

FAITH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 31, 2023 ▪ 10:00am

1st Sunday of Christmas • Baptism of Bridget Brooks Thompson
New Year's Eve Brunch, 11:00am

PRELUDE

We Three Kings of Orient Are arr. Lloyd Larson

CALL TO WORSHIP FROM THE BAPTISMAL FONT *Stand*

Pastor: Jesus, born in a stable,

Congregation: May you find your spirit in us.

P: Jesus, who loves common people and those who are born poor and outcast;
Jesus, who feeds the masses with borrowed bread changed into the bread of life;
Jesus, weeping with those who weep and rejoicing with those who rejoice,

C: May you find your spirit in us.

P: Jesus, delighting in the lilies of the field, the birds of the air, and the companionship
of people everywhere,

C: May you find your spirit in us.

P: Jesus, persecuted by priests, mocked by scholars and slain by politicians,

C: May you find your spirit in us.

P: Jesus, loving the children, agonizing for the lost, calling us to forsake all that we have,

C: May you find your spirit in us.

P: Jesus, who calls us to reorder our lives and possessions,

C: May you find your spirit in us.

CONFESSION

Pastor: How, then, ought we to live? When we welcome Jesus as the magi did, we experience
endings and new beginnings. When we find Jesus, we begin to reorder the ideas
and possessions we hold most dear in order to live in his presence. May this worship
time together be one of reflection and commitment as we make Jesus the center
of all our experience.

Congregation: Lord, may you find your spirit in us.

P: Today, we mark the conclusion of an old year and the beginning of a new year.
The Bible speaks of the fullness of time:

**C: When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son in order to redeem us
so that we might receive adoption as his children. (Galatians 4:4-5)**

P: Let us commit our selves to Christ. (*silence*)
We pray:

**ALL: O Christ, may this day be a day of reflection on your gifts and a day
of dedication to live your way. Have mercy on our weakness. Give us
the strength we need to grow in grace and wisdom.**

P: I bring you good news of great joy: to you is born Christ the savior.

ALL: Alleluia.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN hymnal #275

Angels from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry; now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

CHILDREN'S TALK

New Year's Bells

by Pastor Bob; tune Jingle Bells

New Year's here, New Year's here,
Comes but once a year.
On New Year's Eve we celebrate,
Ring it in with cheer!

God be with you every day,
In the coming year.
On New Year's Eve we celebrate,
Ring it in with cheer!
(Ring your bells!)

WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS

LESSONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

William Bales, Lector

ECCLESIASTES 3:1-13

¹For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
²a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up
what is planted; ³a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and
a time to build up; ⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and
a time to dance; ⁵a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶a time to seek, and
a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; ⁷a time to tear, and
a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; ⁸a time to love,
and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. ⁹What gain have the
workers from their toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given
to everyone to be busy with.

BONHAEFFER'S NEW YEAR POEM

Dietrich Bonhoeffer had been in prison for two years with little prospect for release. He had been discovered as part of the conspiracy to assassinate Hitler. He slipped this poem into a letter he was allowed to write to his mother on her seventieth birthday, December 28, 1945.

By gracious pow'rs so wonderfully sheltered,
and confidently waiting come what may,
We know that God is with us night and morning
and never fails to greet us each new day.

Yet is this heart by its old for tormented,
still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
Oh, give our frightened souls the sure salvation,
for which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.

And when this cup you give is filled to brimming
with bitter suffering, hard to understand,
We take it thankfully and without trembling
out of so good and so beloved a hand.

Yet when again in this same world you give us
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
We shall remember all the days we lived through
and our whole life shall then be yours alone.

By gracious pow'rs so faithfully protected,
so quietly, so wonderfully near,
We live each day in hope, with you beside us,
and go with you through ev'ry coming year.

*Text: Dietrich Bonhoeffer. 1906-1945. tr. Fred Pratt Green 1903-2000
English text: © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 22:36-40 *Pew Bible #902*

In the final Gospel reading of the year, we are encouraged to love. This passage is known as the Great Commandment. A resolution to love is a perfect New Year's resolution!

