



1650 W. Foster Ave. Chicago IL 60640
(773) 561-8496 ✝ ebenezerchurch.org

The Season after Epiphany

February 11, 2024 ✝ The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ



The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

Masks are welcomed, especially for those who have not been boosted, cannot be vaccinated, are at higher risk, or simply prefer to do so.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



Ebenezer is a *Reconciling in Christ* Congregation. **You are welcome here.**

Welcome to long-time Lutherans, Christians from every tradition, and people new to this faith. **Welcome** to friends new and old. **Welcome** to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; every socioeconomic and marital status, political conviction, ability and challenge.

Welcome to believers and questioners, and questioning believers.

Welcome.



This worship booklet is available in **LARGE PRINT** and may be **recycled** (in the baskets near the Welcome Center) or taken home. It is also online at ebenezerchurch.org.



Please **silence** phones and other devices during the liturgy.



A **platform lift** is available to access the Sanctuary, Education Center, and Restrooms. Please see an usher for assistance.



Restrooms are located up the stairs under the model ship, or down the stairs on the west side of the narthex entry area.



Postures are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; please engage in them only as you are comfortable or able.



Children are always welcome in worship at Ebenezer. A nursery is available (the attendant is vaccinated, boosted, and masked). A quiet play area is located in the narthex entry area.



Holy Communion, or the Eucharist, is offered to all who seek the presence of Christ. This is a welcome table.

Acknowledgments: Liturgical Material reprinted from *SundaysandSeasons.com*. NRSV Bible, ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. onelicense.net A-704767; CCLI 1875300; Augsburg Fortress 13045.

Cover artwork: *Transfiguration* by Kelly Latimore.

All are welcome to gather downstairs for refreshments and a time of learning and fellowship. The Nursery remains staffed during this time.

Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Dwellings Bob Gillis

Silence follows; then, the ringing of bells. Rise in body or spirit.

Call to Worship

Holy God, mighty and immortal, **you are beyond our knowing,**

yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ,
whose compassion illumines the world.

Transform us into the likeness of the love of Christ,
who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity,
the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who live and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

Gathering Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
3 Come, Al-might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell-ing, all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless-ing,
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray: Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your Beloved, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Word

The First Reading Second Kings 2:1-12

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 50:1-6

Refrain:

The Cantor sings the refrain; all repeat it.

The Refrain is sung by all where indicated.

Anne Krentz Organ



Out of Zi - on, per-fect in beau - ty, God shines forth in glo - ry.

The mighty one, God the ¹ Lord, has spoken;

calling the earth from the rising of the sun ¹ to its setting. **Refrain**

Our God will come and will ¹ not keep silence;

with a consuming flame before, and round about a ¹ raging storm. **Refrain**

God calls the heavens and the earth ¹ from above

to witness the judgment ¹ of the people.
"Gather before me my ¹ loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with
me and sealed ¹ it with sacrifice."

The heavens declare the rightness ¹ of
God's cause,
for it is God ¹ who is judge. **Refrain**

The Second Reading Second Corinthians 4:3-6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Rise in body or spirit.

Welcoming the Gospel



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Lord, to whom shall we go?

»

You have the words of e - ter - nal life, e -
ter - nal life.

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

al - le - lu - - ia!

The Gospel

The holy gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 1:9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Humanity had risen from the dead.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

Pastor Michael Fick

Silence for reflection follows.

Rise in body or spirit.

Hymn of the Day

Dazzling Presence on the Mountain



1 Daz - zling pres - ence on the moun - tain: hu - man eye had
2 From this mount of mys - tic splen - dor to the cross Christ
3 From the heights of new cre - a - tion, Christ be - holds his
4 Let our praise ring from each moun - tain, in - to deep - est



nev - er seen such a won - der, such re - splen - dence,
press - es on; here no Mo - ses nor E - li - jah,
world, re - deemed; as with Pe - ter and com - pan - ions,
val - leys pour, where, with lives of grate - ful ser - vice,



heav'n and earth in cloud con - vene.
on - ly thieves Christ's wings a - born.
brings us now to sights un - seen.
we a - dore Christ ev - er - more.



"This is my Son, the be - lov - ed," thun - drous voice from
"Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy," was one's pen - i -
Jus - tice, mer - cy, and com - pas - sion: these the booths he
To the Son, God's own be - lov - ed, and the Spir - it



cloud ex - claimed. Word made flesh to heal cre - a - tion,
ten - tial sigh. With trans - fig - ur - ing as - sur - ance,
bids us build, that the earth he loves may flour - ish
end - less - ly, may the church's praise be lift - ed



to dis - ci - ples God pro - claimed.
Christ re - joins his fer - vent cry.
as each life with grace is filled.
to the bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

Text: Paul E. Hoffman, b. 1956

Music: WAVERLY, Karen E. Black, b. 1960

Baptism

Presentation

The candidate(s) for baptism, sponsor(s), and parent(s) gather with the ministers at the font.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsor(s) for each candidate, in turn, present them: I present Marion Isabelle for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses parent(s) or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ? *Response:* I do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities, teaching this child to: live among God's faithful people; receive the word of God and partake of the holy supper; learn the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments; read the holy scriptures; and be nurtured in faith and prayer; so that your child may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture this child in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, living in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? *Response:* I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Marion and pray for this new life in Christ? **We do.**

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess faith in Christ Jesus to reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the maker of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You are the womb of all creation.

You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Beloved Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into the one here baptized. By your Spirit adopt us all as your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Baptism

Marion Isabelle, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The baptismal party moves to the chancel. All may make the sign of the cross to bless the newly baptized.

