

Second Sunday after Christmas

5 January 2025

HIGHWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Meeting ID: 411 134 0591 # Passcode: 592794 #

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**+ HOLY COMMUNION SETTING FOUR +**



### ORGAN PRELUDE

"How Bright Appears the Morning Star" arr. D. Buxtehude

### GATHERING

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### CATECHETIC MOMENT

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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Baptism Anniversaries celebrated this month: Nicole Gummo, Bronson Patychuk, Donna Harbour, Alma Bietz, Ryan Gummo, Ryan Ford, Jerry Laboret

**GATHERING HYMN**

**No. 308**

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright(verses 1,3,4,5)

**GREETING/ KYRIE**

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**HYMN OF PRAISE** Glory to God

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**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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**P** We pray. O God, our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**FIRST LESSON Sirach 24:1-12**

Wisdom praises herself,

and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.

In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth,

and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory:

"I came forth from the mouth of the Most High,

and covered the earth like a mist.

I dwelt in the highest heavens,

and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.

Alone I compassed the vault of heaven

and traversed the depths of the abyss.

Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,

and over every people and nation I have held sway.

Among all these I sought a resting place;

in whose territory should I abide?

"Then the Creator of all things gave me a command,

and my Creator chose the place for my tent.

He said, 'Make your dwelling in Jacob,  
and in Israel receive your inheritance.'  
Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me,  
and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.  
In the holy tent I ministered before him,  
and so I was established in Zion.  
Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place,  
and in Jerusalem was my domain.  
I took root in an honored people,  
in the portion of the Lord, his heritage.  
A The word of the Lord.  
**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** *Spoken* **Wisdom 10:15-21**

A holy people and blameless race  
wisdom delivered from a nation of oppressors.  
She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord,  
and withstood dread kings with wonders and signs.  
She gave to holy people the reward of their labours;  
she guided them along a marvellous way,  
and became a shelter to them by day,  
and a starry flame through the night.  
She brought them over the Red Sea,  
and led them through deep waters;  
but she drowned their enemies,  
and cast them up from the depths of the sea.  
Therefore the righteous plundered the ungodly;  
they sang hymns, O Lord, to your holy name,  
and praised with one accord your defending hand;  
for wisdom opened the mouths of those who were  
mute,  
and made the tongues of infants speak clearly.

## SECOND LESSON    **Ephesians 1:3-14**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In 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, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In 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; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Please stand as you are able.*

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**THE HOLY GOSPEL    John 1:1-18**

**C Glory to you, O Lord**

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And 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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY We Three Kings

1. We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

Refrain:

- O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!
2. Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again;  
King forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign. (Refrain)
  3. Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising,  
worshiping God most high.  
(Refrain)
  4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Refrain)
  5. Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
hallelujah, hallelujah;  
heaven to earth replies. (Refrain)

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THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Please stand as you are able.*

The response to “*Merciful God*, is “*hear our prayer.*”

A In the birth of Jesus Christ among the poor of the earth, God has promised to comfort all peoples and to give gladness in exchange for sorrow. Assured by this promise, let us pray for all the earth and all its peoples, saying: Merciful God, hear our prayer.

*A brief silence.*

A For the homeless and the hungry, that they may find refuge, merciful God,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For all the physically disadvantaged, that they may find courage and acceptance, merciful God,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For the cities of the earth, that they may be places of wisdom and justice, merciful God,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For national leaders, courts, and legislatures, that they may protect the weak and serve in humility, merciful God,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For the Holy Church of God, that it may be made one, merciful God,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For missionaries, that they may act in courage and love, merciful God,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For this assembly, that we may treasure in our hearts the Word spoken in our midst, merciful God,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For the sick and for those we name before you, Anna Berwanger, Simret Bogale, Chrystine Cuch, Mariette Erasmus, Adeline Erick, Ruth Gummo, Dolores

Hollowell, Donna Harbor, Genevieve Janssen, Julie Janssen Downe, Eleanora Lahoda, Fay Larsen, Amy Lynch, Jean McCowan, Mark Mutschlechner, Bruce and Judith Nagel, Jerry Rasmuson and family, Jim and Joyce Rasmussen, David Sr. and Joan Richardson, Vern Schnell, Rose Sinclair, Sam Skogen, those we name aloud ... those we carry in our hearts. and for those who will die this day, merciful God,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For those who serve in the holy catholic Church:

