

**Sunday Worship Service – January 25, 2026**  
**Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
***With One Voice – Holy Communion – Light of Christ, Setting 4*** (p.12-27)  
 The liturgy & hymns are from WOV

**Words of Welcome**

**Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement**

**Introduction to the Theme of the Bible Readings\***

Today is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany, the season of light. The Bible readings tell us that the light has come into the world. This light has come particularly to those who sit in darkness – the darkness of division, the darkness of suffering. When the light dawns in our minds and souls and hearts, it calls forth response – rejoicing, renewed commitment to God, walking in God’s ways, and even following a stranger into an unknown, uncertain future.

**Thanksgiving for Baptism <sup>1</sup>**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water,  
 the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**  
 Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
 we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness.  
 Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.  
 We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us  
 in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden.  
 In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched,  
 and you gave us water from the rock.  
 When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd  
 to lead us to still waters.  
 At the cross, you washed us from Jesus’ wounded side,  
 and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.  
**We praise you for your saving grace through water,**  
**for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.**  
**Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.**  
**Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.**  
**To you be given honour and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water,**

---

<sup>1</sup> from *All Creation Sings*, © 2020 Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN.

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

### #712 (WOV) Gathering Hymn “*Listen, God Is Calling*”

*Refrain:* Listen, Listen, God is calling,  
through the Word inviting,  
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy. *(repeat)*

1. *Jesus gave his mandate: share the good news  
that he came to save us and set us free. (Refrain)*
2. *Let none be forgotten throughout the world.  
In the triune name of God go and baptize. (Refrain)*
3. *Help us to be faithful, standing steadfast,  
walking in your precepts, led by your Word. (Refrain)*

### p.12 **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.**

### p.12 **Kyrie**

In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**  
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**  
For the peace of the whole world, the well being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**  
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

### **Prayer of the Day\***

*Light of the World, shine upon us this day. Break through the clouds that  
separate us from one another, that we may worship you as one body.  
Guide our steps, that we may walk in your light and live as your people of  
love. Amen.*

### **First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4**

*In this reading from Isaiah, we hear that the northern tribes of Zebulun and  
Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but  
they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a*

*light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.*

A reading from Isaiah, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter:

Nonetheless, those who were in distress won't be exhausted. At an earlier time, God cursed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but later God glorified the way of the sea, the far side of the Jordan, and the Galilee of the nations. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned. You have made the nation great; you have increased its joy. They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest, as those who divide plunder rejoice. As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them, the staff on their shoulders, and the rod of their oppressor. (CEB)

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

#### **Psalm 27:1, 4-8**

God is my light and my salvation. Should I fear anyone?  
 God is a fortress protecting my life. Should I be frightened of anything?  
**I have asked one thing from God—it's all I seek:**  
**to live in God's house all the days of my life,**  
**seeing God's beauty and constantly adoring God's temple.**  
 Because God will shelter me in God's own dwelling during troubling times;  
 God will hide me in a secret place in God's own tent;  
 God will set me up high, safe on a rock.  
**Now my head is higher than the enemies surrounding me,**  
**and I will offer sacrifices in God's tent—sacrifices with shouts of joy!**  
**I will sing and praise God.**  
 God, listen to my voice when I cry out—have mercy on me and answer me!  
**Come, my heart says, seek God's face. God, I do seek your face!**

#### p.17 **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**  
**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

#### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-23**

*In the gospel reading, Jesus is beginning his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. Jesus proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now when Jesus heard that John was arrested, he went to Galilee. Jesus left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, which lies alongside the sea in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali. This fulfilled what Isaiah the prophet said:

*Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, alongside the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who lived in the dark have seen a great light, and a light has come upon those who lived in the region and in shadow of death.*

From that time Jesus began to announce, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!"

As Jesus walked alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, because they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people." Right away, they left their nets and followed Jesus. Continuing on, Jesus saw another set of brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father repairing their nets. Jesus called them and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues.

