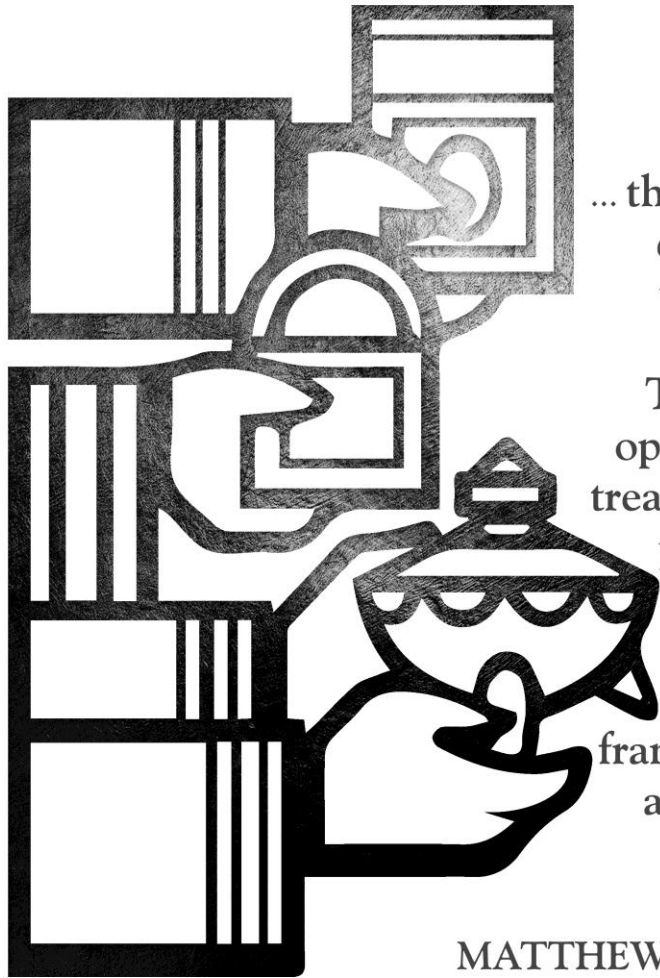


EPIPHANY



... they bowed
down and
worshiped
him.
Then they
opened their
treasures and
presented
him
with gifts
of gold,
frankincense
and myrrh.

MATTHEW 2:11, NIV

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

Rev. Michael N. Vernava

Rev. Khai N. Lee

The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 7, 2024

The Mission of Peace Lutheran Church is to honor our Lord Jesus Christ through worship and ministering to all God's people equipping them for service to God and to each other.

DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING ONE

PRELUDE

Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Peace Handbell Choir

"In the Bleak Midwinter" – arr. by Cynthia Dobrinski

OPENING HYMN

"The Star Proclaims the King is Here" LSB 399

- 1 The star proclaims the King is here;
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For He who offers heav'nly birth
Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.
- 2 The eastern sages saw from far
And followed on His guiding star;
And, led by light, to light they trod
And by their gifts confessed their God.
- 3 Within the Jordan's sacred flood
The heav'nly Lamb in meekness stood
That He, of whom no sin was known,
Might cleanse His people from their own.
- 4 And oh, what miracle divine,
When water reddened into wine!

He spoke the word, and forth it flowed
In streams that nature ne'er bestowed.

- △ 5 For this Thy glad epiphany
All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Text: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

Stand

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their
Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the
Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the
truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and
just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all
unrighteousness.** *1 John 1:8-9*

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature
sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in
thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and
by what we have left undone. We have not loved You
with our whole heart; we have not loved our
neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present
and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son,
Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us,
and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and**

**walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.
Amen.**

[John 20:19-23]

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for
you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a
called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His
authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the
name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy
Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

PSALM *72:1–15; antiphon: v. 18*

P Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!

C **May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!**

P Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!

C **May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor!**

P May they fear you while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

C **May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!**

P In his days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

C **May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth!**

P May desert tribes bow down before him
and his enemies lick the dust!

**C May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands
render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts!**

P May all kings fall down before him,
all nations serve him!

**C For he delivers the needy when he calls,
the poor and him who has no helper.**

P He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.

**C From oppression and violence he redeems their life,
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

P Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be given to him!
May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings
invoked for him all the day!

**C 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.**

KYRIE *Mark 10:47*

LSB 152

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us
pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of
the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to
the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their
worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

THIS IS THE FEAST

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9

LSB 155




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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



1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

LSB 156

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22



☐ And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



☐ A - men.

Sit

FIRST 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 o.n 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.

A 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA *John 6:68* *LSB 156*

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

Glo - ry 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.



