

Epiphany of Our Lord

January 7th, 2024

9:30 a.m. In-person and Livestream Worship



Atonement Lutheran Church

Invite • Prepare • Go into the World

1900 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY 14618

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Brightest and Best

-J. Harding

***WELCOME**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**The brightness of God's light shines upon all the nations.
All are welcomed to the brightness of God's dawn.**

God gathers us from far away and carries us.
With radiant eyes, with rejoicing hearts, we receive the abundance God gives.

**We respond in praise.
With our gifts, with our very selves, we worship God.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

***GATHERING HYMN**

As With Gladness Men of Old

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***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, be with you all.
And also with you.

**Please Stand As You Are Able*

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from Isaiah

- 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72:1-7,18-19

Read responsively. Congregation reads **bold** type.

- ¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
²**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**
⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁸**Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.**
¹⁹Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth.
Amen and Amen.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The First Noel, stanzas 1 & 3

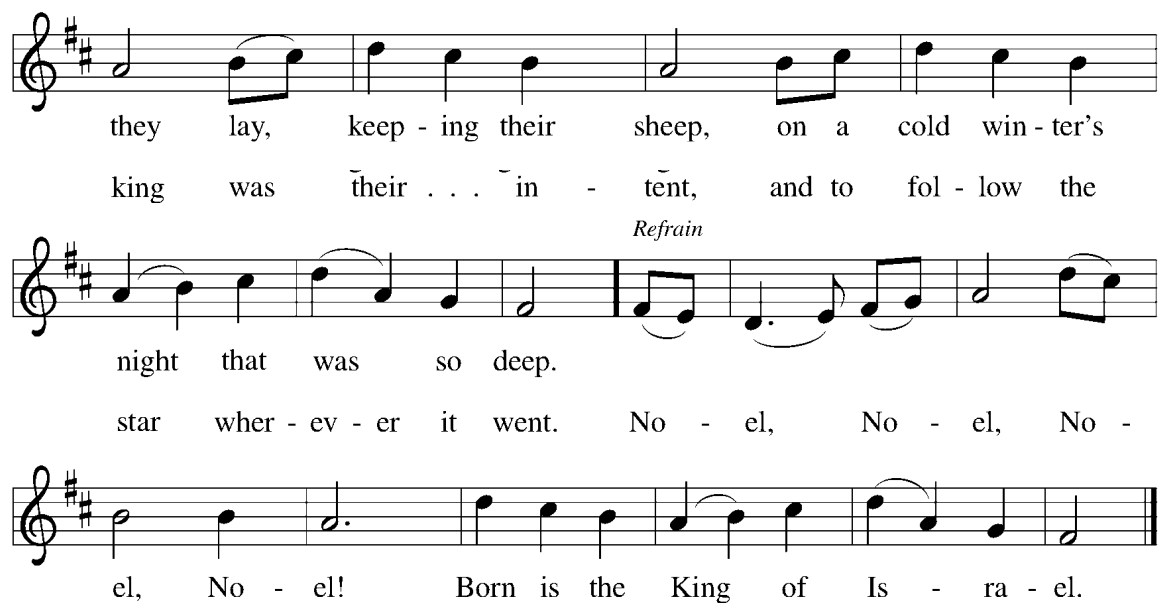
300



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a



*HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “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.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶‘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.’”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.” ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

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

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *In the Bleak Midwinter* # 294

***NICENE CREED**

Let us confess our faith, and the faith of the church, with the words of the 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

Rejoicing in the light of Christ that shines upon us, we pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.
God, shining with grace, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, as we behold the light of Christ's presence, and rejoice in the brightness of his glory. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Brightest and Best of the Stars* *-J. Harding*

*Offering gifts are gratefully received
in the plates located near the sanctuary doors as you exit.*

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Our God has done wondrous things, too numerous to count. Through steadfast love and care, God enriches us in every way. Therefore, do not delay! Let us offer our gifts and ourselves to God this day, with all that we have and all that we are, in praise and love to Christ. **Amen.**

MEAL

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

DISTRIBUTION

All are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, Christ's body and blood truly present in the bread and the wine.

~Come forward by the center aisle.

~Children are invited to come forward for a blessing.

~White grape juice and gluten-free wafers are also available.

~Dispose of the cup in the basket provided.

~Please tell an usher if you need communion elements brought to your pew.

SENDING

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray;

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

20 + C M B + 24

The magi of old, known as

C Caspar,

M Melchior, and

B Balthasar

followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us

20 two thousand

24 and twenty-four years ago.

+ Christ, bless this church,

+ and remain with us throughout the new year. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

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***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Wie schön leuchtet

-D. Buxtehude

*The congregation is invited to remain for the postlude;
and following it, to respond with "Amen!"*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister Rob White
Livestream Recorder..... Dave Irish
Offering Counters Amy Irish, Tom Thompson
Usher(s) Skip Waterstreet
Altar Care Judy Lazenby
Fellowship Hosts Pastor Gail

AN EASY WAY TO GIVE YOUR OFFERING

Scan this QR code with your smartphone's camera, ->
tap on the link that pops up, and you will be taken
directly to Atonement's giving website.



