Epiphany Sunday at First Lutheran Church in St. Helens, Oregon Sunday, January 5, 2025 at 10:00 AM



The feast of Epiphany ("manifestation") concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people.

~ Welcome ~

All are welcome in our worship! Your presence here is a gift from God. We particularly welcome visitors and guests and invite you to join us for coffee hour immediately following the worship service.

Follow this worship bulletin as your guide to the service from beginning to end. Leaders speak the words in regular type; people speak (or sing) the boldface words. Please rise, whether physically or simply with your heart, during the portions of the liturgy marked by an asterisk*.

To get ready for Zoom worship (at home)

We celebrate Holy Communion together via Zoom as well as gathered in person. Please have bread/cracker(s) and a cup of wine/grape juice ready if you and those with you plan to take part. If you do not have access to wine/grape juice, you may receive Communion without the cup; Christ is fully present as the "Bread of Life."

~ Gathering ~

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

Preparation for Worship - Prelude and Silent Prayer

Dr. Denise Reed

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Robert Neubert

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

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.

Amen.





Let the Whole Creation Cry

ELW 876



- 1 Let the whole cre a tion cry, "Glo ry to the Lord on high!"
- 2 Ser-vants striv-ing for the Lord, proph-ets burn-ing with the word,
- 3 Men and wom en, young and old, raise the an them loud and bold,



Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!" those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song. and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;



Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love; Pow'rs of knowl-edge and of law, to the glo-rious cir-cle draw; from the north to south-ern pole let the might-y cho-rus roll:



sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice. all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!" "Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

* GREETING

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.**

KYRIE



CANTICLE OF PRAISE



* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

~ Word ~

Listen! God is calling.

FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1-6

¹ 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 on 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.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

² that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
- ⁶ Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.
- ⁷ 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.
- ¹¹ May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.
- ¹² For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper.
- ¹³ He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.
- ¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.

SECOND READING Ephesians 3:1-12

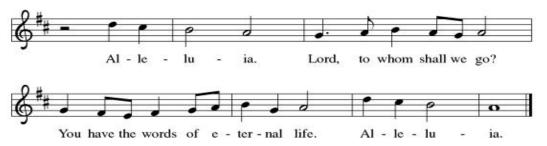
¹ This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—
² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ 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: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



* Gospel John 1:1-18

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ (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.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Pastor Robert Neubert

SERMON

Pastor Robert Neubert



*APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

Your glory fills the earth. Bless the work of all who engage in dialogue with people of other traditions and faiths (*local interreligious organizations may be named*). Bridge our differences with a shared mission of revealing your boundless love to the world. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Restore the glory of creation. Send rain to water-parched lands. Revive ecosystems and habitats threatened by a changing climate, and protect the peoples and creatures who live in them. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Give the rulers your justice and reveal your righteousness to those who govern. Frustrate the plans of tyrants and oppressors. Encourage the work of community organizers and activists who speak out against injustice. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Help those who have no helper. Draw near to those who have no one to advocate for them or those who feel forgotten. Deliver those who call to you especially *Carlene Clore, Doreen Gordon, Marilyn Hensley, Sandy Hora, Brian Morse, Joan Heide, Wendy Rude, Jayne Schilling, Joan Johanson and Amanda Bailey* and all those we lift up upon our hearts or our lips. Precious are they in your sight. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Liberate this congregation from a yearning for the past that forgets the future. Fuel in us a passion for discovery. Give us the boldness to dream and to imagine our ministries in new and different ways. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We give thanks for your holy ones who now rest in your radiant glory. Make us, with them, sharers in the boundless riches of Christ, our hope and promise. God of grace, receive our prayer.

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

* PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

~ Meal ~

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

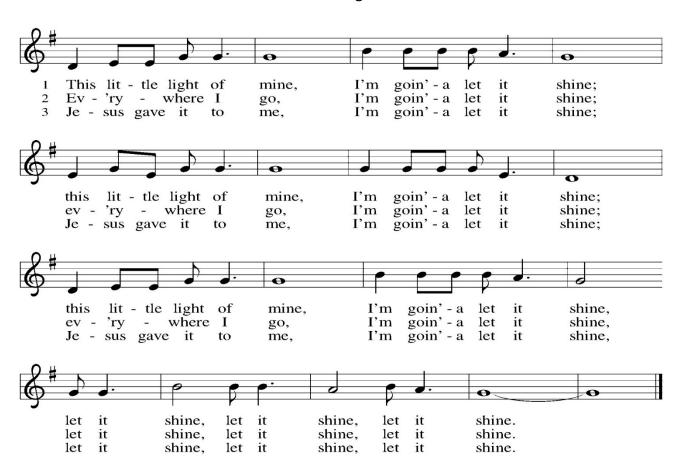
OFFERING

Thank you for supporting the ministries of First Lutheran Church! If worshiping in person, you may place your offering in the wooden bowl when it is passed to you. You may also make your offering by mail and/or through our website.

