

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
January 25th, 2026 – 9:30 AM

WELCOME



Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

- † Preacher – Pastor Brian Griswold
- † Officiant – Pastor Rudy Schneider
- † Worship Leader – Liz Griswold

WORSHIP

CONFSSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, [†] one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice, **you call us to life in community, but we have often served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We many times have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.** **Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in [†] Jesus’ name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN 1: ELW# 314 (Stanzas 1, 2, 4) - Arise, Your Light has Come

1 Arise, your light has come!

The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.

4 Arise, your light has come!

The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's pow'r will make us strong.

2 Arise, your light has come!

Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

OPENING HYMN 2: Here I am to Worship

1. Light of the world You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You. **(Chorus)**
2. King of all days You're so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor **(Chorus)**

CHORUS

Here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me.

BRIDGE:

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon the cross
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon the cross

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Prayer of the Day - Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord. **Amen.**

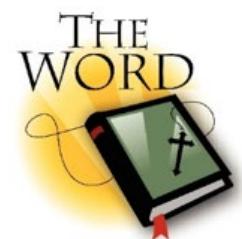
GOD'S HOLY WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God!**



Psalm 27: 1, 4 - 9

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

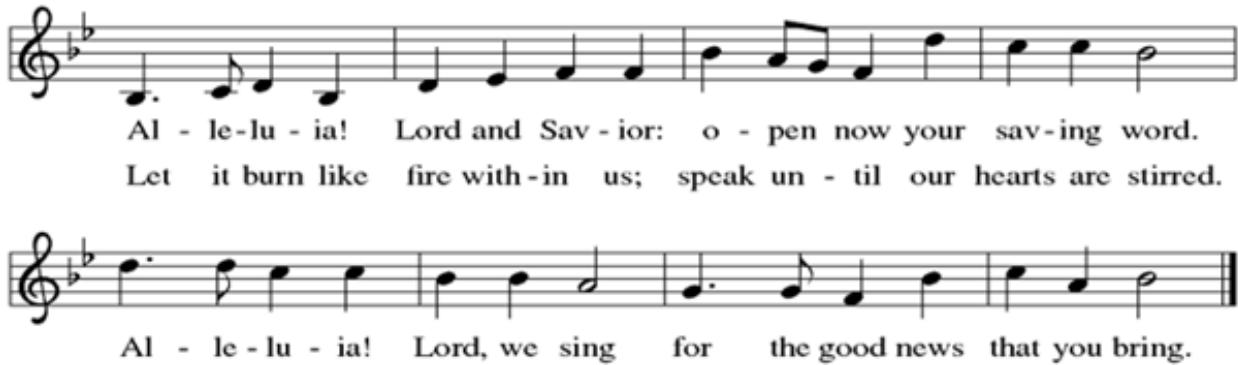
⁸ **My heart speaks your message "Seek my face." Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.
Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Matthew 4: 12 - 23; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles— ¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

SERMON – Pastor Brian Griswold

OFFERING HYMN: ELW# 798 - Will You Come and Follow Me

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we follow the Magi in giving you gifts, praying that as you receive our acts of offering, you would shine the light of Christ in our hearts to lead us in lives which serve you more deeply. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

† We recognize those joining us via Facebook Live and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests submitted for our worship.

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home. **A brief silence.**

Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide the newly baptized and deepen the faith of all who follow Christ.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth's resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick. Grace those from our families and community that we now name silently in our hearts, or out loud, with our prayers and your blessings. (*Please name silently or out loud*). We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters. Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Savior, you free us from the power of death. Lead and guide us until we come at last into the communion of all your saints in light. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

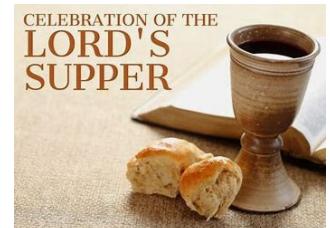
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love, you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; 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.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, 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 forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.



Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. And unto that time, we come before you praying;

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.

Invitation to Communion – Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

COMMUNION HYMN 1: Change My Heart O God

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.
You are the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.



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COMMUNION HYMN 2: Lord Be Glorified

1 In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified; In my life, Lord, be glorified today.	3 In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified; In your church, Lord, be glorified today.
2 In our song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified; In our song, Lord, be glorified today	4 In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified; In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

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Closing Prayer - Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing - May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise  bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus, No turning back, no turning back	Though none go with me, still I will follow, Though none go with me, still I will follow, Though none go with me, still I will follow, No turning back, no turning back
The world behind me, the cross before me, The world behind me, the cross before me, The world behind me, the cross before me, No turning back, no turning back	Will you decide now to follow Jesus? Will you decide now to follow Jesus? Will you decide now to follow Jesus? No turning back, no turning back

Dismissal: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

Notes:
