

Flowers are given by Pamela Gore Meade in honor of her mother **Louise Thomson Lashley's** 84th birthday.

PRELUDE *Prélude sur l'Introit de l'Épiphanie* Maurice Duruflé

LIGHTING a CANDLE: *Prayer by Ted Loder*

OPENING HYMN: *As with Gladness Those of Old* No. 159

**As with gladness those of old did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy that hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.**

**As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,  
There to bend the knee before One whom heaven and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet ever seek your mercy seat.**

**Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;  
And when mortal things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.**

OPENING PRAYER

**Splashing, scattering, and saturating Sacred Presence, thank you for the ways You renew and refresh us. For the ways Your love flows through our lives. From warm cups of coffee in the morning to a tall glass of water after a walk to warm soup that nourishes our soul on a chilly day. Today, we celebrate Your on-going baptismal claim upon our lives. We confess that sometimes Your call to love or to welcome the stranger or to receive others, challenges us to our very core. We pray for people we love and ones we find it hard to see as created in Your image. We pray for places where we know people are hurting and spaces where we have caused pain. We pray for events and experiences from this last week that filled the cup of our lives to overflowing with both blessing and brokenness. We pause to let You, O God, get a word in edgewise.**

*Silence prayer*

SUNG RESPONSE *Lord Listen to Your Children Praying*

**Lord, listen to your children praying.  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.  
Lord, listen to your children praying.  
Send us love; send us power; send us grace.**

OUR ENCOUNTER with SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:15-22

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will

burn with unquenchable fire.”<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.<sup>19</sup> But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done,<sup>20</sup> added to them all by shutting up John in prison.<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened,<sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

## SERMON

HYMN:

*Jesus, the Light of the World*

No. 160

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Jesus the light of the world;  
Christ, the everlasting Word, Jesus the light of the world.**

*Refrain:*                   **We will follow the light, beautiful light,  
come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright  
Shine all around us by day and by night,  
Jesus the light of the world.**

**Hail the Bearer of God’s peace! Jesus the light of the world;  
Hail the Sun of righteousness! Jesus the light of the world. (*Refrain*)**

## PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

*Arise, Your Light is Come*

No. 164

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit’s call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!**

**Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;  
Proclaim the captive’s liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,  
Bind up the broken hearted ones and comfort those who mourn,**

**Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
rise up like eagles on the wing; God’s power will make us strong.**

## BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*In Thee is Gladness*

J.S. Bach