OFFERING SONG

This Little Light of Mine

ELW 677



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of heaven and earth,

from the beginning, you have called forth life,

in which you take delight.

The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.

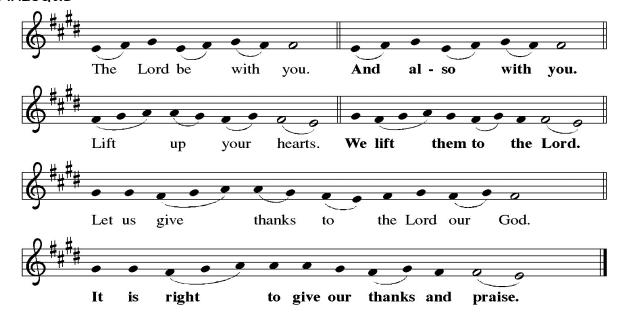
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,

that we may join the chorus of creation

to tell of your salvation from day to day.

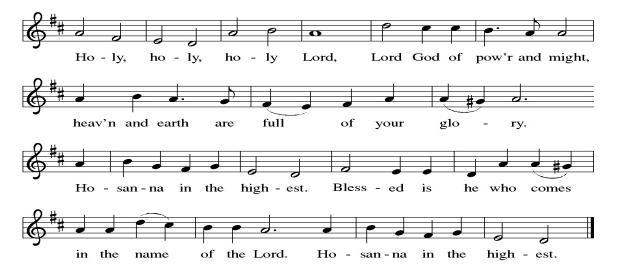
Amen.

* DIALOGUE



* PREFACE

* HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



* THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE



* LORD'S PRAYER

Remember us, Lord, in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

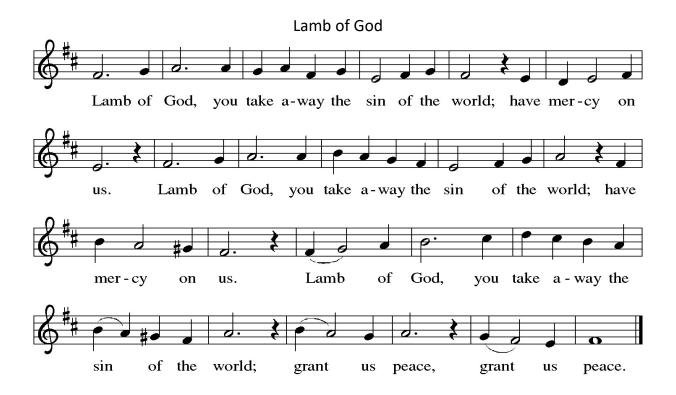
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

