

Faith and Rock Creek Lutheran Churches

Epiphany

Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> 10:30AM

Facebook Live @faithandrockcreek

WRDN 1430AM / 107.3FM

Pastor Bethany Walker



# STAR WORD SUNDAY

**Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Dan, Dave, Mark and Andrea Wollum  
in memory of Don, Georgia and Mike Wollum**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the Word made flesh,  
our life and our salvation. **Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**God of life, you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ✝ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

## **Entrance Hymn**

## **I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light WOV 649**

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus  
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus

(Refrain)

In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus  
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path  
And show me the way to the Father (refrain)

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.  
(refrain)

## **Greeting**

### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star.  
Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the  
full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **Children's Message**

### **Old Testament Reading**

**Isaiah 60:1-6**

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
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. <sup>3</sup>Nations shall  
come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 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. 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. 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.

### Psalm

Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son; <sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;** <sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.** <sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another. <sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.** <sup>7</sup>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.** <sup>11</sup>May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service. <sup>12</sup>**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper.** <sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy. <sup>14</sup>**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.**

### New Testament Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>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: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our

Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Oh star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright; westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

### **Gospel**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

### **Sermon**

#### **Hymn of the Day**

**We Three Kings of Orient Are WOV 646**

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star (refrain)

Oh star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright; westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again; king forever,  
ceasing never, over us all to reign. (refrain)

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a diety nigh; prayer and praising, gladly  
raising, worshiping God Most High. (refrain)

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing,  
sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stonecold tomb. (refrain)

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice; heaven sings alleluia;  
alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. (refrain)

### **Holy Baptism (Rock Creek)**

### **Apostles' Creed**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

God of grace, **hear our prayer**

### **Peace**

### **Offering**

### **Doxology**

### **Offering Prayer**

God of abundance, **receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts  
with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration.**

**Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon  
grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

### **Words of Institution**

On the night...remembering, therefore, Christ's life, death, resurrection, and  
ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love,  
O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and  
blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all  
honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

## **Communion Distribution**

## **Post Communion Blessing**

### **Prayer after Communion**

God our redeemer, **you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

God bless you and keep you, ✝ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn**

**Shine, Jesus, Shine WOV 651**

Lord, the light of your love is shining. In the midst of the darkness, shining.  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us, Set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
Shine on me, shine on me (refrain)

(refrain)

Shine, Jesus, shine. Fill this land with the Father's glory.  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze. Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow. Flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth your word Lord, and let there be light.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story  
Shine on me, shine on me (refrain)

### **Dismissal**

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.  
**Thanks be to God!**