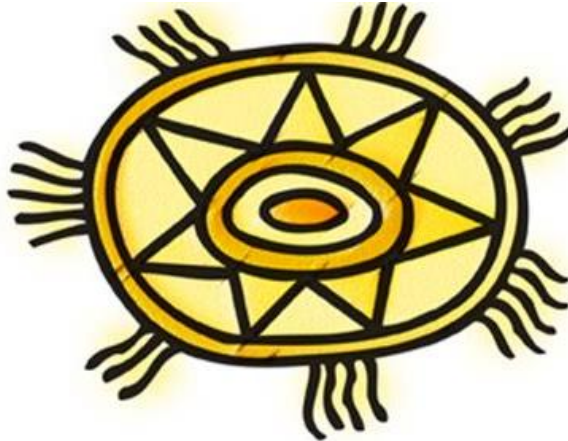


# The Epiphany of Our Lord

## January 5, 2025



## North Riverdale Evangelical Lutheran Church

45 Kurtz Avenue

Dayton, OH 45405

(937) 275-5750 [NRLChurch.org](http://NRLChurch.org)

Interim Pastor Richard Freudenberger [nrlcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:nrlcpastor@gmail.com)

## **Welcome to North Riverdale Lutheran Church!**

*We are honored by your presence with us this morning. A few notes about our service:*

- *Our worship service is hybrid – we also have folks participating via Facebook Live.*
- *Please sign the red “Welcome Pad” found in your pew.*
- *We invite you to take an active part in our worship service:*
  - *\* marks the places to stand in body or in spirit.*
  - *The Congregation’s spoken parts are **printed in bold print**.*
  - *Hymns and songs are found in the green Lutheran Book of Worship (**LBW**), the blue With One Voice hymnal (**WOV**), or the Praise and Worship Songbook (**PWS**) – all in the pew rack in front of you or at the end of your pew.*
- *All are welcome to receive Holy Communion, with no exceptions.*

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

## **GATHERING**

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME**

### **\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
our creator,  
our protector,  
our wellspring of life.

**Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

**you speak blessing and compassion into the world.**

**Forgive us for the ways we act  
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;**

**we resist your call to oppose injustice;**

**we give in to scarcity and fear;**

**we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults**

**and release us from their grasp.**

**Show us your lovingkindness.**

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,**

**that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In ✝ Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,

live anew as beloved children of God.

**Amen.**

**\* GATHERING SONG – *As with Gladness Men of Old* (LBW 82)**

**\* 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**

**\* HYMN OF PRAISE (LBW P. 58)**



**A** Glory to God in the highest, 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 (LBW p. 62)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. . . .

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.**

## WORD

### FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-6

*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

The First Lesson is from the 60th chapter of Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14**

- <sup>1</sup> Give the king your jus- | tice, 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 little | hills bring righteousness.
- <sup>4</sup> **He shall defend the needy a- | mong the people;  
he shall rescue the poor and crush | the oppressor. R**
- <sup>5</sup> He shall live as long as the sun and | moon endure,  
from one generation | to another.
- <sup>6</sup> **He shall come down like rain upon | the mown field,  
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**
- <sup>7</sup> In his time shall the | righteous flourish;  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
- <sup>10</sup> **The kings of Tarshish and of the isles | shall pay tribute,  
and the kings of Arabia and Saba | offer gifts.**
- <sup>11</sup> All kings shall bow | down before him,  
and all the nations | do him service.
- <sup>12</sup> **For he shall deliver the poor who cries out | in distress,  
and the oppressed who | has no helper.**
- <sup>13</sup> He shall have pity on the low- | ly and poor;  
he shall preserve the lives | of the needy.
- <sup>14</sup> **He shall redeem their lives from oppres- | sion and violence,  
and dear shall their blood be | in his sight.**

## **SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 3:1-12**

*What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

The Second Lesson is from the 3rd chapter of Ephesians.

<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.

Here ends the reading.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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.

## GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

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



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

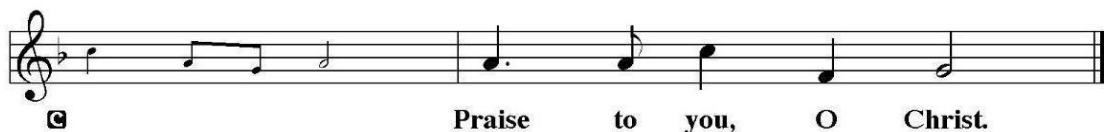
<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod 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.  
The Gospel of the Lord.