If your phone doesn't automatically scan the code, you may need to download a QR code reader app. Many are available for free in the Google Play or Apple App store. Please contact Lindee Krapf if you have any questions.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE HOUR

****TODAY* following worship in Reissig Hall***

Please join us and have a slice of the fruitcake made during worship on Dec. 24th.

ADULT FORUM

****TODAY* at 10:45 a.m. in Reissig Hall***

Join us for a video presentation of one of the most delightful operas for families: *Amahl and the Night Visitors* by Gian Carlo Menotti. A story of a shepherd boy, three Magi visitors, and how the power of love can work miracles. Along with this 50-minute video, Pastor Gail and David McCarthy will share background information and musical insights.

Next Sunday, January 14th at 10:45 a.m. in Reissig Hall

“Opera and the Bible: Love, Sin, Redemption, and Drama” presented by Pastor Gail and David McCarthy.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ‘UNDECK THE HALLS’

Monday, January 8th at 9:30 a.m.

If you have an hour or so of free time, please join us to put away the window crèches, the large crèche in the Chancel, and remove the Moravian Stars and lights from the tree in the Sanctuary. Who knows?... It could be fun!

JANUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL FUN DAY

Sunday, January 14th following worship in Founders Hall

All children ages preschool through grade 5 are invited to join us directly after worship in Founders Hall. Join us for a Bible story, an art project, music, activities, and snacks. This month we’ll talk about Mending God’s World through prayer.

We ask that an adult stay with children under eight years of age to assist us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Please submit all 2023 Annual Reports to the church office *by January 21st*.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

The updated Church Directory is here! Please use this updated version for all of your contacts. Paper copies are available on the table in the narthex and in the church office. Digital copies are available upon request from the church office.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

Please help us by signing up to be a Fellowship Host for our coffee hour in the upcoming weeks/months. A signup sheet is on the table in the narthex. See Barb Sanko for details.

GREEN TIP

When fishermen in Asia pull in their nets, they get 60% fish and 40% plastic. Why? Because as demand for fossil fuel declines, oil and gas companies are marketing more single use plastics to poor countries that don't have infrastructure to dispose of them. Visit beyondplastics.org to take action.

As with Gladness Men of Old



- 1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
- 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
- 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
- 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
- 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;

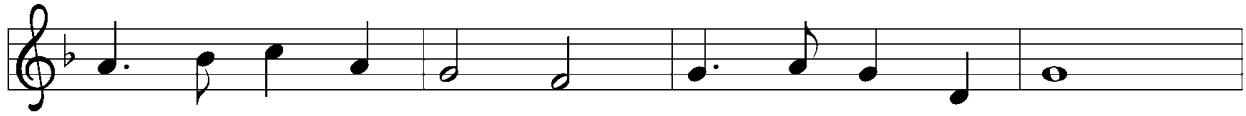


as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

In the Bleak Midwinter



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
 2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
 3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
 4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
 in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
 falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
 when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
 In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
 Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with
 Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
 of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
 heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your
 and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
 dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
 mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
 lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
 dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
 you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
 for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
 Our joy be all with music crowned,
 our voices gaily blending!
 For Christ goes with us all the way—
 today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
 His love is never ending!
 Sing out! Ring out!
 Jubilation!
 Exultation!
 Tell the story!
 Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!</p> | <p>6 What joy to know, when life is past,
 the Lord we love is first and last,
 the end and the beginning!
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
 transport us to that happy place
 beyond all tears and sinning!
 Amen! Amen!
 Come, Lord Jesus!
 Crown of gladness!
 We are yearning
 for the day of your returning.</p> |
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Atonement Lutheran Church

The Rev. Gail Swanson, Pastor

Email: pastorgails@aol.com

Office: (585) 442-1018

Cell: (614) 477-7863

David McCarthy, Director of Music Ministry

Becky R. Wiesmore, Administrative Assistant

Welcome to worship,

and a special welcome to those who are visiting with us today.

*If you are interested in becoming a member of our congregation
or learning more about our ministries,
please speak to our Pastor.*



MISSION STATEMENT

Atonement Lutheran Church is a gathering of God's people in Christ called to:

Invite all people into the presence of the living God,

Prepare for ministry in daily life and

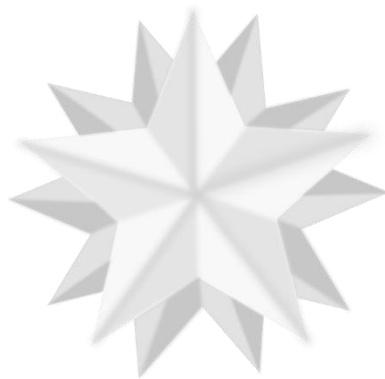
Go into the world as disciples

Our Church Nursery is available
for parents to use with their children.

Thank you for joining us in worship today!

*"On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother;
and they knelt down and paid him homage."*

-Matthew 2:11



Visit our web site at: **www.atonementrochester.org**
Follow us on Facebook: **[fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch/](https://www.facebook.com/atonementlutheranchurch/)**
Contact us via Email: **office@atonementrochester.org**
Call us via phone at: **(585) 442-1018**
Church Office hours: **Tues~Wed~Thurs 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**