

St. Luke Lutheran Church
Epiphany

January 4, 2026

8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.



SERMON

Pastor Johnson

Foreign Sages

—Matthew 2:1-12

Welcome to St. Luke Lutheran Church

20 Candlewood Path
Dix Hills, NY 11746-5398
Church: 631-499-8656 - **Fax:** 631-462-6496
Preschool: 631-462-5216

Our Website: www.stlukedixhills.org
Satellite for the Lutheran Counseling Center: 516-741-0994

Welcome!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome both members and guests to His church. We are present this day to worship Him. In this service we thank and honor our Lord for His many blessings and seek His guidance and comfort for each day of life.

- ❖ Be **reverent** and **thoughtful** in this Holy place.
- ❖ **Before** the service, speak with God.
- ❖ **During** the service, let God speak to you.
- ❖ **After** the service, speak to one another.

As We Gather: We begin our worship today praising the lamb of God who has taken away the sins of the world. For this saving work, Christ is truly worthy of praise, adoration, thanks and honor. He is truly worthy of our worship because of who He is and what He has done for us. Now we shall hear again the great story of salvation that was won for us by the Lamb of God. Rejoice! For the lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia!

Holy Communion is celebrated at each Worship Service.

The Lord's Supper is a gift from our Savior in which He offers us Himself and His forgiveness. Those who partake witness their love for Him and their faith and fellowship for each other. If you have confessed your sins and if you have been properly instructed regarding the Lord's Supper and believe in the presence of Christ in the form of bread and wine, which are the body and blood of Christ, please join us for the celebration of Holy Communion.

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

8:15am & 10:45am w/ Sunday School

Contemporary Band plays Sundays two times/month (check online calendar)

Sundays at 10:45 AM

BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Sunday morning between services at 9:30 AM

Wednesday Mornings online at 10:00 AM

The **C.A.R.E Team** encourages *anyone experiencing illness or a challenging situation in their life to reach out to us for support. Support can consist of emotional/spiritual support, meals, transportation, help with errands or chores, and other areas as they are identified. Contact via **Hotline: (631) 600-0271***
Or email careteam@stlukedixhills.org Coordinators: Trish Klare & Amanda Fenty

Mission Statement

To know Christ and make him known by Serving, Teaching, and Loving.

PRELUDE

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky - Wayne Wold

PASTORAL GREETING

Stand

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord,

People: Amen.

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Pastor: Most Merciful God,

People: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

Pastor: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" LBW 76 vv.1-4



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
 2 Come, heav'n - ly Bride - groom, light di - vine, and deep with - in
 3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there falls
 4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us, when



own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
 our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
 from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
 not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



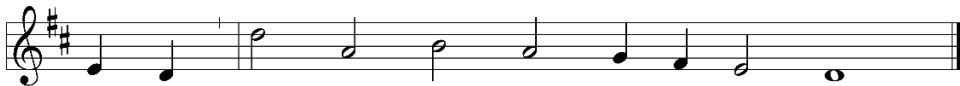
Of Ja - cob's race, King Da - vid's Son, our Lord and mas -
 In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch -
 Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls
 Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him



ter, you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly!
 es of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing.
 with heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure!
 here and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion.



Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich in
 Now, though dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and dis -
 Let your mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! for you
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life for -



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

SUNDAY SCHOOL SONGS

Sit

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE SUNDAY SCHOOL DISMISSAL

Stand

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” LBW 76 v.1

GREETING

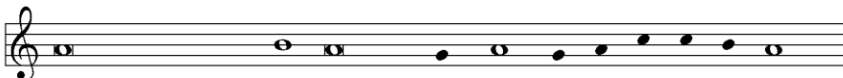
Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

KYRIE – LBW pp.78-79



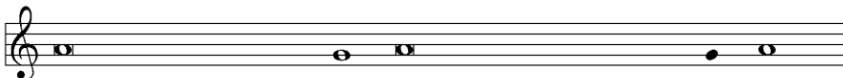
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



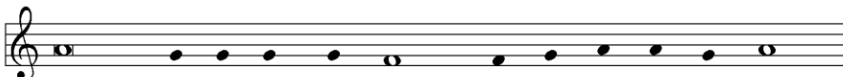
A For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



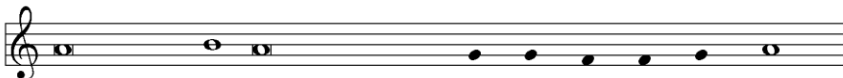
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **G** A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE
Glory to God in the Highest... LBW pp.79-80



A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: and also with you.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Sit

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 in 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.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14

¹ 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.

