
won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that bursts all  
a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing Spir - it

God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.  
chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.  
of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

### Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*P* The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in his grace.

*All* Amen

*P* Let us pray,  
Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.

*All* **May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts  
the mystery of your presence.  
Move us to discover the wonders of your love  
in the everyday moments of our lives,  
through Christ born in us. Amen**

You may be Seated

## *Stewardship of Life and Ministry Announcements*

### *Benediction* Please stand in body or spirit.

*P* The triune God, glorious Mystery,  
holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,  
☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

*All* Amen

### *Sending*

#### Song - Joy to the World

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'-ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and heav'n, and nature sing.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love!*

# Dismissal

WA Glory to God in the highest!

**All And peace to God's people on earth!**

WA Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**All Thanks be to God.**

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.  
THE HOLY FAMILY ARE  
REFUGEES FLEEING A  
MURDEROUS DICTATOR. THEY  
GO TO ANOTHER COUNTRY, AND  
THEN, ONCE THE POLITICAL  
SITUATION HAS CHANGED, THEY  
RETURN HOME.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

YEAH,  
PRETTY  
MUCH.  
AND THEY ARE NEVER  
ARRESTED OR  
THREATENED WITH  
DEPORTATION?



NO,  
THEY'RE  
NOT.



THAT'S UNBELIEVABLE!



MATTHEW 2:13-23

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Readings for next Sunday,  
January 11<sup>th</sup>

First Reading:

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm:

Psalm 29

Second Reading:

Acts 10:34-43

Gospel:

Matthew 3:13-17

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