

Welcome to  
All Saints Lutheran Church

*Epiphany of Our  
Lord*



HOLY COMMUNION  
January 4, 2026  
10:00 AM

# Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**PRELUDE**

**JOHN WOMACK**

**WELCOME**

**REV. ASHTON ROBERTS**

**CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**REV. ASHTON ROBERTS**

*The assembly stands.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\pm$  one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

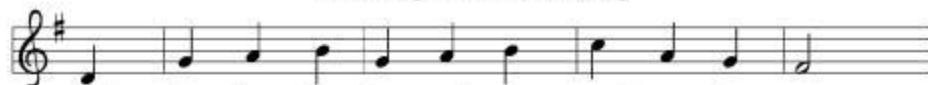
*The assembly kneels in body or spirit. Silence is kept for reflection.*

God-with-us,  
**we confess that we have turned away  
those seeking shelter,  
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.  
We have made power and wealth our idols,  
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.  
We have overlooked the shepherds,  
expecting good news in prettier packaging.  
Too often, we have valued violence  
instead of your peace.  
Turn us from our ways to your ways.  
Grant us the grace to begin again.  
Free us from all that keeps us bound,  
and forgive our sin,  
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.  
Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice!  
You are God's chosen ones,  
holy and beloved,  
 $\pm$  forgiven in Christ,  
and freed to respond in joy.  
**Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*

When Long before Time  
*The Singer and the Song*



1 When long be - fore time and the worlds were be - gun,  
 2 The si - lence was bro - ken when God sang the Song,  
 3 The sounds of the crea - tures were one with their Lord's,  
 4 Though down through the a - ges the Song dis - ap - peared,



when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,  
 and light pierced the dark - ness and rhy - thm be - gan,  
 their har - mo - nies sweet and be - fit - ting the Word;  
 its har - mo - nies bro - ken and al - most un - heard,



and all was deep si - lence and night reigned su - preme,  
 and with its first birth - cries cre - a - tion was born,  
 the Sing - er was pleased as the earth sang the Song,  
 the Sing - er comes to us to sing it a - gain,



and e - ven our Mak - er had on - ly a dream—  
 and crea - ture - ly voic - es sang praise to the morn.  
 the choir of the crea - tures re - ech - oed it long.  
 our God - is - with - us in the world now as then.

5 The Light has returned as it came once before,  
 the Song of the Lord is our own song once more,  
 so let us all sing with one heart and one voice  
 the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.

6 To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise,  
 to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,  
 to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,  
 be glory forever, through life and through death.

Text: Peter W. A. Davison, b. 1936

Music: THE SINGER AND THE SONG, Peter W. A. Davison

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## APOSTOLIC GREETING

## REV. ASHTON ROBERTS

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.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

REV. ASHTON ROBERTS

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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## Word

The Holy Spirit offers us comfort and challenge through the Word of God.

### FIRST READING: ISAIAH 60:1-6

JOHN WOMACK

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

2 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.

3 Nations shall come to your light  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 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.

5 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.

6 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 3:1-12

JOHN WOMACK

This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my

understanding of the mystery of Christ. 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: that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

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. 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 and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, 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. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*The assembly stands in body or spirit as the gospel is read.*



## **GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12**

**REV. ASHTON ROBERTS**

The holy gospel according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, 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." 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 magi 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 in the east, 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.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## SERMON

**REV. ASHTON ROBERTS**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**ELW 295**

Of the Father's Love Begotten

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing; pow'r, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing

he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
 prom-ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 deem er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

ev - er - more and ev - er - more,  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more,  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more,  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more,  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite  
 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

## NICENE CREED

REV. ASHTON ROBERTS

**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;  
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 OF INTERCESSION

JOHN WOMACK

*The assembly sits or kneels for prayer.*

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

*A brief silence.*

Repairer of the breach, you separate us from our sin and unite us with one another. Heal the animosity in our hearts, and bind us together in love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Author of life, you sent your spirit over the waters, your breath into your children, and guiding stars across the sky. Awaken us to the plight of the planet and send us to care for your creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Light that leads the way, you make yourself known to the nations. Illuminate just paths and guide leaders in the church and the world in your holy will. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

Voice of the silenced, you cast the mighty from their thrones and fill the hungry with good things. Grant those in need the courage to demand equality and those with abundance the wisdom to share. Respond to any who call out in need this day.

We offer to you now the concerns of our hearts, either silently or aloud.

### ***Additional Intercessions***

***Rev. Ashton Roberts***

*A brief silence*

- *We pray for Gerry; Keren and family; Jeff.*
- *We pray for Roger and the Boyer family; Robin and Cathy; Byron.*
- *We pray for Kathryn; Ray; Todd; Flossie.*
- *We pray for Jim and Sharon; Charlie; Alex; John.*

*Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

- *We pray for all people of the world impacted by ongoing war, conflict, and violence, especially those caught between Ukraine and Russia; between Israel and Hamas; between Thailand and Cambodia; in South Sudan; in Myanmar; between China and Taiwan.*
- *We pray for schools everywhere, that all students and those who care for them may feel safe and free from fear.*
- *We pray for protection, provision, and justice for immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and advocates.*
- *We pray for all who rely on affordable child care, who seek accessible health care, or who rely on food assistance.*
- *We pray for justice around the world and here at home, that God may delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion, and peace.*

*Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

Proclaimer of promises, you raise up prophets and messengers in the places we least expect. Equip us to listen well to those who bring both good news and painful truths. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Redeemer of the saints, you gift us with many people throughout our lives who point the way to you. We give you thanks for the recently departed and all who have loved us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

REV. ASHTON ROBERTS

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

I invite you to share a sign of peace with one another.