¹⁰ **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 in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLEUIA AND VERSE LBW p.83

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.
People: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ '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.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON
Pastor Johnson
Foreign Sages
—Matthew 2:1-12

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY
“Bright and Glorious Is the Sky” LBW 75



1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
2 On that ho - ly Christ-mas night through the dark - ness
3 Sa - ges from the East a - far, when they saw this
4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no



heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,
won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions
di - a - dem; they but saw a maid - en low - ly



All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to
all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the Christ-mas
and to of - fer their ob - la - tions un - to him as
with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her



heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.
star drew nigh, as the Christ-mas star drew nigh.
Lord and King, un - to him as Lord and King.
lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

5 Guided by the star, they found
him whose praise the ages sound.
We too have a star to guide us
which forever will provide us
with the light to find our Lord,
with the light to find our Lord.

6 As a star, God's holy word
leads us to our King and Lord;
brightly from its sacred pages
shall this light throughout the ages
shine upon our path of life,
shine upon our path of life.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
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.

**Or, to the dead.*

***meaning, universal*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition ends with "Hear us, O God,"

The response is "**Your mercy is great.**"

Pastor: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you,
O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus
Christ our Savior.

People: **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Sit

OFFERING

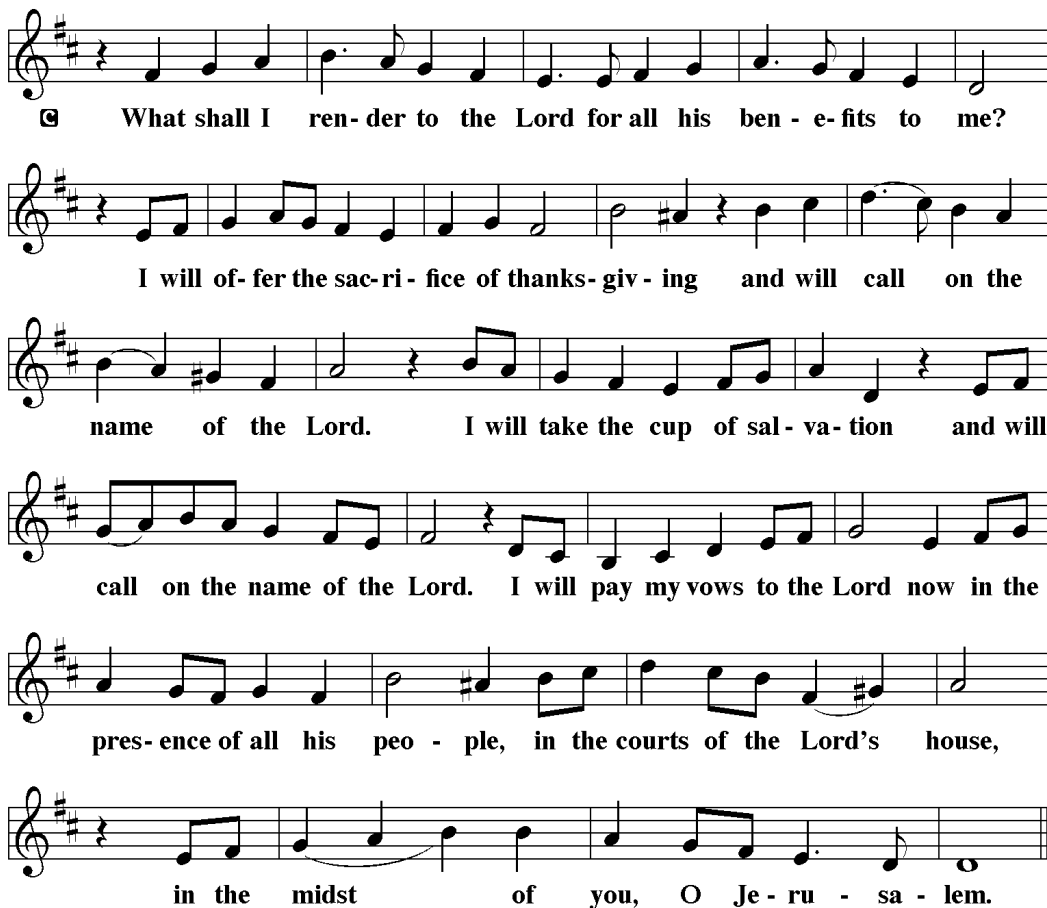


OFFERTORY

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright - Mark Sedio

Stand

OFFERTORY HYMN LBW p.87



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

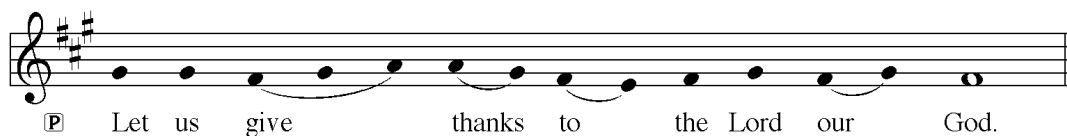
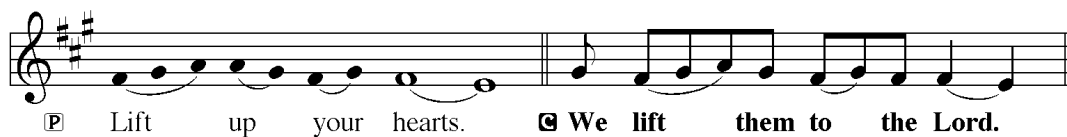
pres-ence of all his peo-ple, in the courts of the Lord's house,

in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed are you,
People: O Lord our God, maker of all things,
Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts.
With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives
to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of
him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



Pastor: It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join the unending hymn:

