



Queen Anne

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Called to Proclaim God's Love in Christ for Every Person

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Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Dan Peterson
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Children's Ministry Coordinator	Terry Anderson
Parish Administrator	Barbara Bash
Sexton	John Bryant

✧ *In Worship Today* ✧

Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Dan Peterson
Guest Preacher	Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee <i>Northwest Washington Synod</i>
Cantor	Kyle Haugen
Choir (<i>leading today's hymns</i>)	<i>Recorded individually, observing safety measures:</i> Amy Castle, Susan Evans, Kyle Haugen, Joel Matter, Erich Patten, Lori Lynn Phillips, Cat Rugg, Meg Shaw

This service of worship can also be listened to online on Queen Anne Lutheran's YouTube channel. Or, go to queenannelutheran.org and click on "WORD OUT" to find audio, video, and print resources for worship at home, as well as resources to use with children.

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 7, 2021

"Word Out" video transcript



Prelude

Chorale prelude on WIE SCHOEN LEUCHTET
Paul Manz (1919–2009)

Welcome

P: Welcome, this fifth Sunday after Epiphany to Queen Anne Lutheran Church. Wherever you are listening, whatever challenges you might be facing, we invite you into this space: one where you can hear the good news in proclamation, spoken and sung; a time where you can be still, and know God is God.

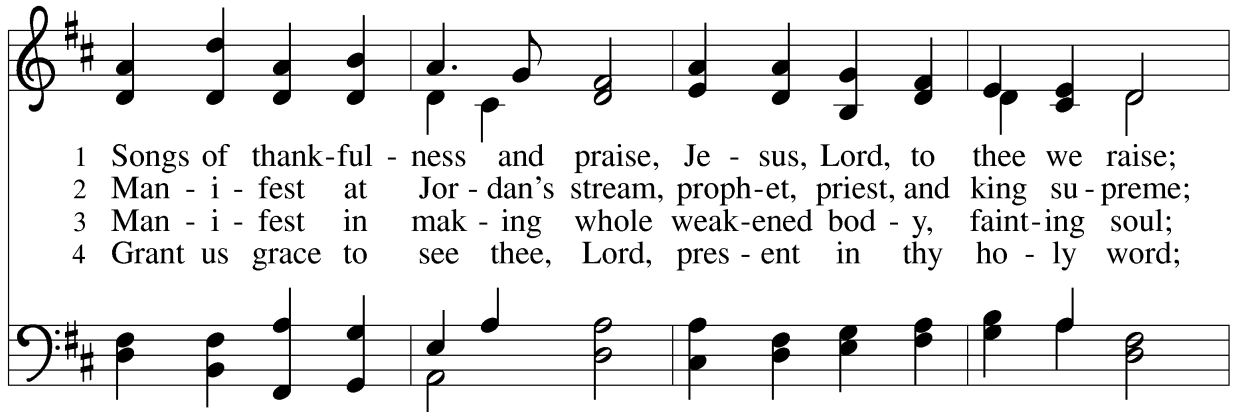
In Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up Simon's mother-in-law to health and to service. Like her, we are lifted up to heal and to serve. Following Jesus, we share in our purpose of strengthening the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