## **SERMON**

**\* HYMN OF THE DAY - *What Child Is This* (LBW 40)**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS and JOYS & CONCERNS**

### **\* STATEMENT OF FAITH**

Together we affirm our faith.

**We believe in God, and we are the people of God! We believe in the presence of God in human history, and the nearness of God's love.**

**We believe that God is revealed to us through the human life of Jesus, from whose death comes new life.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who moves among God's people and invites the world into God's reign.**

**We believe that the world can change, that peace and wholeness can come, and that the reign of God upon the earth is possible.**

### **\* THE PRAYERS**

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

Your glory fills the earth. Bless the work of all who engage in dialogue with people of other traditions and faiths. Bridge our differences with a shared mission of revealing your boundless love to the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Restore the glory of creation. Send rain to water-parched lands. Revive ecosystems and habitats threatened by a changing climate, and protect the peoples and creatures who live in them. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Give the rulers your justice and reveal your righteousness to those who govern. Frustrate the plans of tyrants and oppressors. Encourage the work of community organizers and activists who speak out against injustice, including the Southern Ohio Synod's Lutheran State Public Policy office for the state of Ohio. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Help those who have no helper. Draw near to those who have no one to advocate for them or those who feel forgotten. Precious are they in your sight. We pray especially for those lifted up in our list of Joys & Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_ . God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Liberate this congregation from a yearning for the past that forgets the future. Fuel in us a passion for discovery. Give us the boldness to dream and to imagine our ministries in new and different ways. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for your holy ones who now rest in your radiant glory. Make us, with them, sharers in the boundless riches of Christ, our hope and promise. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

#### **\* THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us take a moment to share the peace of Christ with those seated near you. After that, please be seated for the offering.

## MEAL

### OFFERING and CHOIR ANTHEM

#### \*OFFERTORY (LBW P. 56)

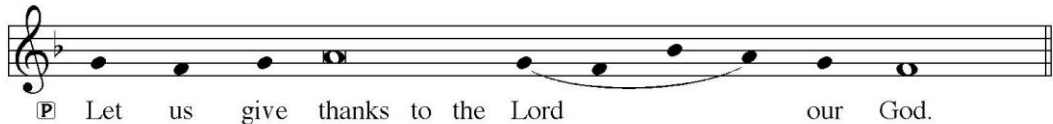
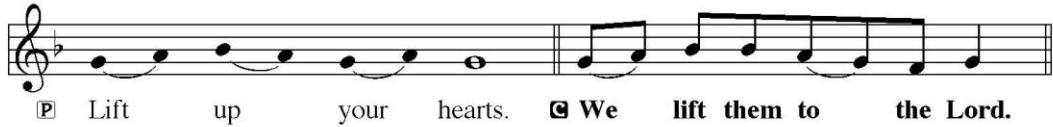


Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

#### \* OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.  
Bless what we offer to your service:  
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.  
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
now and always. **Amen.**

## \* GREAT THANKSGIVING



## \* PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \* HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



☞ 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.

## \* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night before he died, our Lord Jesus took bread and (+) gave thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

After supper, he took the cup, (+) blessed it, and gave it for all to drink, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Gathered as one though in many places, we are bold to pray as Jesus taught us.

