



Epiphany +3

January 25, 2026

+

9:00 AM

Welcome to our worship of the living God on this *Third Sunday after the Epiphany!* Jesus begins His public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow Him. In Jesus, the Reign of God has come near. We who've walked in darkness have seen a great light—but 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; then we're sent to share the Good News so that others may be “caught” in the net of God's grace and mercy.

Congregational responses are printed in indented boldface italics.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

GATHERING HYMN:

“Christ, Be Our Light”

ELW 715

See the following page for the words and music.

INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND FORGIVENESS:

Blest are You, holy and triune God:

Our glorious Abba, + Christ our Redeemer, Spirit of Life and Community!

You promise good news of great joy for all people; You call us to be messengers of Your peace.

But we confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security.

We nurture conflict and build barriers between ourselves and others;

we neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation.

In so many ways, we wound Your love and mar Your image in us.

For the sake of Christ Jesus, who died for us, have mercy on us!

Where we're self-centered, open our hearts. Where we're reluctant, give us courage.

Where we're cynical, restore our trust.

Renew us by Your grace, and give us again the hope of eternal life in You. Amen.

(Continued on page 3...)

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, Your word a - lone
hope, man - y de - spair. Make us your bread,
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your build - ing,
warmth, man - y are cold. Let us be ser - vants
hearts that yearn to be - long.

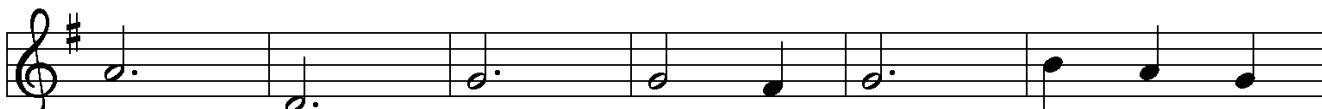


your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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After we sing the hymn, return to page 1 for our Invocation, Confession, and Forgiveness

INVOCATION, CONFESSiON, AND FORGIVENESS [cont'd.]:

Listen to the Good News, my friends:

You're God's children and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and in the name of [☩] Christ Jesus, you're forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, and let the ends of the earth know the salvation of God!

Amen. Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Glory to God!"



C Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



I 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.



C Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

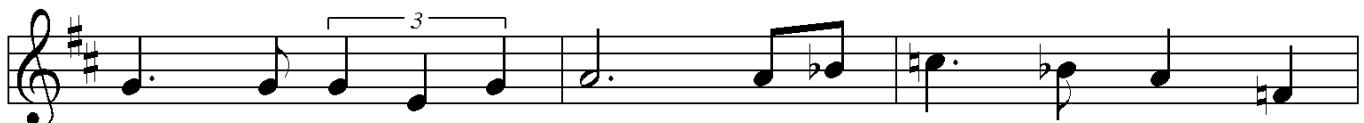


II Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,





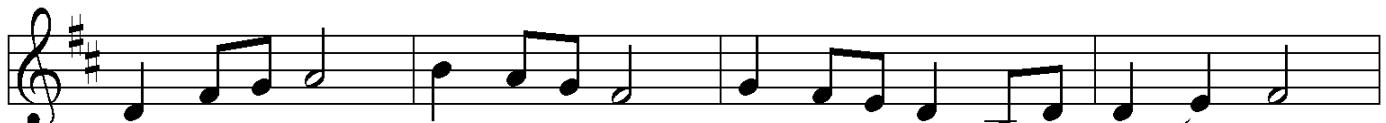
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re- ceive our prayer.



C Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



I 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.



C Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit are with you all.

And also with you.

Then let's pray: 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, Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD AND PRAYER

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 8.19-9.4

NRSVUE

Isaiah proclaims: Now if people say to you, "Consult the ghosts and the familiar spirits that chirp and mutter! Shouldn't a people consult their gods, the dead on behalf of the living,²⁰ for teaching and for instruction?"— surely those who speak like this will have no dawn! ²¹They'll pass through the land, greatly distressed and hungry; when they're hungry, they'll be enraged and will curse their king and their gods. They'll turn their faces upward,²² or they'll look to the earth, but they'll see only distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish, and they'll be thrust into thick darkness.

^{9.1} But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time *God* brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali; but in the latter time *God* will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations:

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

This is holy wisdom; this is holy word.

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING:

1 Corinthians 1.10-18

NRSVUE

St Paul writes: Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it's been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was **Paul** crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷ For Christ didn't send me to baptize, but to proclaim the Gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. ¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing; but to us who are being saved, it's the power of God.

This is holy wisdom; this is holy word.

Thanks be to God!

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

Matthew 4.12-23

NRSVUE

See ELW 174 for the tune:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Glory to You, O Lord!