³⁶Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

SERMON

Resolve to Love

Pastor Bob Stelter

Sermons are available online at faithloves.org.

SERMON SONG

As the Old Year Passes to tune #379 in hymnal

1. As the old year passes we look back, reflect:
times of joy and promise, times we'd best forget.
God of the ages help us walk your way.
Help us greet your future, seize tomorrow's day
2. As the old year passes sorrow wells within:
loved ones no more 'round us, all that could have been.
God of compassion heal each ailing heart.
Guide us to your future where new life may start.
3. As the old year passes we cry for our struggling world.
Climate ever-changing, fighting too-often heard.
God, you have called us to cherish all you give.
Call us to your future where all in peace, might live
4. As the new year dawns now we would give you praise.
Faithful God, come lead us onward in new ways.
We'll love and serve you in the faith of Christ,
in your Spirit's future; people of new life.

*Words: David MacGregor © 2007 Willow Publishing
Music: Noel Nouvelet – TIS 382*

THE PRAYERS

Cadence Titsworth, Assisting Minister

Assistant: Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

A brief silence.

Assistant: You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice with our whole selves at the salvation you bring. Make our churches places of belonging for all people in the fullness of their being. Raise up the gifts and the witness of people who are neurodivergent, living with disability, or bearing invisible illness. Hear us, O God.

Congregation: Your mercy is great.

A: Your praise is sung throughout creation in all times and seasons. As the new year turns, ground us in your changeless and sustaining love. Keep us attentive to the rhythms of the cosmos and inspire us to live in harmony with all the earth. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Give hope and stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. We pray especially for organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, to protect from abuse and neglect, to address trauma, and to rescue from trafficking. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Sustain all people who have been waiting for salvation and wholeness. We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Let this community of faith be a joyful and welcome place for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the wisdom of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the knowledge of elders. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We give thanks for all the beloved who lived with expectation and departed this life in peace. Sustain us in joy until we join them around your throne. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

Congregation: Amen.

BAPTISM OF BRIDGET BROOKS THOMPSON hymnal pg.229

THE PEACE

Pastor: The Peace of the Lord be with you each day in this new year.

Congregation: And also with you.

Congregation greets each other in the name of Jesus.

OFFERINGS FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

OFFERING ANTHEM

Then Sings My Soul

Collin Kasefang, Liz Elliott, Paula Morris

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor Bob Stelter

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Holy God, Gracious Father, loving Lord, sanctifying Spirit: 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. Jesus, in words and deeds, proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life for us.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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 sins.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Congregation: 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

DISTRIBUTION SONG

The First Noel

1. The First Noel, the Angels did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Refrain
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel!
2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the East beyond them far.
And to the earth it gave great light
and so it continued both day and night.
Refrain
3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far
To seek for a King was their intent
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Refrain
4. This star drew nigh to the northwest
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both pause and stay
right o'er the place where Jesus lay.
Refrain
5. Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee
And offered there in His presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Refrain

THE BLESSING

Pastor: Go into this new year, with the confident assurance that Christ is with you.
He is your salvation and his love is planted into your heart.
Blessings in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

SENDING SONG hymnal #289

Angels We Have Heard on High



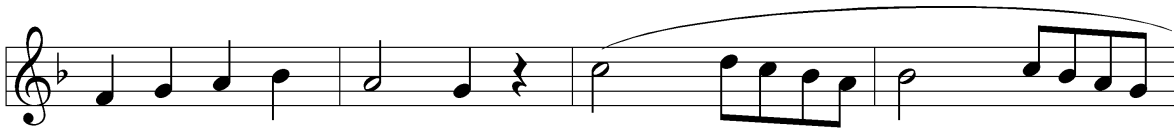
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - -



- - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

DISMISSAL

Assistant: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World Randall DeBruyn

Join us for Brunch in *The Cup* following the service today!