Gathering Hymn

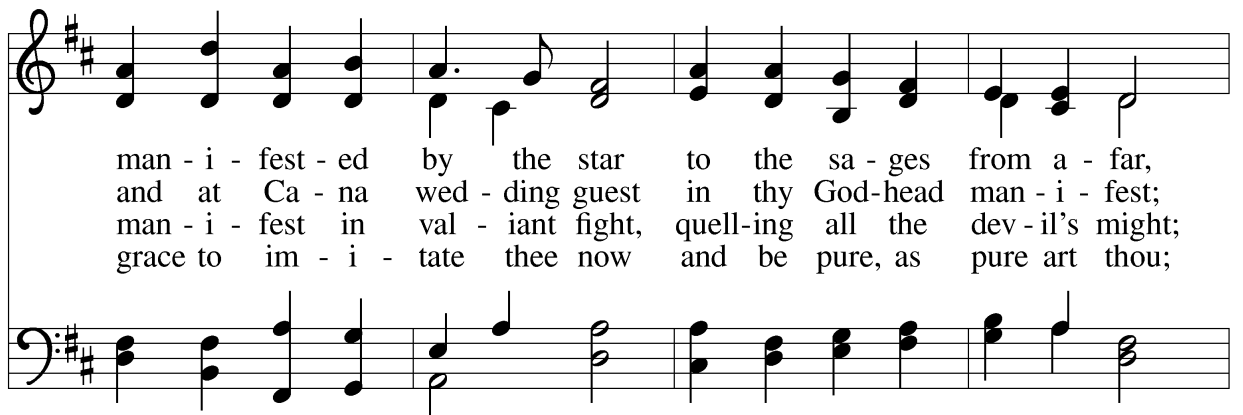
Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

ELW 310

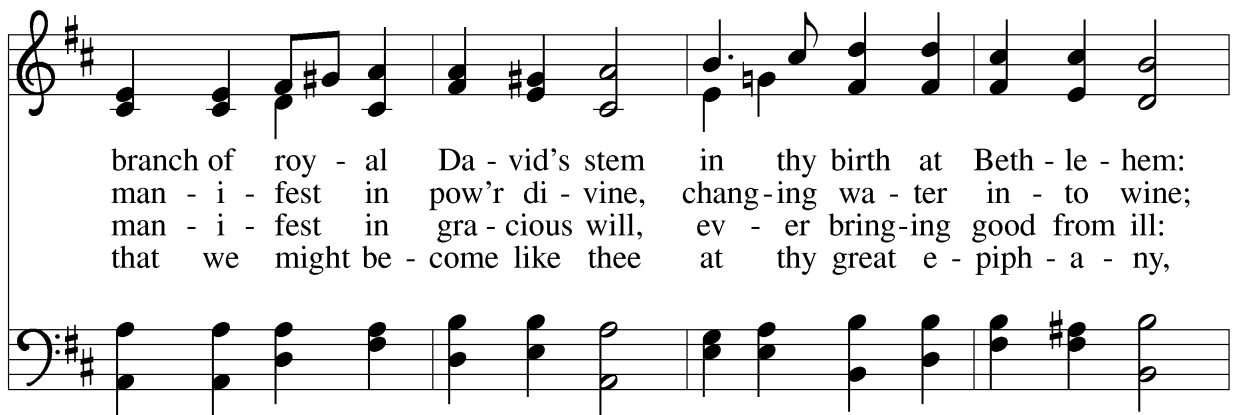
(If singing with the video service, you are invited to either sing all stanzas in unison (melody), or sing stanzas in alternation as indicated in the video.)



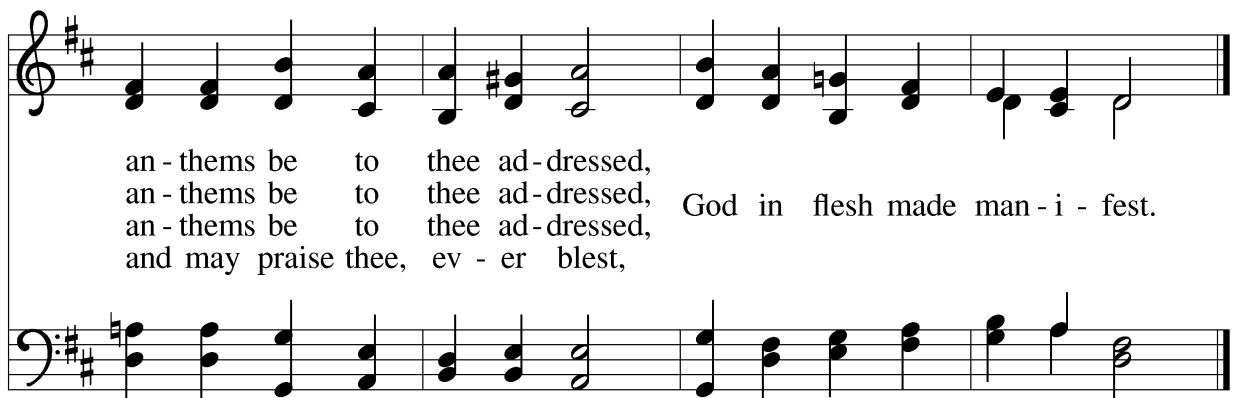
1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



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;
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:
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G: And also with you.