SANCTUS



WORDS OF INSTITUTION p.89 #32

LORD'S PRAYER

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

People: **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.**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

Sit

LAMB OF GOD



☐ 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, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC
"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" WOV 711
Gift of Finest Wheat



- 1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



Refrain

so when you call your fam-'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.
that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav'n-ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

“As with Gladness Men of Old” LBW 82



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 - a - ted 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.

Stand

POST-COMMUNION HYMN



☒ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks 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 PRAYER

Deacon: Let us pray. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

BLESSING

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

Sit

MINISTRY NEWS

CLOSING HYMN "Shine, Jesus Shine" WOV 651

Refrain



Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;



blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.



Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;



send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!



1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -



dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,



set us free by the truth you now bring us.
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

Refrain



Shine on on me, shine on on me:
Shine on on me, shine on on me:

A SENDING WORD

Deacon: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Shine, Jesus, Shine - Christopher Tambling

St. Luke Lutheran Church

Preschool: 631-462-5216

Our Website: www.stlukedixhills.org

Satellite for The Lutheran Counseling Center: 516-741-0994

The Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Johnson - Senior Pastor

Phone: (708) 738-2512

Email: tjohnson@stlukedixhills.org

The Rev. Charles W. Froehlich - Pastor Emeritus

Email: Revfro2@gmail.com

Jackie Flynn - Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Email: Jackie@stlukedixhills.org

Dr. Janet Pinto - Director of Music & Choirs

Email: janetsuepinto@gmail.com

Laura Werner - Administrative Assistant

Email: laura@stlukedixhills.org

Deacons

Deacon Greg Laub - Email: laugr01@gmail.com

Deacon Paul Elgert - Email: elgertpa@gmail.com

Deacon Ilene Franzmann - Email: if.af.ny@gmail.com

Deacon Tom Lamendola - Email: Tjdola63@gmail.com

Deacon Paul Rafuse - Email: prafuse54@gmail.com

Preschool

Jean Marie Marsh - Director of Weekday Preschool

Email: director@stlukedixhills.org

Teresa Lupo - Administrative Assistant

Email: Teresa@stlukedixhills.org

Sexton

Michael Alonzo

Email: mikeyzo109@gmail.com