Join Us Every Sunday

Traditional Worship ~ 9am
Contemporary Worship ~ 11:11am
or online at

[Facebook.com/FaithLutheranKnoxville](https://www.facebook.com/FaithLutheranKnoxville)
[Youtube.com/FaithLutheranKnoxville](https://www.youtube.com/FaithLutheranKnoxville)
[Instagram.com/FaithLutheranKnoxville](https://www.instagram.com/FaithLutheranKnoxville)

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

225 Jamestowne Boulevard, Farragut, TN 37934 ▪ 865.966.9626 ▪ www.faithloves.org

Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America

Founding Congregation of Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church, Tellico Village

Founding Congregation of Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry ▪ Stephen Ministry Congregation

Traditional Worship, 9am ♦ Contemporary Worship, 11:11am

Dr. Bob Stelter — *Pastor*

Greg Bohlken — *Ministry Associate*

Lynn Rognsvoog — *Organist*

Collin Kasefang — *Choir Director*

Lisa Stelter — *Worship Graphics*

Members of Faith Lutheran Church — Ministers

Sandra Bohlken — *Contemporary Worship Leader*

Trace Taylor — *Sound Technician*

Tiffany Bryson — *Nursery Caregiver*

Kim Frasch — *Quiet Music Ministry*

Mary Boring — *Office Manager*

Phylis Garrison — *Publications*

Barbara Birkholz — *Financial Secretary*

Mildred Fenske — *Prayer Chain Coordinator*

Alicia & David Brondos — *Missionaries*

WELCOME! *As followers of Jesus, we rejoice in God's plan for a just, loving and peaceful world. We commit ourselves to making it a reality for all people everywhere. Just as all are welcome at the Lord's table during holy communion, all are welcome to this family of faith. People of all races, ages, social status, sexual orientations and gender identity are united here in our mission to love God, love others and serve. Please sign a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate.*

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Want to know more about Lutheranism, our ministries and considering membership? Contact Greg Bohlken at greg@faithloves.org.

Sunday Worship 9 & 11:11am

Live in the sanctuary or online at:

[YouTube.com/@FaithLutheranKnoxville/stream](https://www.youtube.com/@FaithLutheranKnoxville/stream)

WEDNESDAY MUSIC REHEARSALS

Handbells, 5:30pm • Chancel Choir, 6:30pm

PRaise TEAM REHEARSALS

Thursdays, 6pm & Sundays, 10:15am

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY resumes 1:30pm on January 9.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 7, 10:15AM
for Children, Teens & Adults.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES RESUME JANUARY 7, 10:15AM.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES are in the narthex for you to pick up.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY for 2023 offerings & donations.

2024 FLOWER CHART is posted by the library. Sign up now to honor or to remember loved ones with flowers on our altar.

"DE-GREENING" THE CHURCH SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 12:15PM
Join us for a quick removal & storage of the Christmas decorations we've all enjoyed through the holidays.

COLUMBARIUM NICHES are available to our members for \$1,800 and to non-members at \$2,500. Application forms are found in our *Columbarium Booklet* located in the narthex.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY	
10 am Combined Worship Service	
Altar Guild	Lois Simmons
Assisting Minister	Cadence Tittsworth
Lector	William Bales
Communion Ministers	Lisa Stelter, Marj West, Virginia McKinney Teensy Weldon, Frank Weldon
Greeter	Carol Nanney
Ushers	Earl Kripas, Randy Stewart

SHEPHERD OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY

Open Mondays, January 8, 3-5pm & 22, 3-6pm.

CURRENT NEEDS

Boxed potatoes ▪ Syrup (plastic bottles)

Jelly (plastic bottles) ▪ **Soup** (large cans)

Contact: René Stone, 865-599-7424.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

FIRST WEDNESDAY DINNER & ACTIVITIES

January 3

RSVP for dinner, and/or set up & clean up.