*If you are joining us online, reach out by phone, text, email, or social media this week to share the Peace of Christ.*

## Holy Communion

The Holy Spirit calls us together to remember and proclaim Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection.

## OFFERTORY

ELW 182

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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## OFFERTORY PRAYER

JOHN WOMACK

*Let us pray.*

God of glory,  
great are your wonders among us  
and many are the blessings you bestow.  
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,  
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,  
through Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

REV. ASHTON ROBERTS

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

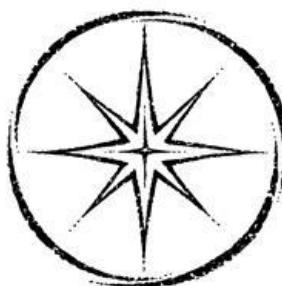
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

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.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:  
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.  
You have filled all creation with light and life;  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:  
the promise to Israel,  
the rescue from Egypt,  
the gift of the promised land,  
the words of the prophets;  
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,  
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed  
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

Again, 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup  
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.  
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,  
we await his coming in power  
to share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share in Christ's body and blood  
may live to the praise of your glory  
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants  
of every time and every place,  
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

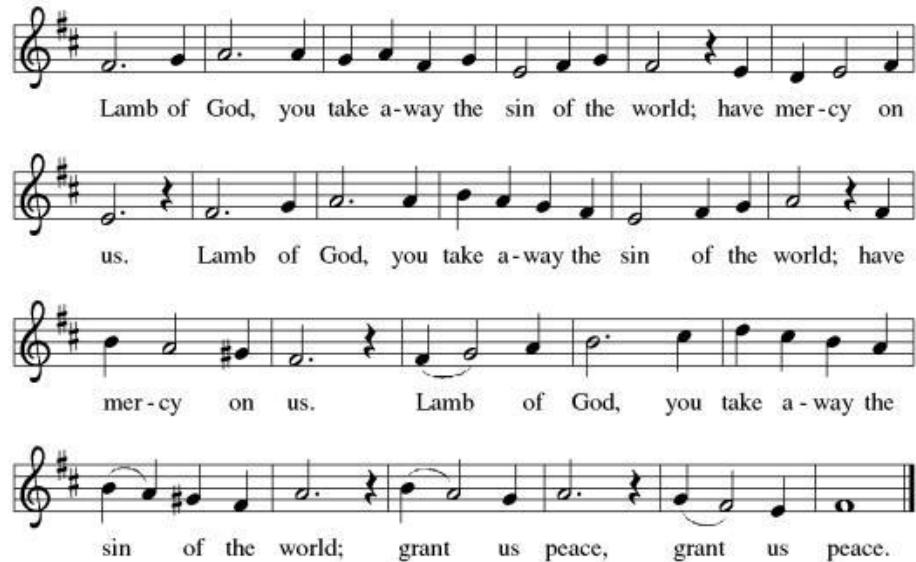
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
    hallowed be thy name,  
    thy kingdom come,  
    thy will be done,  
        on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
    as we forgive those  
        who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
    but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
    and the power, and the glory,  
    forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

*The assembly is seated.*

## COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## MUSIC FOR COMMUNION

*The congregation stands in body or spirit.*

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

**REV. ASHTON ROBERTS**

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

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**JOHN WOMACK**

*Let us pray.*

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

### *Sending*

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### BLESSING

**REV. ASHTON ROBERTS**

Almighty God, Father, <sup>☩</sup> Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### When a Star Is Shining

1 When a star is shin-ing o - ver east - ern hills,  
2 Where the world is wait-ing for an un - known day,  
3 Lead us on, O Day-star, in the qui - et night;

when the air is si - lent, and the clam - or stills,  
where a voice for - got - ten cries, "Pre - pare the way!"  
guide us through the shad-ow with your gen - tle light;

when the night is wait-ing, and the old hopes rise,  
Where an earth - ly pow - er makes the heart turn cold,  
show us in a man - ger our re - demp - tion's sign;

then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise,  
there the gifts are of - fered - in - cense, myrrh, and gold.  
bring us to a morn-ing where the prom - ise shines.

*Refrain*

Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn-ing where the  
prom - ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,  
to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: WHERE THE PROMISE SHINES, Bob Moore, b. 1962

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. ASHTON ROBERTS

## DISMISSAL

REV. ASHTON ROBERTS

Glory to God in the highest!  
**And peace to God's people on earth!**  
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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