Children's Message

Pastor Dan

Good morning! I'm Pastor Dan. Today is Family Sunday, so this is our children's sermon.

For my message today I'm going to need three things: a chair, a pencil and a notepad. . .



Wow. And here they are: a chair, a pencil and a notepad!

And when it comes to a chair, a pencil and a notepad, what do you think of? Maybe you think of school. Maybe you think of learning. Maybe you think of taking a test or writing a paper. Beyond all these, however, a chair, notepad and a pencil, each have a *purpose*. That's something they have in common.

A pencil is used for writing; that's its purpose. A notepad is made to be written on. The chair has the purpose of making us comfortable when we do these things, hopefully.

But these things also have something else in common. They all have a purpose. And that's because they're manmade. Most manmade things are made for something.

But what about man – or rather human beings, in general – do *we* have a purpose? Do you have a purpose? Do I have a purpose?

Well, in today's Gospel reading, we learn of Jesus's purpose. What do you think that might be?

Some people think that his purpose was to die for our sins. But in today's Gospel, Jesus says his purpose was to proclaim the good news; to share the good news, in this case, about the coming of God's kingdom.

Now when you think of God's kingdom, what comes to mind? Maybe a palace. Maybe a crown. Those are our earthly kingdoms. God's kingdom, rather, is something that occurs. It occurs when people come together and care for one another. When they're kind to one another. When they love one another.

Jesus's purpose was to begin to bring that about. And our purpose, then, as people of faith, is to follow Jesus by living out the kingdom, by living for each other, by being kind to each other, by sharing, by caring.

That means you and I, when we live for others, have a purpose, just like these things – we are made for something. And Jesus teaches us what that something is.

Let's pray.

Gracious God, help us live out our purpose. Help us seek the kingdom that Jesus announced. Help us live the kingdom by sharing, by caring, by being kind to each other. This is our purpose; our purpose from God.

In Your holy name we pray

Amen.

Gospel Acclamation (*congregation may join for Alleluias*)

Matthew 4:16

G:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

P:

G:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel:

Mark 1:29-39

A: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

G: Glory to you, O Lord.

A: ²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or

possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

A: The Gospel of the Lord.

G: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

Hello, I am Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee of the Northwest Washington Synod, and it is my pleasure and joy to be with you today.

Grace and peace to you from our Savior Jesus Christ, in whom we place all of our hope. Amen.

There are many stories out there of pain, of heartache, of illness, of death, of worry. We can all name family members, loved ones, friends, friends of friends, acquaintances of acquaintances, who are suffering. And it makes my heart ache. It fills me with, almost, despair. And I cannot help but wonder, "Why? Why so much pain?"

And when I read the first part of Isaiah today, the first reading for today, I almost feel, when I read Isaiah 40:21-24, I *almost* feel that God is rebuking me for being in despair. Do you remember the words from Isaiah today? The prophet Isaiah proclaims:

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when God blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

Wow. These words seem to put me in my place. I feel like I'm being pushed down, as though God is sitting on some throne, high above and far away, and we're like grasshoppers down here, way down here, trying to live our lives, sometimes sick, sometimes worried. Sometimes, feeling the weight of everything. And no one cares about us at all. Ever feel like this?

Maybe this is why we have the miracle healing stories in Scripture. Maybe this is why Mark recorded the story of Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law that we hear in today's Gospel, Mark 1:29-39. Maybe this is why Matthew, Mark, Luke and John include these beautiful miracle healing stories in each of their gospels: to show that *God cares*. Maybe we have these stories, because while God might be a mystery, might be beyond our understanding, these stories are told to bring hope, to give us wonder, to show us who God is, as we enter into the story of Jesus.