January 3 RSVP link is

<https://tinyurl.com/FirstWed010324>

**Come be part of the Family of Faith
as we grow together!**



Wed, Jan 3

MOPS January 9 & 23 at 6pm in the nursery.

SPIRITUALITY BOOK GROUP Tuesday, January 9, 6:30pm
in the library. Join us as Melissa Russ presents **By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept** by Paulo Coelho.

SALVATION ARMY SHELTER VISIT Tuesday, January 23.
We'll visit both the men's & women's shelters to distribute your gifts of treats and needed L-XL men's boxer briefs & women's sizes 8-11 briefs. Contact Michael Lee, 865-405-6585 or Debbie Ragucci, 865-567-1945.

FAITH SERVES KARM on January 27, noon meal.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

1st Wednesday of each month 6:30-7:30pm in the Youth Room, with church dinner served **5:15-6:15pm.**

3rd Sunday of each month we join with the Knox-area ELCA Lutheran youth for fun events:

3rd Sunday spring semester dates are **Jan 21,**

Feb 18, Mar 17, Apr 21 & May 19.

NOTE the shift in times from our fall events, now:

12:30-2pm, 3rd-5th grade

2:30-4pm, 6th-12th grade.

Giving: 12.24.2023

Offerings last Sunday: 26,079
Offerings Year to Date 639,793
Walk by Faiths of November 30 755,749



Scan this QR code with your phone camera to donate now on our secure webpage.



PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS: Shannon Allred, Shaun Allred, Arlene Aring, Doug Bales, Mary Blackburn, Rebecca Calderone, Amy Canapa, Leon Cole, Myles Cooper, Chuck Crosby, Mac Curtis, Patsy Elmore, Kim Fransch, Pat & Nick Gary, Green family, Jonas Greenman, Leo Hebert, George Herbold, Eric Johnson, Carmen Larsen, Bonnie Legako, Kris Lehman, Anne Loyacano, Patricia Mabry, Heather McDonald, Lin & Mike McKinley, Bob Moore, Joe Morelli, Joe Poole, Lynda Primka, Toby Rosenbaum, Ken Savitz, Donnie & Lisa Smith & family, Pamela Spaar, Bobbie Steele, Paul Turner, Jim Van Deusen, Susan Vanacore, Nick Vanacore, Danny Willis, Maurice and Rebecca.

This column will start anew on the first Sunday of each month.

FRIENDS: Caroline Beavers, David Berdal, Valborg Berdal, Marsha Bode, Sharon Brokenshire, Noah Bryant, Michael Carfi, Harold Chapel, Jack Cleve, Jan Colangelo, Jenna Cormany, Pam Covington, Sarah Covington, Bill Crain, Nancy Crain, Damico family, the Darling family, Brandy & Brian Duke, Edington family, Vader Ernst, Alanna & Arnie Fenske, Jim Ford family, Jordan & Tyler Fordiani, Bryan Ganser, Joel Garber, Gregory Goodall, Gutelius family, Rita Heavner, Allyn Hildebrand, Linda Holtz, Joy Hymer, Matt Kilgore, Sandra Kilgore, Donna Knick, Junior Koontz, Anthony Koran, Barb Korsmo, Alexis & Taylor Lee, Nicole & Dalton Light, Loyacano family, David Matthews, Paul Miller, Audra Tyler Moore, Becky Moore Larsen, Bob Moore, Julie Moore, Lee, Robin North & family, Salles families, Marilyn Savilisky, Jessica Savitz, Scaglione family, Terry Serrano, Victor Serrano, Jim Shea, Donna Smith, Austin Stephens, Mark Syler, Paul Travis, Frank Tyler, Brigitte Williams, Virginia Williams, Mya, Ro & Haven Wolfe, Carley, Darcy, Irma, Jodi, Shayna, Sue *and those we name to You.*

JOY: First Wednesday gatherings each month!

BAPTISM BLESSINGS: Bridget Brooks Thompson, daughter of Katie & Sam Thompson; big brother: James; grandparents: Kathy & Bryan Thompson.