* INVITATION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

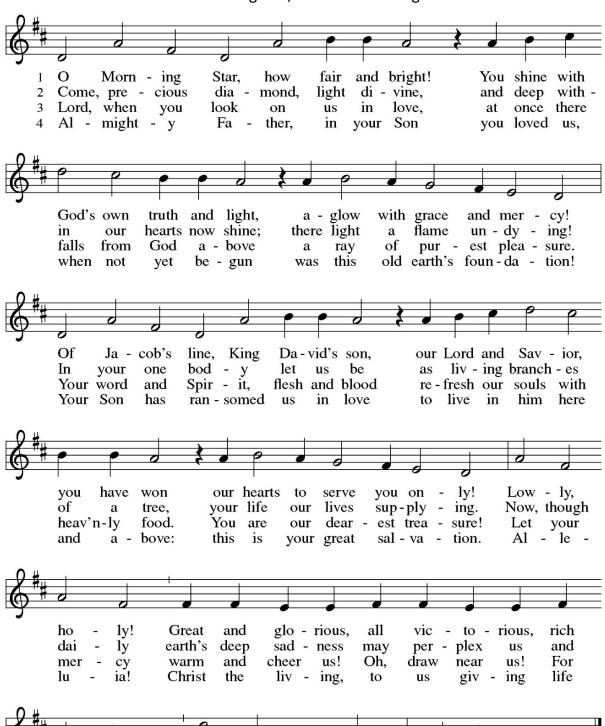
Communion

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table! At the direction of an usher, those who wish to commune may proceed down the center aisle. You may kneel or stand at the altar rail and receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. After eating, you may select a cup of red wine or white grape juice and drink. Return to your pew via the side aisle, placing your empty cup in the basket as you go. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may signal this preference by keeping your hands folded in front of you. If you would like communion to be brought to you in your pew, please inform an usher.

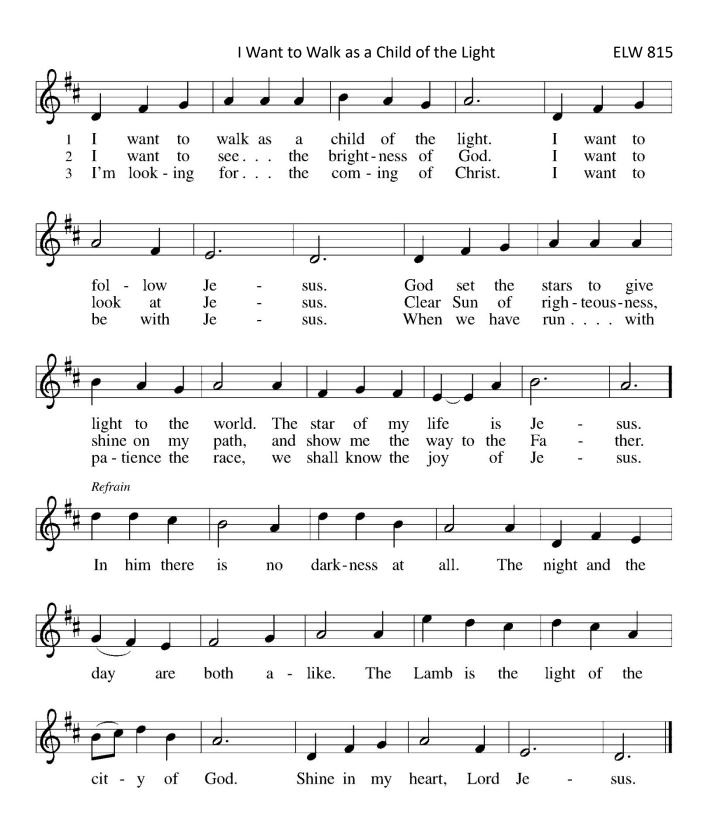


O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

ELW 308



Rule might o'er bless - ing! all pos - sess - ing! in and yet joy you bless heav'n - ly dis - tress us, with us. God's love through you has reached us. you teach us own for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!



* TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

Amen.

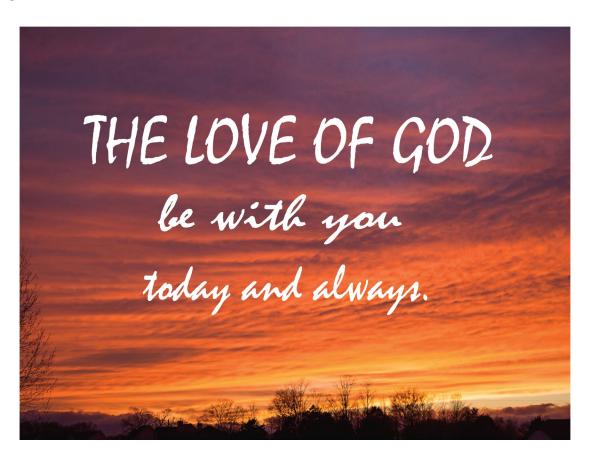
~ Sending ~

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

* BLESSING

The God of love,
Father, ⅓ Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

Amen.





* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE Dr. Denise Reed



Today's Assisting Ministers

Worship Leader: Pastor Robert Neubert

Worship Musician: Dr. Denise Reed

Cantor: Kate Freitag

Lay Readers: Beth Hunnicut

Communion Preparer: Caroline DuBois

Communion Server: Caroline DuBois

Communion Clean-up: Donna Meyers

Tech: Teri Sherpe

Ushers: Norris & Sharyn Sundeen

Altar Flowers: Poinsettias

Coffee Hour: Jerry & Judy Ann Johnson

(Next Week -January 12)

Pastor Robert Neubert

Dr. Denise Reed

Frank Kenny

Sandy Young

Candice & Peach Becker

TBD

Donna Meyers

Kitty Heide

Tim Meyers and Kathy Bauska

TBD

The Sundeen's

Happening This Week

Sunday 1/5 Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

Coffee/Fellowship at 11:00 am Confirmation Class at 11:30 am

Monday 1/6 AlAnon at 7:00 pm

Tuesday 1/7 Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.

WELCA Meeting at 11;)00 a.m. Executive Committee at 5:000 p.m. Community Meals at 5:30 p.m.

Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.

Properties Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday 1/8 Quilters and Crafters at 10:00 a.m.

AA Meditation at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday 1/9 Contemplative Group at 10:00 a.m.

Piece by Peace at 1:00 p.m.

Friday 1/10 Parents Anonymous at 12:00 noon

Sunday 1/12 Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

Coffee/Fellowship at 11:00 am Church Council at 11:30 p.m.

BUNCO at 2:30 p.m.

Celebrating This Week

Birthdays

Anniversaries

1/6 Caroline Niemi

1/10 Scott & Kathy Bauska

1/7 Doug Christophersen

Last Sunday's Worship Attendance

Last Sunday & Christmas Eve Offering

In Person: 51 Zoom: 7 \$3,480.00

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Class will resume on today, January 5, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, February 2, 2025. Please mark your calendars so that you are able to attend. We have several vacancies on Church Council that will be voted on and, of course, the budget for 2025, too.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS

Attention all committee chairs and council members. The reports for the annual meeting are due by January 15^{th} . Please submit them to the office by then. If you are able to email them, that would be best. Thank you

WELCA

A WELCA planning meeting for 2025 will be held on Tuesday, January 7^{th} , at 11:00 a.m. Please plan on attending and soup will be provided!

BUNCO

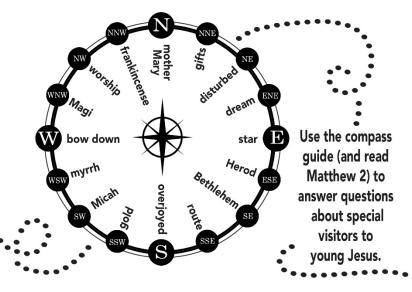
The Bunco Group will be meeting this month on Sunday, January 12^{th} , at 2:30 p.m. The change is temporary as of now so that it enables everyone to drive home before it gets too dark.

LAY HELPERS

The flower chart for 2025 is up and waiting for you to grab the dates you would like to provide flowers for the altar. The coffee/fellowship sign-up sheet is now available, as is the January lay helper sheet. Let's see how fast we can get the blank spaces filled in. We so appreciate everyone who volunteers their time and talents.

Portions of our liturgy come from sundaysandseasons.com; Augsburg Fortress Annual License #23164. "Let the Whole Creation Cry", Text and music in public domain. "We Three Kings of Orient Are", Text and music in public domain. "This Little Light of Mine", Text and tune in public domain, Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used with Permission, OneLicense.net #A-706690. "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!", Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used with Permission, OneLicense.net #A-706690, Tune in Public Domain. "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration, Used with Permission, OneLicense.net #A-706690. "We Are Marching in the Light" Text and music in Public Domain, Translation by Walton Music, Used with Permission, OneLicense.net #A-706690."

Puzzle!



1. Who was king at the time of Jesus' birth? (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews?
(WNW)
3. How did King Herod feel about Jesus' birth? (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod
asked where the Christ would be born?(SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men, telling them to search and report back so he, too,
could do what to Christ? (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus?(E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel?(S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His(N)
10. Before they worshiped the child, what did the Magi do?(W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus.
(SSW)(NNW)(WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A(ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod; 2. Magi; 3. disturbed; 4. Micah; 5. Bethlehem; 6. worship; 7. star; 8. overjoyed; 9. mother Mary; 10. bow down; 11. gold, frankincense, myrrh; 12. gifts; 13. dream; 14. route