A musical score for two voices (soprano and bass) in G minor, 4/4 time. The soprano part consists of a treble clef staff with lyrics. The bass part consists of a bass clef staff below it. The lyrics are: "Take me to the wa - ter, take me to the wa - ter, take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized." The music features eighth-note patterns and dynamic markings like 'p' (piano).

Please be seated.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Marion with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead newly the baptized.

Marion Isabelle, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Welcome *A lighted candle is given to each of the newly baptized.*

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Welcoming New Members *All who desire to join the congregation step forward.*

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

The new members share their names with the Assembly in turn.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Kindred in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ? **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Welcome

Let us welcome these friends in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

Children's Message

Prayers of Intercession *The response to each intercession is: Hear our prayer.*

Meal

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Share a sign of peace with those around you, being mindful about whether touch is welcomed.

Check your neighbor's name tag:

A yellow square indicates a distanced elbow or fist bump is preferred.

A **red circle** indicates your neighbor prefers a verbal, distanced greeting only.



For members of the Ebenezer community, an offering is part of our expression of gratitude to God. If you are visiting with us today, your presence is already a great gift.



Please be seated.

Offertory

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

The Ebenezer Choir

Text by Reginald Heber; tune from *Southern Harmony*

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.

Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Shall we yield him in costly devotion
rarest of fragrances, tribute divine,
 gems of the mountain
 and pearls of the ocean,
 myrrh from the forest
 and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favor secure.

Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.

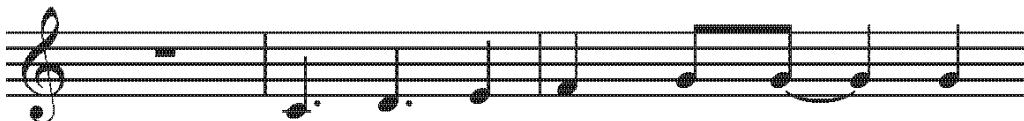
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Rise in body or spirit.

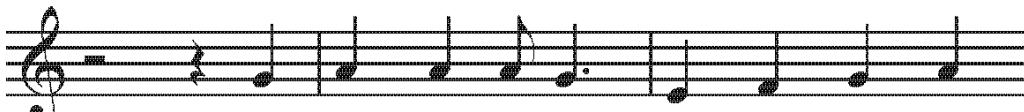
Offering Song

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord

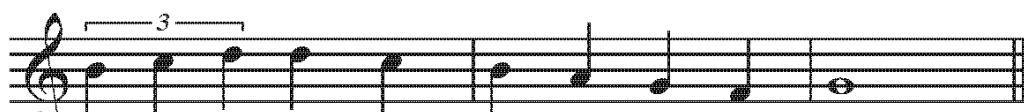
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and
fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing.
Gath-er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of - fer.



Now grace our ta - ble with your pre - sence,



give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Beloved, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue



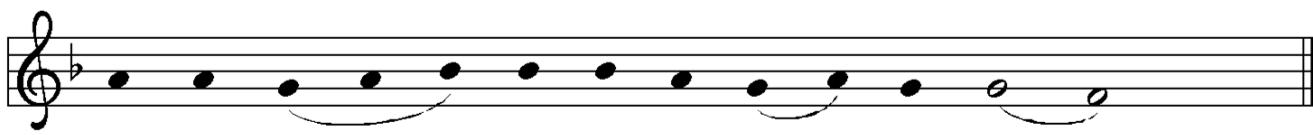
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Sanctus Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

The musical notation consists of eight staves of music in G clef, 4/4 time. The lyrics are integrated with the music, appearing below each staff. The lyrics are:

Ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est! Ho san - na in the high - est!
Blest is the One who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est! Ho san - na in the high - est!

Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord's Prayer

You may pray this prayer in these words; or, in language close to your heart.

**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.

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.

Invitation to the Table

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. All are welcome at God's table.

Please be seated.



All who seek Christ's presence in the sacrament are invited. This is a welcome table. At the invitation of the usher, you may come forward down the center aisle to receive the bread or a gluten-free wafer. Then, dip the bread in the cup of **red wine or white grape juice**, receiving the elements together. If you'd prefer to drink from a chalice, indicate this to the server and one will be made available.



Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

The musical score consists of five staves of music in G clef, 4/4 time, and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below the notes. The lyrics are:

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.

Three measures of silence are indicated between the first and second staves, and between the third and fourth staves. Measure numbers 3 and 6 are marked above the staff lines.

Hymn

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding



1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and
 2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows; splen - dor bathes the
 3 Strength-en ed by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our



ho - ly place, where we wait with hope and long - ing
 flesh - joined Word; Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel
 faith de - cline, we like Pe - ter find it tempt-ing



for some to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray. for new as -
 as the heaven-ly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with
 to re - main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us



sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, search - ing like those
 won - der how the law and proph - ets meet: Christ, with gar - ments
 cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, that our dai - ly



first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.
 drenched in bright-ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.
 lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

Instrumental

In a Silent Way Joe Zawinul

Hymn

Beautiful Savior

The musical score consists of four systems of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The music is in common time.

System 1:

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

System 2:

Son of God and Son of Man!
 Son of God and Son of Man!
 Son of God and Son of Man!

System 3:

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

System 4:

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

Rise in body or spirit.

Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in grace.
Amen.

Prayer

Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. **Amen.**



Sending

Benediction

May God bless us and keep us. May God's face shine on us with grace and mercy.
May God look upon us with favor, \dagger and give us peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ.

I want to
fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson

Dismissal

Go in peace. Listen to Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Chariots