JOY AT THE BIRTH OF: Adam Christopher, son of Abby & Travis Dean; grandparents: Nancy & Stephen Dean. Carter, son of Kristen & Chris Joy; big sister, Cora.

GRATITUDE & BLESSINGS FOR: Elizabeth Elliott

COMFORT IN THE MIDST OF DEATH FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS: Paul Miller, Jordan App, Brett Liebert, Bobby Queen, Jo Watson, Stephen O'Connor, Milton Creighton, Paul Hearnberger, Jim Kilgore, Audrey Meland, Teresa Rozanski.

SALVATION ARMY FRIENDS: Denisha, Tara, Leila, Theresa, Jayda, Larissa, Stephanie, Brittany, Genesis, Gibby, James, Ralph, Jimmy, Teddy, Fey, Eddie, Roy, Bill.

PRAYERS, CONCERN & ASSISTANCE: The people of Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Russia. Mentally & physically challenged. Veterans.

LEARNING & PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT: William Bales at Concordia Seminary.

PARTNERSHIPS: Bishop Pro-Tem Michael Burk the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Bishop Strickland & the Southeastern Synod; Alicia & David Brondos, Missionaries in Mexico; Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry; Quiet Music Ministry; Tyson House; Deacon Ministry; Knox Area Rescue Ministry; Via de Cristo Ministry; Salvation Army Women's & Men's Homeless Shelters; Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking; Cole Center Caregivers and Parkinson Band, Mercy Ships, Iglesia Luterano Augustana de Guatemala & Milagro Women's Education Center, AL-ANON, Narcotics Anonymous.

PEACE: Protection for all armed forces, especially: Jacob Cole, Andrew Chovancek, Nathan Goodall, Tyler Hitter, H.M., Anthony Hu, Julianne LeFevre-Kerr, Chase Linell, Olivia Parrott, Alex Primka, Christine Russ, Alex Serrano, Sam Thompson, Mitchell Yount, Greg Zager.

COUNCIL

Ted Primka
President

Doug Goins
Vice President

Alan Berdal
Treasurer

Laura Beardsley
Secretary

Ritchie Case

Stephen Dean

David Mabry

Connie Rist

Rick Smenner

WEEK OF DECEMBER 31, 2023--JANUARY 7, 2024

Sunday, December 31 New Year's Eve
1st Sunday after Christmas
Baptism of Bridget Thompson

10:00am Combined Worship Service *Sanctuary*
11:00am New Year's Eve Brunch

Monday, January 1 New Year's Day

Tuesday, January 2

6:00pm AL-ANON meeting *zoom*
7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous *The Cup*

Wednesday, January 3 First Wednesday

4:15pm Staff Meeting
5:15-7:30 1st Wednesday Dinner & Activities
5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 4

10:00am Authors Guild of Tennessee
6:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal
7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous *The Cup*

Friday, January 5

9:30am UT Cole Center Parkinson Band
7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous Group *The Cup*

Saturday, January 6

11:00am AL-ANON meeting *Zoom*

Sunday, January 7 Baptism of Our Lord

9:00am Traditional Worship Service *Sanctuary*
10:00am Fellowship
10:15am Adult Sunday School
Childrens Sunday School
Teen Sunday School
Confirmation Class
11:11am Contemporary Worship Service
5:00pm AL-ANON meeting *Zoom*



PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

Monday: Holy Name of Jesus; New Year's Day. • **Tuesday:** Psalm 148; Proverbs 1:1-7; James 3:13-18.
Wednesday: Psalm 110; Proverbs 1:20-33; James 4:1-10. • **Thursday:** Psalm 110; Proverbs 3:1-12; James 4:11-17.
Friday: :Psalm 110; Proverbs 22:1-9; Luke 6:27-31.
Saturday: Epiphany of our Lord: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12.
Baptism of our Lord: Genesis 1:1--5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11.