☐ Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY

“As with Gladness Men of Old” LSB 397

- 1 As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee, whom heav’n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin’s alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heav’nly King.
- 4 Holy Jesus, ev’ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last

Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

- 5 In the heav’nly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt. Text: Public domain

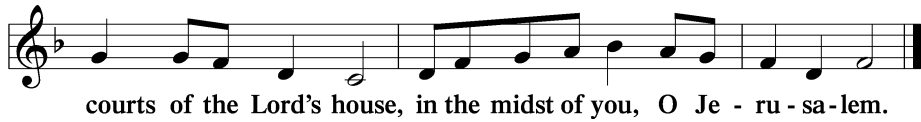
SERMON

“Right Question, Correct Answers, and Proper Responses”
St. Matthew 2:1-12

Stand

OFFERTORY *Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19* LSB 159

☐ What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



NICENE CREED

LSB 191

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

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).

Service of the Sacrament

PREFACE

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22



C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]



C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[Psalm 136]



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9* *LSB 161*



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

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

LSB 162

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."

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

LSB 162

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we
proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Revelation 22:20

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.**

Matthew 6:9-13

PAX DOMINI *John 20:19*

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



AGNUS DEI *John 1:29*

Musical notation for the Agnus Dei hymn, consisting of four staves with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes.

Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Lord Jesus, Think on Me" LSB 610

- 1 Lord Jesus, think on me
And purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free
And make me pure within.
- 2 Lord Jesus, think on me,
By anxious thoughts oppressed;
Let me Your loving servant be
And taste Your promised rest.

- 3 Lord Jesus, think on me
 Amid the battle's strife;
 In all my pain and misery,
 O be my health and life!
- 4 Lord Jesus, think on me
 Nor let me go astray;
 Through darkness and perplexity
 Point out Your chosen way.
- 5 Lord Jesus, think on me
 That, when this life is past,
 I may the_ eternal brightness see
 And share Your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, c. 365–c. 414; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–96, alt. Text: Public domain

“Your Table I Approach” LSB 628

- 1 Your table I approach;
 Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
 Let not an unrepentant heart
 Prove hurtful to me there.
- 2 Lord, I confess my sins
 And mourn their wretched bands;
 A contrite heart is sure to find
 Forgiveness at Your hands.
- 3 Your body and Your blood,
 Once slain and shed for me,
 Are taken at Your table, Lord,
 In blest reality.
- 4 Search not how this takes place,
 This wondrous mystery;

God can accomplish vastly more
 Than what we think could be.

- 5 O grant, most blessed Lord,
 That earth and hell combined
 May not about this sacrament
 Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail
 To thank You day and night
 For Your true body and true blood,
 O God, my peace and light.

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt. Text: Public domain

“Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared” LSB 622 (v. 1-4, 8)

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared
 This feast for our salvation;
 It is Your body and Your blood,
 And at Your invitation
 As weary souls, with sin oppressed,
 We come to You for needed rest,
 For comfort, and for pardon.
- 2 Although You did to heav'n ascend,
 Where angel hosts are dwelling,
 And in Your presence they behold
 Your glory, all excelling,
 And though Your people shall not see
 Your glory and Your majesty
 Till dawns the judgment morning,
- 3 Yet, Savior, You are not confined
 To any habitation;
 But You are present even now

Here with Your congregation.
 Firm as a rock this truth shall stand,
 Unmoved by any daring hand
 Or subtle craft and cunning.

4 We eat this bread and drink this cup,
 Your precious Word believing
 That Your true body and Your blood
 Our lips are here receiving.
 This Word remains forever true;
 All things are possible with You,
 For You are Lord Almighty.

8 For Your consoling supper, Lord,
 Be praised throughout all ages!
 Preserve it, for in ev'ry place
 The world against it rages.
 Grant that this sacrament may be
 A blessed comfort unto me
 When living and when dying.

Text: Samuel Kinner, 1603-68; tr. Emanuel Cronenwett, 1841-1931, alt. Text: Public domain

Stand

THANK THE LORD LSB 164

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.

He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy

with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT LSB 166

A Let us pray.
 Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24-26*

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 favor and ✠ give you peace.

C A - men.

CLOSING HYMN
"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" LSB 394

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
 Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
 Manifested by the star

- To the sages from afar,
 Branch of royal David's stem
 In Thy birth at Bethlehem:
 Anthems be to Thee addressed,
 God in man made manifest.
- 2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,
 Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
 And at Cana wedding guest
 In Thy Godhead manifest;
 Manifest in pow'r divine,
 Changing water into wine;
 Anthems be to Thee addressed,
 God in man made manifest.
- 3 Manifest in making whole
 Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
 Manifest in valiant fight,
 Quelling all the devil's might;
 Manifest in gracious will,
 Ever bringing good from ill;
 Anthems be to Thee addressed,
 God in man made manifest.
- 4 Sun and moon shall darkened be,
 Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
 Christ will then like lightning shine,
 All will see His glorious sign;
 All will then the trumpet hear,
 All will see the Judge appear;
 Thou by all wilt be confessed,
 God in man made manifest.

- 5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord,
 Present in Thy holy Word—
 Grace to imitate Thee now
 And be pure, as pure art Thou;
 That we might become like Thee
 At Thy great epiphany
 And may praise Thee, ever blest,
 God in man made manifest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt. Text: Public domain

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Organist

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