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, Jesus saw two brothers, Simon, who's 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'll 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.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"

ELW 817



1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -
 1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
 2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther
 3 You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing
 4 You who have fished oth - er wa - ters; you, the



ca - do ni - a sa - bios ni - a ri - cos; tan só - lo
 nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly
 trea - sure nor wea-pons for con - quest, just these my
 love for the rest of the wea - ry - a love that's
 long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing: O lov - ing



quie - res que yo te si - ga.
 ask - ing for me to fol - low.
 fish nets and will for work - ing.
 will - ing to go on lov - ing.
 Friend, you have come to call me.

Refrain / Estribillo



Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos; son - ri - en - do,
 Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind-ly smil - ing,



has di - cho mi nom-bre. En la a-re - na he de - ja - do mi
 you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a-ban-doned my



bar - ca; jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.
 small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

Text: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1936-1991; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

Music: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES, Cesáreo Gabaráin

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APOSTLES' CREED:

Let's confess our faith together in the words of our baptismal creed:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

*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. Amen.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world,
we pray for the Church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family:

Gracious and Holy God, Your voice calls us to follow. Thank You for raising up ambassadors of Your grace in every generation, and for all who create communities of grace today. Open our hearts to serve You in serving our neighbors near and far. Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

We thank You for faithful teachers and evangelists in this and every place. Inspire our faith formation efforts with all generations as You call us to follow You; and bless us in all our learning and exploration, that we may not only be informed by Your word, but be transformed by Your Spirit. Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

As we rejoice in the beauty and abundance of the earth, unite us in our shared calling to be good stewards of Your creation, to reduce waste, and to simplify our lives for Your sake, that all may share in Your abundance. Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

We thank You for those who serve in our local, state, and national governments. At every level of our government, gather wise and courageous people together to work for the common good. Move in the hearts of all who serve in public office, that they may serve with honesty and honor. Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

Bring the nations into the way of justice and peace, righteous God. Bring an end to the violence and terror that still prevail in Ukraine, Yemen, Ethiopia, Somalia, Central America, and so many of our own communities. Have mercy on those who live in places where fear governs and hatred divides; give refugees and all who seek safety a path toward hope and new life; and strengthen those who work for human rights, equality, and the protection of the most vulnerable, that Your mercy and justice may dawn upon all people and nations. Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

Let the healing floodtides of Your Holy Spirit flow in the lives of all who struggle with any kind of sickness, grief, loneliness, or chronic pain, that they may be restored to wholeness and renewed in faith and joy. We especially commend to Your mercy... Merciful God, ***receive our prayer.***

We remember with thanks those who've defied the fear and hatred so prevalent in this world with the light of Your love and the breadth of Your wide embrace, especially your servant Martin Luther King Jr. Inspire us by their fearless witness, and unite us with them in the eternal light of Your presence. Merciful God, ***receive our prayer.***

For into Your hands, gracious God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray,
trusting in Your mercy made flesh in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord is with you always.

And also with you.

Reconciled to God and to one another, we share a sign of Christ's peace.

MEAL

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES, WITH ANTHEM:

"Mary, Mary had-a but One Child"

-- *Music and Words by Jay Althouse*

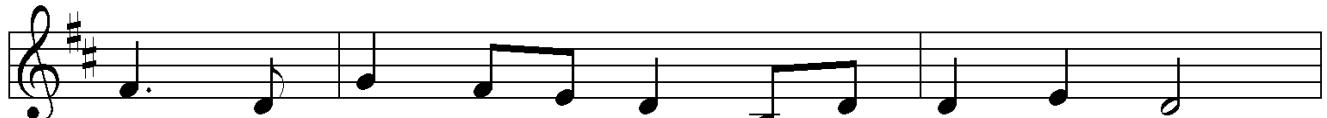
OFFERTORY HYMN: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"



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 pres - ence,
 Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Gracious God, Your Incarnate Word brings harmony to the earth.
 As we offer ourselves and these Your gifts,
 prepare us to receive the grace and truth You offer at this table,
 and renew in us the song of Your salvation through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord!

Let's give thanks to the Lord our God.

It's right to give our thanks and praise!

It's indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always and everywhere
 give thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ Jesus our Lord!
 Sharing our life, He lived among us to reveal Your glory and love,
 that our darkness should give way to His own brilliant light.
 And so with the Church on earth and the whole company of heaven,
 we praise Your Name and join their unending hymn:

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. 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, Ho -
 san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
 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."

And so remembering His life and His death, His resurrection and His ascension,
 we await His coming in glory. Now pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us,
 that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all Your people
 in the body of Your Son, Christ Jesus our Lord.

For through Him, with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all glory and honor is Yours, almighty Father, now and forever!