And yet – and yet there is that obvious question that comes from these miracle stories. In light of not only what we're going through individually or our loved ones, but also what the entire planet is going through collectively right now. The question that inevitably gets asked is, "What about me? What about my loved one? What about us? What about *now*, God?" We can ask, quite legitimately I think, "What about those of us who have not received the miracle we are begging for?"

I have to say that I feel much like Debbie Thomas, who wrote in *Journey with Jesus*, “Sometimes I wish that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John had included other stories in their gospels, too.” She continues, writing, “Did Jesus ever, for example, visit a feverish woman, take her hand, and offer only the comfort of his presence, no cure? Did he ever tell a chronically ill child, ‘I can’t take away your pain, but I love you and I’ll try my best to help you bear it?’ Did he ever encounter an unclean spirit he *didn’t* cast out? Did he ever sit in the dark, with a profoundly depressed man—just sit? Did he ever keep vigil at a deathbed and cry with the family as they said goodbye—no resurrection, no Lazarus miracle, just tears?”

I have no doubt that there were many other stories, not written down. It even says in today’s Gospel that Jesus healed “many.” It doesn’t say Jesus healed *all*. But I don’t have the answer. I don’t have the answer as to why sometimes God works through miracles, and sometimes God works through scientists who develop vaccines and nurses who care for those sick. I don’t have the answer why some people get the miracle they pray for and others do not. I don’t know why some people have miracles happen to them, and they never prayed or even had faith that a miracle could have come!

I know there are miracles; I’ve witnessed them. Certainly Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law, and many who came to him. But I’ve also known heartache, and what seems like unanswered prayer in my own life, and for my loved ones.

As a pastor for many years, I have held many hands of the sick. I’ve officiated and attended many funerals. I’ve sat with so many parishioners and friends and family members where the outcome is not what we wanted. And it’s hard.

But this is what I’ve also witnessed: Even as we wonder about miracles, in all of the times I have been privileged to be with people in their time of crisis, *I have felt the presence of God*. While a miracle didn’t always happen—although sometimes they did—the presence of God was always able to be felt. God was present. God comforted. God touched each person with

God's presence. And God's Holy Spirit was breath that was breathed into the person, even as they left this earth behind; and God's Spirit surrounded each person as they grieved their loss.

So I read you the first part of Isaiah 40, but hear the next verses that we have in our first reading today. While we already heard in Isaiah that God is up here, and we are but grasshoppers, this is the second part, Isaiah 40:28 -31:

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Perhaps the answer lies here, miracle or not. Because what we hear in this passage from Isaiah is that God calls us to live in community with one another, to be in *holy community* with God and with each other. And that even though exhaustion comes – it does – even though weariness comes – it does – strength is given through God and we continue on, knowing that we are surrounded, upheld, and given strength through the community of Christ, through the Spirit, and so together we continue on.

There's a story that I heard about Salisbury Cathedral and I want to share a PowerPoint with you for just a couple pictures here, so give me a moment as I share the screen with you.



This Cathedral, Salisbury Cathedral, you can see it's outside of the town of Salisbury in England, and it's 800 years old; it's been there for a long time. This is the outside; it's quite beautiful, as you can see.

And this is the inside, the nave of the cathedral, and it's majestic and gorgeous. But what makes it even more gorgeous today, is this:



They have made Salisbury Cathedral a vaccination station. And so people are queued up, the doors are wide open, and people are queued up ready to receive their vaccinations and – I heard this story on NPR because they were interviewing the organist – and the organist

continuously is playing music for these people lined up for their vaccines, so he's playing Bach and Mozart and church hymns and 1950s musicals, and the people are hearing this music and being comforted as they wait to receive healing. Holy community. Communion.

