

## Welcome to Worship

### January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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**Prelude**                    Schönster Herr Jesus ~ Hermann Schroeder

**Gathering Hymn**        *Bright and Glorious Is the Sky* ~ ELW 301 (vs. 1, 3, 5-6)

### **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.**

### **First Reading**                    **Isaiah 60:1-6**

*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.*

Word of God. Word of life

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm**                    72



Refrain

### **Refrain**

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;  
that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor. **Refrain**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.  
Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.

In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts. **Refrain**

May all kings bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.  
For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.  
He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.  
From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight. **Refrain**

**Gospel**      **Matthew 2:1-12**

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.

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? For we observed his star at its rising, 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 wise men 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 at its rising, 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.

**Hymn of the Day**      *Brightest and Best of the Stars* ~ ELW 303 (vs. 1-3, 5)

**Musical Offering**      *Journey of the Kings* ~ Sharon Elery Rogers (Hallelujah Ringers)

**Offertory Hymn**      *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* ~ ELW 674 (vs. 1-2)

**Communion Hymn**      *The First Noel* ~ ELW 300

**Sending Hymn**      *Song of Thankfulness and Praise* ~ ELW 310

**Postlude**      *Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend* ~ Johann Gottfried Walther