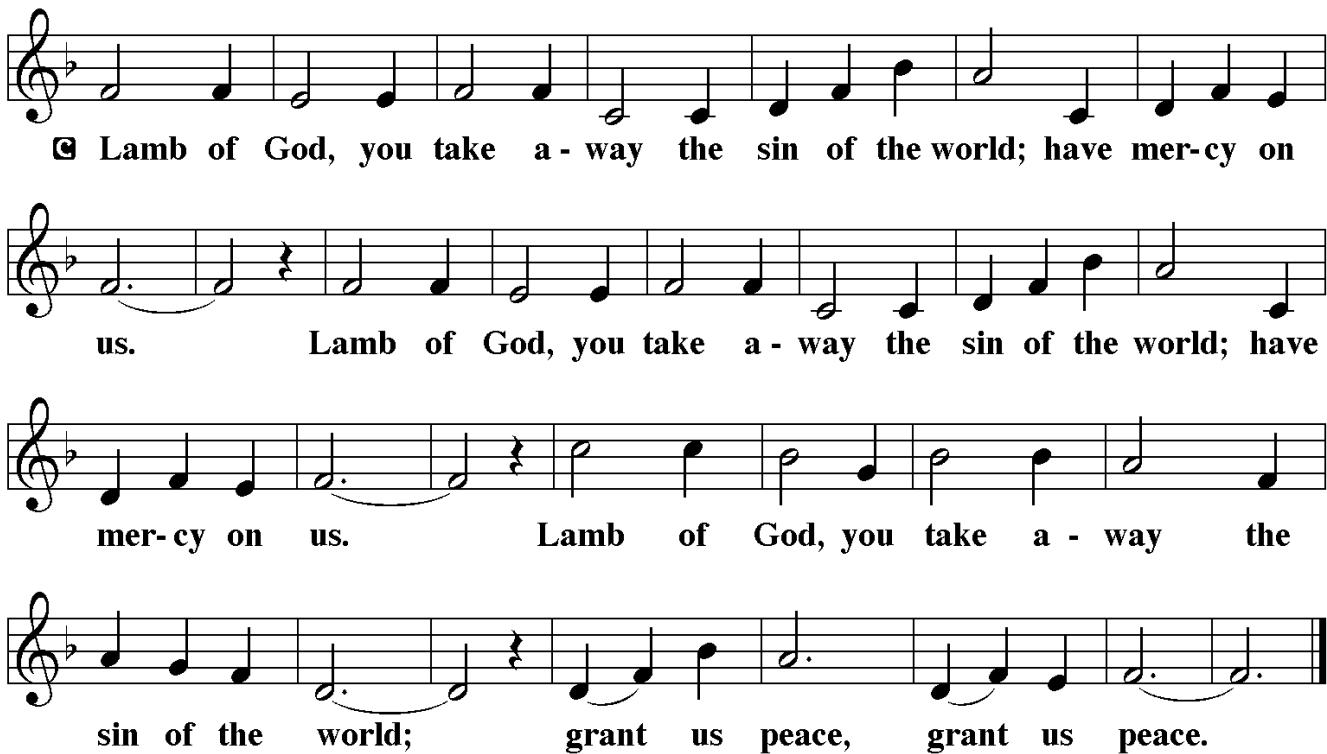
Amen.

Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:

*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.*

CANTICLE:

“Lamb of God”



C 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.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Now we share God's consecrated gifts among God's consecrated people, knowing that our living Lord Jesus is fully present with us in His Supper, giving Himself to us in bread and wine and forgiving love. Today, we'll share the Lord's Supper by receiving the body and blood of Christ by "tables" and the cup by **intinction**: When the usher bids you, come forward via the left side aisle, take a glass already filled with grape juice if necessary, and kneel or stand at the altar rail. Receive "**the body of Christ, given for you**" from the Pastor; receive "**the blood of Christ, shed for you**" from our communion assistant by dipping the wafer in the wine (or drink the grape juice you already have in hand). Pr Dave will dismiss each "table" with a blessing, at which point the next "table" will form. Once we've all communed, our service continues with thanksgiving...

May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. Amen.

SENDING

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING, PRAYER, AND BENEDICTION:



Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
 one what God has done. Let all who seek the
 Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
 Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
 lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks-
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Let's pray: We thank You, wondrous God, for Jesus Your Son,
 Your Living Word incarnate in these gifts of bread and wine.

As we've shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share Your love with the world
 through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

And now may God's maternal love surround you; may Christ Jesus move you to trust in the Lord;
 may the Holy Spirit enrich you with all spiritual gifts and strengthen you to the end;
 and almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN:

"I Love to Tell the Story"

ELW 661



I Love to Tell the Story



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,

2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat

3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911

Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL:

God has a plan.

We're it!

What's our part in God's plan?

Sharing God's love in joyful service!

Then let's go in peace, live in joy, and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

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