

Prayer before worship

Lord God, You revealed Yourself through Jesus, the Messiah. As I come before You in worship this day, I humbly pray that You would open my heart and mind to Your Word, turn me from sin, and strengthen the light of Christ within me. Amen.

Welcome

Pre-Service Music

"L'Epiphanie"(M. Durufle)

Ringing of the Bells

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

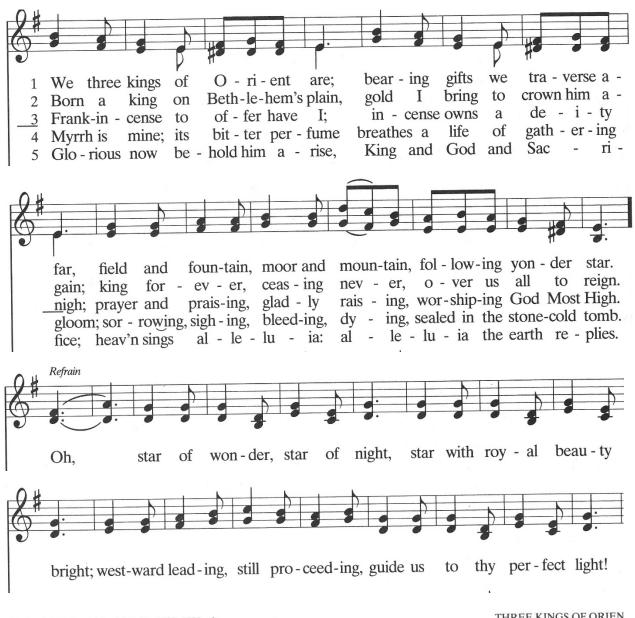
- The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism
 - ▶ In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 - C Amen.
 - P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
 - **G** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- ☑ 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.
- 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

"We Three Kings" (WOV 646)



Text: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820–1891, alt. Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820–1891 THREE KINGS OF ORIEN 88446 and refrai

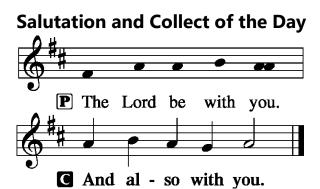
Greeting

Opening Hymn

The grace of God in Christ Jesus, poured out in every gift of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C And also with you.

Gloria in Excelsis Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth. A heav - en - ly king, al - might - y Lord God, God and C We wor - ship You, Fa - ther: give You thanks, we 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 of the world; a-way the sin have mer - cy on hand of the You are seat the right ed at us. Fa-ther; re - ceive For You a-lone are the our prayer. Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a-High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, lone are the Most σ in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A men.



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.

C Amen.

Children's Message

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Please join in reading aloud the **highlighted portion** of Scripture and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.

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 on 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,

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Psalm (read responsively)

- **L** Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!
- **G** May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!
- Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!
- May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!
- L May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!
- L In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
- May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!
- L May desert tribes bow down before him and his enemies lick the dust!
- **G** May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute;
 - may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!
- L May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!
- G For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper.
- **L** He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

Psalm 72:1-11

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

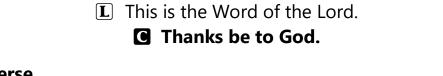
 Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be given to him! May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all the day!

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.





Holy Gospel

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



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.

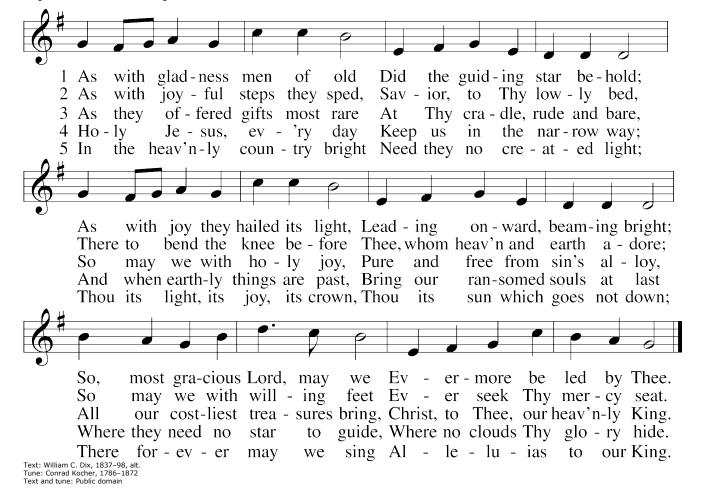


Sermon

"Star Struck"

Hymn of the Day

"As with Gladness Men of Old" (LSB 397)



Profession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, + and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P Drawn to the light of Christ, made bold in the waters of Baptism, and filled with the Spirit, we lift up our prayers in confidence that God loves and listens to us.