Jesus announced the good news of the kingdom and healed every disease and sickness among the people. (CEB)

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

## Sermon

**#784 WOV     Hymn of the Day "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"**

- 1.    You have come down to the lakeshore  
      seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,  
      but only asking for me to follow.**

*Refrain:*

**Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes;  
kindly smiling, you've called out my name.**

**On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;  
now with you, I will seek other seas.**

- 2. You know full well what I have, Lord:  
neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,  
just these my fish nets and will for working.**

*Refrain*

- 3. You need my hands, my exhaustion,  
working love for the rest of the weary –  
a love that's willing to go on loving.**

*Refrain*

- 4. You who have fished other waters;  
you, the longing of souls that are yearning:  
O loving Friend, you have come to call me.**

*Refrain*

p.19 **Apostles' Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and 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.**

**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<sup>2</sup>**

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. Prayer petitions will end with "Merciful God" and the congregation is invited to respond with "**receive our prayer.**"  
*A brief silence.*

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts>

Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide us and deepen our faith.

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 Mediator, your power is love. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority that they may open their hearts and minds to make just decisions and offer just guidance.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick. 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.**

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. **Amen.**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of God be with you always! **And also with you!**

### p.21 **Offertory**

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, fill to the brim our cup of blessing.**

**Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,**

**that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.**

**Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;**

**unite them with the prayers we offer now.**

**Grace our table with your presence,**

**and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

### Offering Prayer\*

*Gracious God, we thank you for this day – a day blessed with light and joy, a day blessed with hope and abundance. May these gifts bring light to those lost in darkness, and chase away the shadows from those who have lost hope. Bless our lives to your service, in the name of the true Light. Amen.*

### p.22 Great Thanksgiving

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

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Christ our Lord.

Sharing our life, Jesus lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to Jesus' own brilliant light.

And so with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

p.22 **Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

### Eucharistic Prayer<sup>3</sup>

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the light and life of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus your light,

shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
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.

---

<sup>3</sup> *With One Voice: Leaders Edition*, Eucharistic Prayer C – The Season of Epiphany, p.67 (adapted for inclusive language). © 1995 Augsburg Fortress Minneapolis.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup,  
Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the covenant in my blood,  
Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering Christ's life and ministry,  
his preaching and healing, his dying and rising,  
and his promise to come again, we await that day  
when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that,  
refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world,  
revealing the brilliance of Jesus Christ.  
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

p.25 **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**Communion Distribution**

p.25 ***Lamb of God***

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us,  
have mercy on us, have mercy.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us,  
have mercy on us, have mercy.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**



### **#711 WOV Communion Hymn “*You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*”**

*Refrain:* You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat.  
Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

1. As when the shepherd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;  
so when you call your fam’ly, Lord, we follow and rejoice. *(Refrain)*
2. With joyful lips we sing to you our praise and gratitude  
that you should count us worthy, Lord, to share this heav’nly food.  
*(Refrain)*
3. Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ outpoured?  
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare our oneness in the Lord? *(Refrain)*
4. The myst’ry of your presence, Lord, no mortal tongue can tell:  
whom all the world cannot contain comes in our hearts to dwell.  
*(Refrain)*
5. You give yourself to us, O Lord; then selfless let us be,  
to serve each other in your name in truth and charity. *(Refrain)*

### **Communion Blessing**

#### **Prayer after communion\***

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

### **Announcements**

#### **Blessing\***

Go forth bathed in the light and love of God.  
Go forth to join with Jesus to proclaim the good news of this light and love.  
Go forth empowered by the Spirit  
to live in God’s light with courage and joy.  
In the name of the + God, our Creator, Jesus our Healer, and the Holy Spirit  
our Comforter. Amen.

### **#649 WOV Sending Hymn “*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*”**

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.

*Refrain:* In him there is no darkness at all.  
 The night and the day are both alike.  
 The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
 Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2. I want to see the brightness of God.  
 I want to look at Jesus.  
 Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
 and show me the way to the Father. (*Refrain*)
3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
 I want to be with Jesus.  
 When we have run with patience the race,  
 we shall know the joy of Jesus. (*Refrain*)

### **Sending**

Go in peace, to love and serve God through word and deed.  
**Thanks be to God!**

### **Sources:**

Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from Common English Bible (CEB) and have been adapted for inclusive language.

Those parts of this worship service marked with an asterisk (\*) are from:

The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020, 2017, 2014 Compilation © 2019, 2016, 2013 Abingdon Press. Used by permission.