You know, it's sometimes difficult for us to see the miracles. But there's something about this, about Salisbury Cathedral receiving vaccination in what we as Christians experience as a holy place, that speaks to these scriptures that we've been talking about today. So often people look at church as something separate from the world, apart from the world. And

yet in this cathedral we see what church is. This holy place is not apart, but instead, *a part* of this world, bringing hope and renewed life, sometimes with miracles, and sometimes in other ways.

And I think of the work in this cathedral and the work that you are doing as the body of Christ, *you, you*, and I hear these verses from Isaiah in a new way. And actually I don't just hear these verses, I *grasp* these words from Isaiah with trembling hope. I embrace the promise in the healing miracle story of Peter's mother-in-law. I've listened with tears of joy that a cathedral has been transformed into a vaccination clinic, so that healing may come to this world. And I am grateful, I am so grateful for the many, many ways that we are church in this world today. Even when we are unable to gather in person as we longed to do.

But through the questions we have, through the times we are in, through amazing miracles, and through tears, this is our promise, we trust in God's promises. For this is what we know: regardless of how loud or how silent God seems, God is here, for you and for your beloveds, and for this world. We can picture it like a cathedral, with vaccinations being performed. God is holding, caring, leading, guiding, dancing, loving each one of us today, healing us sometimes spectacularly, miraculously, instantly. And sometimes God brings life and wholeness in other ways. And always, through both miracles and through other ways, *always* there is holy community with God and with one another.

For after all, what does Peter's mother-in-law do when she is healed? She gets up and starts serving. They serve one another. Today, tomorrow, forever, God is. And we know through Jesus that God is here, even in the darkest times, for this is the promise, as we hear from Isaiah:

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
 and the young will fall exhausted;
³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
 they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
 they shall run and not be weary,
 they shall walk and not faint.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

Rise, Shine, You People

ELW 665



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Prayers of the Church

A: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: For the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ;
Lord, in your mercy,

G: **hear our prayer.**

A: For creation: for insects in the grass, clouds on the mountaintops, for cattle and the rainwater they drink, for the humility to take our place among all creatures of the earth; Lord, in your mercy,

G: **hear our prayer.**

A: For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for the newly-elected, that they may govern with wisdom, humility, and compassion; for our leaders in public health as well as international health organizations, that in this time of trial, they may help us overcome Covid-19; Lord, in your mercy,

G: **hear our prayer.**

A: For all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, for those seeking purpose, and for all who cry out to you; Lord, in your mercy,

G: **hear our prayer.**

A: For this congregation: for our outreach, social and educational ministries; for ministries of companionship and support, for families and the young people in this place who open us to new understandings; Lord, in your mercy,

G: **hear our prayer.**

A: For whom or what else do the people of God pray?

A silence is given so that your prayers may be offered.

A: Lord, in your mercy,

G: **hear our prayer.**

A: In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God; Lord, in your mercy,

G: **hear our prayer.**

A: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

G: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

G: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread

and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

Announcements

P: We are delighted you joined us this Sunday, the fifth Sunday after Epiphany, for worship. If you would like to learn more about our ministries here at Queen Anne Lutheran Church, including our educational forums, we invite you to visit our website at queenannelutheran.org. You can also see other videos of worship, music and educational events on this channel. If you like these, don't forget, of course, to subscribe.

Benediction

A: Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

P: Eternal God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Sonata II: Allegro maestoso e vivace
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809 -1847)

About Today's Music

At Christmas we often hear the words of the introduction to the Gospel of John, reminding us that Christ is the Light that shines in the darkness. From the festival of the Epiphany to Lent we recount how the Light who is Christ Jesus was revealed, or manifested, to the world – first as the Magi worship the Christ child, and later as the Jesus ministers through his words, works, and miracles. Our hymns today summarize the time after Epiphany (“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise,” ELW 310) and what the manifestation of God in Christ means for us (“Rise, Shine, You People!” ELW 665). Today’s prelude adds another melody associated with the time after Epiphany, *Wie schoen leuchtet der Morgenstern*, or “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” (see ELW 308). Among the most famous and cherished Lutheran chorales, this joyful hymn describes Christ as the Morning Star who shines with God’s truth and light.

– Cantor Kyle