- for the National Church Council and national committee members
- for the Northern Area Leadership Team, pastors, people and Dean, Rev. Anna Thede
- for our Synod Campus Ministries and especially for Rev. Rev. George Koopmans, Chaplain for Medicine Hat College
- for Spirit of Grace Lutheran, Brooks
- for Santiago Apostol Mission, Yopal, Colombia
- for the students, faculty, and staff of Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon
- for all who work for Canadian ecumenical justice initiatives
- for pastors and people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- for the pastors and people of the Anglican, Mennonite, Moravian and Evangelical Churches in Canada

For all these, merciful God,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For all virtually gathered for this service, and those attending to the care of others and to beneficial



endeavours that keep them away from worshipping,  
merciful God,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For Ukraine, and all countries experiencing the terror  
of war. Let the bloodshed and war crimes come to an  
end. For wisdom, peace, and justice to prevail, merciful  
God,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Joining in thanksgiving with Mary the mother of God,  
with all those who heard and touched the coming of the  
word among us, with all angels, and with all the people  
of God, we commend these prayers and all this longing  
world to you, O God, through your Son, Jesus Christ

**C Amen.**

**THE PEACE**

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P May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

**C And also with you.**

### **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "Bright the Star that Guides our Path"

by Douglas Wagner

*Setting of the altar and reception of the Offerings.*

*Please be seated.*

**OFFERING PRAYER** Good and loving God ...

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**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**(Version II)

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**THE FRACTION**

P The Word became flesh and lived among us; and we  
have beheld His glory.

**C Make yourself known to us in the breaking of the  
bread and the sharing of the cup.**

**LAMB OF GOD**

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**THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT**

*Please be seated. Assistants and those in need  
commune first.*

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

The Bells of Christmas **No. 298**  
Lo How a Rose E're Blooming **No. 272**

**TABLE BLESSING** *Please stand as you are able.*

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER** Radiant God... **Pg. 65**  
*Please be seated.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY**

**BENEDICTION** **Pg. 155**

**SENDING HYMN**

As with Gladness, Men of Old **No. 302**

**DISMISSAL** **Pg. 155**

**P** Go in peace...

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

**ORGAN POSTLUDE** We Three Kings arr. A Fedak



**WELCOME** to all gathered here today. Join us for refreshments and conversation downstairs after worship, Questions? Ask one of today's servants or speak with the pastor.

**WE THANK TODAY'S SERVANTS**

Usher: Nale Poromon, Bill Strand  
Lector: Nale Poromon  
Assistant: Dave Wong  
Altar Guild: Elizabeth Anderson  
WalterBeth Anderson

Refreshments: Nicky Mutschlechner,  
Pat Fedkenheuer  
Zoom Host: Phil Tang, Ahmed Conteh

**OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE**

|               |             |             |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Last week     | 29 December | Budget 2024 |
| Current       | \$ 2,315    | \$2,911     |
| Benevolence   | \$ 0        |             |
| Building Fund | \$ 10       |             |
| Other         | \$ 1,600    |             |
| Attendance    | 43          |             |

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK**

|           |        |          |                                                                 |
|-----------|--------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Today     | 5 Jan  | 11:45 PM | Fellowship & Refreshments                                       |
|           |        | 2:00 PM  | CFMA Worship                                                    |
| Monday    | 6 Jan  | 7:00 PM  | 12 Step Program                                                 |
| Tuesday   | 7 Jan  | 1:00 PM  | HLW Bible Study                                                 |
|           |        | 6:30 PM  | Never Alone Peer Support                                        |
| Wednesday | 8 Jan  | 10:00 AM | 12 Step Program                                                 |
|           |        | 7:00 PM  | 12 Step Program                                                 |
| Friday    | 10 Jan | 7:00 PM  | 12 Step Program                                                 |
| Saturday  | 11 Jan | 9:00 AM  | House of Hope Worship                                           |
| Sunday    | 12 Jan | 10:30 AM | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany<br>Holy Communion Service |

**THANK YOU** all who participated in wearing Christmas sweaters and ties during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Even those who did not participate seemed to enjoy it. I sincerely thank you all very much. David Richardson

**HOUSE BLESSINGS** – Epiphany begins on 6 January 2025 and is the season of House Blessings. Schedule your time with the Pastor.

**LADIES BIBLE STUDY** will begin again this Tuesday 7 January 2024 at 1:00 PM downstairs. All ladies are welcome.

**ANNUAL REPORTS** are due to the office before 17 January 2024.

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE** - If you need a ride to church, contact Elizabeth Anderson 587 897 0548 or Bill Strand 403 239 9894

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany Year C

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17,21-22