## \* LORD'S PRAYER (*sung*)

**Our Father, which 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.**

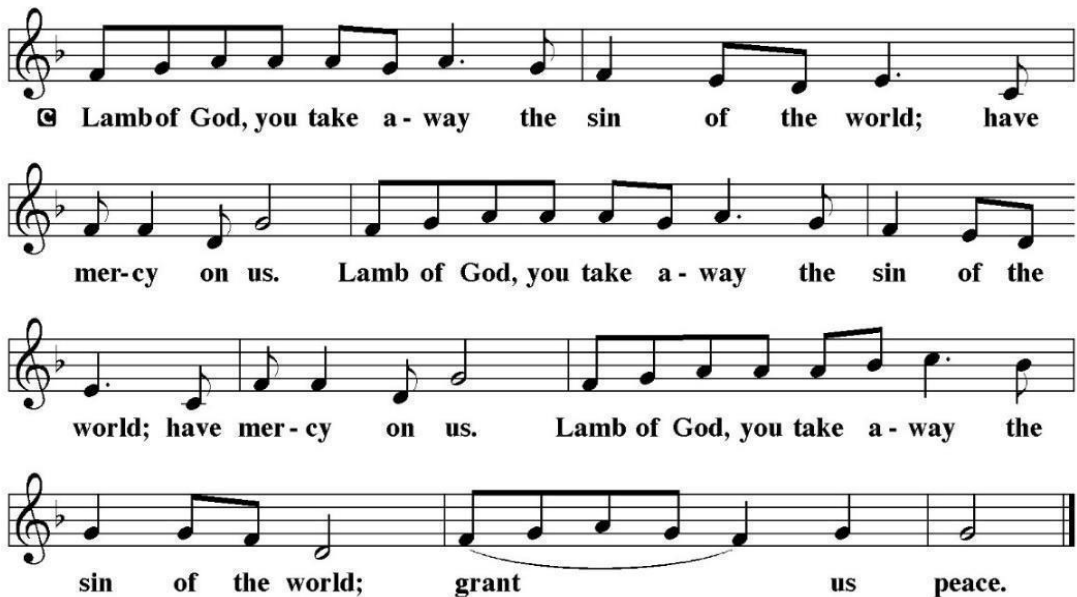
## \* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.

Come!

- *All are welcome to receive the bread and wine, no exceptions.*
  - *Let the usher know if you want the bread and wine brought to you at your seat.*
  - *Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.*
  - *Please ask if you (child or adult) would like a blessing in addition to or instead of the bread and wine.*
- *You may come up to the station that has been set up near the processional cross for anointing, laying on of hands, and a healing prayer.*

## 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.

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION – *Come, Let Us Eat* (LBW 214)

### \* POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May this holy meal fill you with strength and all that you need.

**Amen.**

### \* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Nourishing God,

at this table you have refreshed us  
with holy gifts of food and drink.

Strengthen us for service,

and send us out to embody your good news  
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.

In the name of Christ we pray,

**Amen.**

### \* POST COMMUNION CANTICLE (LBW p. 72)



☒ 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.

## SENDING

### **\*FINAL BLESSING**

The Spirit of the triune God

✠ bless you with joy,  
anoint you with compassion,  
and send you in love.

**Amen.**

**\* SENDING SONG - *We Three Kings of Orient Are* (WOV 646)**

### **\* FINAL SENDING**

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE



## Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister

Rev. Richard Freudenberger,  
Bridge Interim Pastor

Musician

Dana Peters

Head Ushers

Denny Wegley and Joe Hasenjager

### **Credits**

*One License A-742161*

*Augsburg Fortress Liturgies SB171834*

*Sundays and Seasons Year C, 2025*

*Statement of Faith – adapted from Ruth Duck, Flames of the Spirit, 1985*

## TODAY AT NRLC

**10:30 AM** – Worship

**1:00-3:00 PM** – Neighborhood Celebration Welcoming the New Year

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see the emailed Monthly Update for additional announcements.

## COMING UP AT NRLC

**Wednesday, January 15 at 3:00 PM** – Food Pantry open.

**Wednesday, January 15 at 5:30 PM** – Book Club discussing the Introduction and Chapters 1-2 of ***God Has a Dream*** by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Both in person and on Zoom. Zoom info:

**Thursday, January 16 at 10:30 AM** – Coffee and Fellowship Hour, including Book Club discussion of ***God Has a Dream***. (See above. Zoom will not be included.)

**Sunday, January 26 at 11:45 AM** – Annual Meeting

## **GATHERING SONG - *As with Gladness Men of Old* (LBW 82)**

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.

## **HYMN OF THE DAY - *What Child Is This* (LBW 40)**

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION – Come, Let Us Eat – We do not have a license to reproduce this song.**

## **SENDING SONG - *We Three Kings of Orient Are* (WOV 646)**

1 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!

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

3 Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, gladly raising,  
worshiping God Most High. Refrain

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. Refrain

5 Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
heav'n sings alleluia:  
alleluia the earth replies. Refrain