

To Know Christ and to Make Him Known



Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Isaiah 60:3 NIV

*Sunday, January 5, 2025
The Epiphany of Our Lord*

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church.

We are blessed to have you worship with us today.

Please record your attendance in the red Friendship Register.

If you are a guest or visitor, we have a

“You’re Very Welcome” folder for you with more information about our church.

An usher or greeter would be glad to get one for you.

Website: www.zionbrainerd.com

Church Office: zionspt@brainerd.net

Steve Benson, Pastor: revstevieb@yahoo.com

Church Phone: 218-829-4317

Zion Lutheran Church - LCMS
220 North 8th Street
Brainerd MN 56401

Sunday, January 5, 2025 - 9 am

The Epiphany of Our Lord

Recorded service is broadcast on CASH 95.9 FM Sunday at 11 AM.
If you would like to receive a bulletin to participate in the service,
please contact the church office so we can arrange to mail one to you.

Online Giving Option
Consider giving online by clicking the “Zion’s Online Giving” option
on the home page of Zion’s website (zionbrainerd.com).
Follow this QR Code to Online Giving.



Distribution of the Lord’s Supper will take place in 2 different ways:

We will have communion at the rail.

❖ At the time of communion, please wait for the usher to acknowledge you.

If you are unable to communion at the rail,

❖ Pastor and Elders will bring communion to you. Please indicate your need to an Elder or an usher.

❖ As a member congregation of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we hold the sacrament of Holy Communion to be most sacred, and thus, observe the practice of close communion.

As We Gather

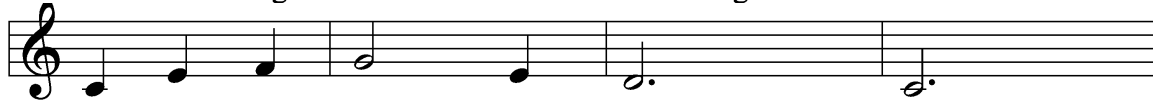
Have you ever received a surprise present, one that was out of your own price range to get? That, in a nutshell, describes Epiphany. The Wise Men came to give presents, and instead received one their wealth could not have bought. We are included in this. We are baptized for the forgiveness of sins by His blood on the cross that covers our sins, once for all. That water and blood give us the greatest—and most expensive—gift in the world. Here we see Jesus revealed, manifested, in a star, in the coming of the Magi and the gifts they bring.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

LSB 411



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text and tune: Kathleen Thomerson, 1934

Text and tune: © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002835

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Colossians 1:15-20

- P** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
C For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him.
P And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
C And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.
P For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
C and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us confess our sins to God our Father.
C Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.
P Do you recognize the truth—that you have not loved God with your whole heart nor loved your neighbor as yourself?
C I confess that I have failed to keep the two great commandments by what I have done and what we have failed to do. Heavenly Father, I don't deserve Your forgiveness, but ask for it because of the greatest love shown at the cross.
P Hear the great news: God has used two common earthly elements—water and blood—to forgive your sins and make you His very own. Through the cross of Christ and the blood of Jesus shed there, and because you have been baptized, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Thank You, Lord, for revealing Your mercy and grace to me on this great day of Epiphany.
P Lord Jesus, thank You for shedding Your blood and giving us the waters of Holy Baptism,
C by which You sacrificed Your life for ours and made us a part of Your family forever. Amen.

Introit

Psalm 45:6-8a; antiphon: v. 17

- P** I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise You forever and ever.
- C** Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;
- P** You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.
- C** Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions; Your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

- P** I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations;
- C** therefore nations will praise You forever and ever.

Kyrie

- P** Lord, have mercy upon us.
- C** Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.



Come, Thou Almighty King

LSB 905



1 Come, Thou al - might - y King, Help us Thy
 2 Come, Thou in - car - nate Word, Gird on Thy
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred
 △ 4 To Thee, great One in Three, E - ter - nal



name to sing; Help us to praise; Fa - ther all -
 might - y sword; Our prayer at - tend. Come and Thy
 wit - ness bear In this glad hour! Thou, who al -
 prais - es be Hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign



glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 peo - ple bless, And give Thy Word suc - cess,
 might - y art, Now rule in ev - 'ry heart,
 maj - es - ty May we in glo - ry see,



Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 And let Thy righ - teous - ness On us de - scend.
 And ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
 And to e - ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore.

Text: English, before 1760, alt.

Tune: Felice de Giardini, 1716-96

Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
 Lord Jesus Christ, our great High Priest,
- C** cleanse us by the power of Your redeeming blood that in purity and peace we may worship and adore Your holy name;
- P** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
- C** one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
³And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.
⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned 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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Ephesians 3:1-12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—
²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me
for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written
briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,
⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been
revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the
Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in
Christ Jesus through the gospel.
⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was
given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the
saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of
Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for
ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom
of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.
¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our
Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Matthew 2:2b

- P** Alleluia. Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?
- C** For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

As with Gladness Men of Old

LSB 397



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-at-ed 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.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.

Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, You revealed Your Son to Gentiles on the day of Epiphany.

C Use us, we pray, to bring light and peace where there is none right now.

P Lord Jesus, You were willing to shed Your blood on the cross for our forgiveness and have given us the hope of salvation.