Special petitions are announced, followed by a brief silence. Each petition closes with the words

"Lord in Your mercy." Please respond by saying, "hear our prayer."

The prayers conclude with:

- P Good and gracious God, we ask all these things and whatever else you see that we need with a sure and certain hope in your goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C Amen.

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray:

Loving God, you sent your only Son to live among us, bringing us your grace and truth. As we prepare to receive the gift of Christ's presence once again, all we have to offer is what you have given us. Receive all that we have and all that we are to your glory and for your service, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

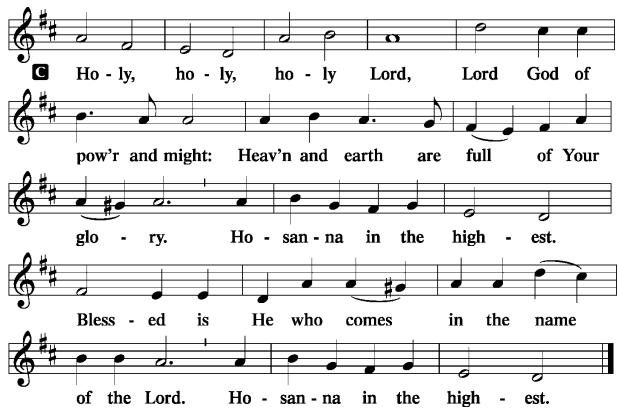
C Amen.



Preface for Epiphany

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 singing:

Sanctus



Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

- 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."
- P 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."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

G Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

 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

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

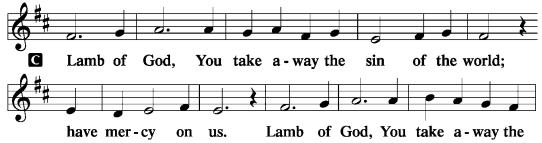
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei





Distribution

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their

Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

Music at the Distribution"What Star Is This?" (Tallis Canon arr. Richard Shephard)
(Choir of St. John's)

What star is this, with beams so bright, More lovely than the noonday light? 'Tis sent to announce a newborn King, Glad tidings of our God to bring. 'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, "From Jacob shall a star proceed"; And lo! the Eastern sages stand to read in heaven the Lord's command. While outward signs the star displays, An inward light the Lord conveys, And urges them, with force benign, to seek the Giver of the sign.

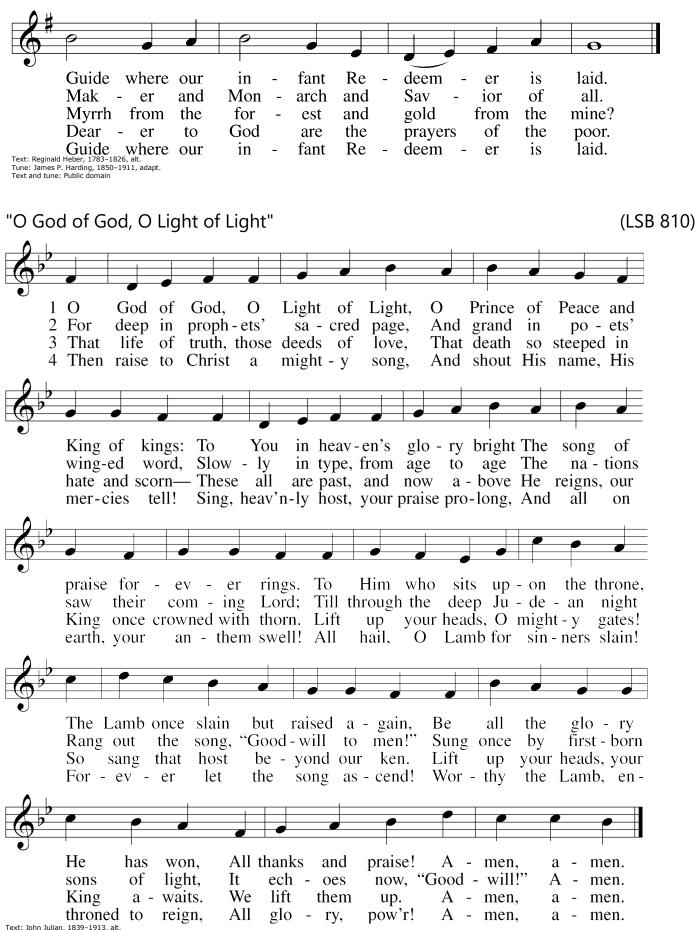
O, while the star of heavenly grace Invites us, Lord, to seek Thy face, May we no more that grace repel, Or quench that light which shines so well!

to God the Father, God the Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One, May every tongue and nation raise An endless song of thankful praise!

"Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"

(LSB 400)

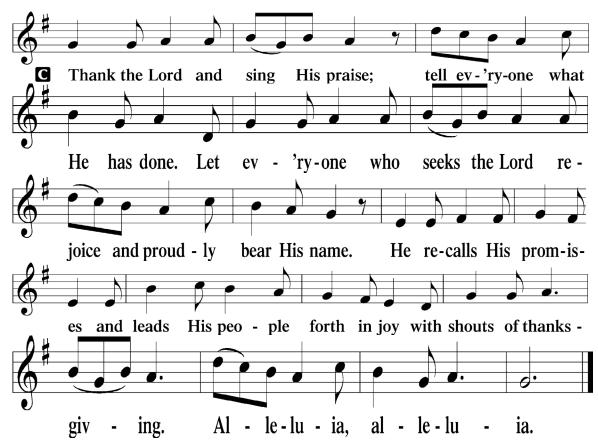
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| | | 0 | • | | |
| 1 Bright - est | and | best | of the | stars of the morn-ing, | |
| 2 Cold on | His | cra - | dle the | dew - drops are shin - ing; | |
| 3 Shall we | not | yield | Him, in | cost - ly de - vo - tion, | |
| 4 Vain - ly | we | of - | fer each | am - ple ob - la - tion, | |
| 5 Bright - est | and | best | of the | stars of the morn - ing, | |
| 0 # | | | 1 | | |
| | • | 0 | | | |
| φ | | | | 0 | |
| Dawn on | our | dark - r | ness and | lend us thine aid; | |
| Low lies | His | | with the | beasts of the stall; | |
| Fra - grance | _ | E - d | | of - f'rings di - vine, | |
| Vain - ly | with | | ould His | fa - vor se - cure. | |
| Dawn on | our | dark - r | ness and | lend us thine aid; | |
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| Rich - er | | far is | 1 | neart's ad - o - ra - tion; | |
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Text: John Julian, 1839-1913, alt. Tune: Johann Störls . . . Schlag- Gesang- Und Noten-Buch, 1744, Stuttgart Text and tune: Public domain

Dismissal

Post-Communion Canticle



Post-Communion Collect

Let us pray:

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

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 Amen.

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" (LSB 367) **Sending Hymn** of glo - ry, 1 An - gels from the realms Wing your flight o'er 3 Sa con tem - pla - tions, Bright - er ges, leave your vi - sions join \triangle 5 All cre - a - tion, in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, all the earth; Ye who sang cre tion's sto - ry, а --Seek the great De beam a - far; sire of na - tions, Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic es rais - ing -Now birth. claim Mes si ah's pro ---Ye have His seen tal star. na _ Three То the e ter nal in One. _ Refrain ₽ Come and and ship; ship, come wor wor --Wor ship Christ, the born King. new --Text (sts. 1, ref, 3): James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt. Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79 Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

"Postlude on 'Epiphany'" (Simon Peberdy)

+ + +

Our Ministry Of Worship

| Officiant/Preacher | Pastor Meehan |
|------------------------------|--|
| Welcome & Children's Message | Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship |
| Lay Assistant | Barbara Pate |
| Communion Lay Assistant | Jennifer Hills |
| Organist/Pianist | David Leahey, Director of Music |
| Acolyte | Sophie Wilson |
| Crucifer | Gavin Stiens |
| Ushers | Fred Esposito |
| | Mike Waring |
| Altar Care | Jean Gilbertson |
| AV Operators | Greg Auld |
| | Andrea Godwin |
| Welcome Host | Joe Godwin |
| | |

+ + +

To **Give** to St. John's Lutheran Church



This weekend's **altar flowers** are given by donations to the flower fund.



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St. John's Lutheran Church 5952 Franconia Road Alexandria, VA 22310



A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

St. John's Lutheran Church Staff

| Pastor | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Director of Discipleship | | | | |
| Director of Music | | | | |
| Office Administrator | | | | |
| Finance Administrator | | | | |

Rev. John Meehan Jennifer Hills, DCE David Leahey Michelle May Jennifer Smith

Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) Staff

| Director of ECEC | Amanda Parks |
|--------------------|--------------|
| ECEC Administrator | Kari Wells |

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