C Thank You for shedding Your blood and giving us the waters of Holy Baptism to make us Your own sons and daughters through faith in You.

P As You cared for the sick and still do, we remember before Your throne those among us who are sick and in need of Your care, [*especially . . .*]. And all who we hold in our hearts.

C As You did in Your earthly ministry, continue to love, care, touch, and heal them according to Your will.

P For Your kingdom, invisible to human eyes yet so very real, we lift up our voices in prayer.

C We pray that You would use us by the working of Your Holy Spirit to open hearts and eyes to Your love and see Your kingdom.

- P** Merciful Father in heaven, You hold all authority and power in Your hands. Use those whom You have installed as rulers over us for our good and not our harm. We thank you for the faithful service of president Biden and his staff, we pray for a peaceful transition. We also lift up to you President Elect Trump and his staff as they prepare to lead us as a nation. Teach us to see ourselves as citizens of Your Heavenly kingdom, lead us to live out our lives in Your love and peace.
- C** **Use them to bring about blessing to those who are bringing justice and peace to our lands and to stop evildoers in their tracks.**
- P** We also remember those who are persecuted for Your name.
- C** **For those who have to endure torture and persecution, give them the hope of their eternal reward.**
- P** We are thankful that You have given us this life to share together. Help us to mourn with those who mourn and to celebrate with those who celebrate. Especially ... Who are celebrating birthdays this week, and ... who are celebrating wedding anniversaries.
- C** **Remind us Lord that every year, month, day, hour and second are a gift from you. Teach us to use them to Your glory.**
- P** Almighty God, You are the fountain of all wisdom. You know what we need before we ever ask, even when we do not know what to ask or even how to ask.
- C** **We are but mortal men and women, but You are immortal, invisible, and wise. Look upon us with compassion, care for us, and meet our needs.**
- P** These things we ask, almighty God, in Your name, trusting that in Your mercy and according to Your will, You will not only hear our prayers but answer them.
- C** Amen.

Offering



Please sign the red Friendship Book that is in your pew.

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. He is the long-awaited prophet and Savior, the Holy One who has destroyed the power of the devil and gives forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation by His sacrifice on the cross. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

LSB 707

1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—
Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
Let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

Text and tune: Public domain

Let All Together Praise Our God

LSB 389



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
 2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
 3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -
 4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
 in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
 at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The
 hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
 in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
 splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.
 glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

5 He is a servant, I a lord:
 How great a mystery!
 How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
 No truer friend than He,
 No truer friend than He.

6 He is the key and He the door
 To blessèd paradise;
 The angel bars the way no more.
 To God our praises rise,
 To God our praises rise.

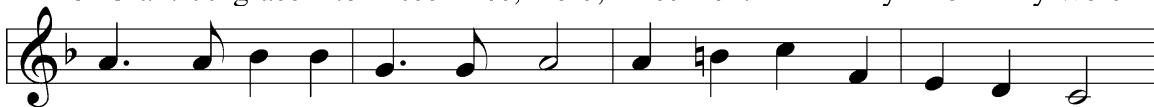
△ 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
 Lord Jesus, we adore
 And praise to God the Father yield
 And Spirit evermore;
 We praise You evermore.

Text (sts. 1, 3-7): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001; (st. 2): tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.
 Text (sts. 1, 3-7): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002835

Text and tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561
 Text (st. 2) and tune: Public domain



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;
 3 Man - i - fest in mak-ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
 4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
 5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest-ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
 And at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God-head man - i - fest;
 Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
 Christ will then like light - ning shine, All will see His glo - rious sign;
 Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
 Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring-ing good from ill;
 All will then the trum - pet hear, All will see the Judge ap - pear;
 That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 Thou by all wilt be con-fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.
 And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93

Text and tune: Public domain

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, by Your blood, You have redeemed us from sin, death, and Satan, and through the waters of Holy Baptism, You have made us Your own people. Continue to guide us by Your Holy Spirit that You would be revealed to us more each day though Your Word and Sacrament; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

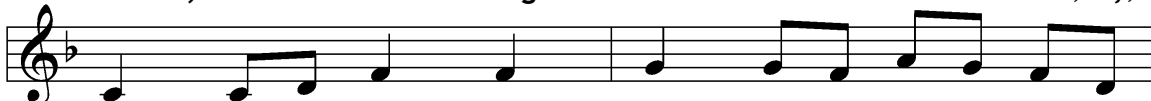
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with His favor and ✠ give you His peace.

C Amen.

Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings

LSB 782 sts. 1, ref, 4



1 Gra - cious God, You send great bless - ings
△ 4 Heav'n - ly Fa - ther, may our car - ing



New each morn - ing all our days. For Your mer - cies
Bear the im - print of Your grace; With the Son and



nev - er end - ing, For Your love we of - fer praise.
Ho - ly Spir - it, Praise be Yours in ev - 'ry place!

Refrain



Lord, we pray that we, Your peo-ple Who Your gifts un - num - bered claim,



Through the shar - ing of Your bless - ings May bring glo - ry to Your name.

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, 1946

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Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1825, Cincinnati

Tune: Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1.
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Rev. Steven Benson, Pastor

Dave Hansen, Sunday Organist
Josh Klukas, Lesson Reader