

**Family of Christ Lutheran Church
Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 25, 2026**

Welcome, Announcements and Prayer Requests

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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 served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We 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.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW 582 Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling



1 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er dwell-ing in the ho-liest realms of light;
2 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er liv-ing as the church's ver-y life;
3 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er work-ing through the church's min-is-try;



Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er brood-ing o'er a world of gloom and night;
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er striv-ing through us in a cease-less strife;
quick-'ning, strength-'ning, and ab-solv-ing, set-ting cap-tive sin-ners free;



Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er rais-ing those of earth to thrones on high;
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er form-ing in the church the mind of Christ:
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er bind-ing age to age and soul to soul



liv-ing, life-im-part-ing Spir-it, you we praise and mag-ni-fy.
you we praise with end-less wor-ship for your gifts and fruits un-priced.
in com-mu-nion nev-er end-ing, you we wor-ship and ex-tol.

Text: Timothy Rees, 1874–1939, alt.

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

Please be seated

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.

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.**

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

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.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

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.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God’s salvation.

¹⁰ 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 has 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 do
not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not
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 is the power
of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise as you are able.

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah



Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

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.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW 306 Come, Beloved of the Maker

Come, Beloved of the Maker



1 Come, be - lov - ed of the Mak - er, come, be -
2 See the Morn - ing - star now beck - on to those
3 Fol - low to the birth of new - ness; fol - low
4 There we too will burn and bright - en, God's re -
5 Christ, bright im - age of the Mak - er, God, whose



hold the First - born One; see re - vealed cre - a - tion's
bound to doubt and night; "Fol - low me," Christ calls in
to the life of peace; fol - low to the hill of
splen - dent work be - gun; glo - ry will as - cend and
glo - ry none may pass, Spir - it, sun of love and



splen - dor crowned in glo - ry like the sun.
wel - come, "come from dark - ness in - to light."
an - guish; fol - low to the gar - den bliss.
height - en, crown - ing us with glo - rious sun.
splen - dor, bear us in - to light at last.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Music: JILL, David Cherwien, b. 1957
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Music © 2002 Augsburg Fortress.

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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 power of the Holy Spirit,
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.**

Please be seated

Prayers of the People

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, President Trump, Governor Kehoe, and Jefferson County Executive Dennis Gannon; guide them in your loving way so they may have mercy and compassion for all they govern. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Holy Redeemer, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick. We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters. We pray for those on our prayer list and those whose names and needs we lift before you now, either silently or aloud (*a brief pause*). 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.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with those around you.

Offering Is Collected

Offering and Elements Are Brought to the Table

Offering Song:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
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Offering Prayer

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

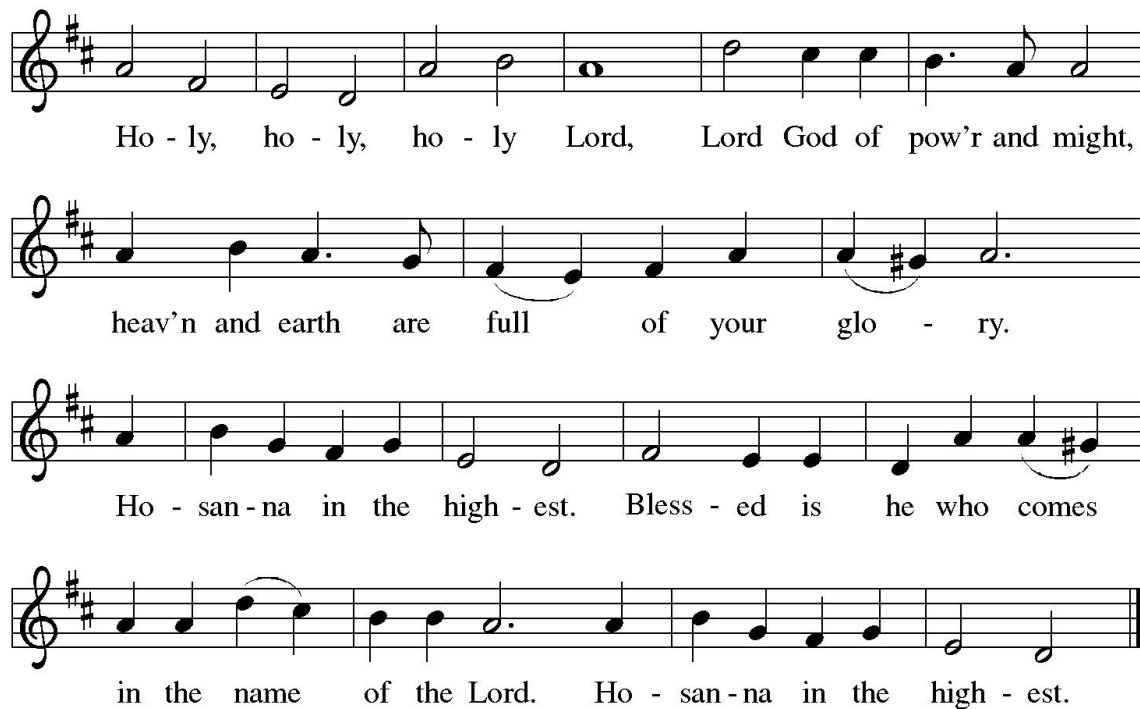
Lift up your hearts.

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, 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 One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Be here among us and bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us, awaken us, and fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.**

Invitation to Communion

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

Communion Hymn: ACS 987

Guide My Feet



1 Guide my feet
2 Hold my hand
3 Stand by me while I run this race.
4 I'm your child
5 Search my heart



Guide my feet
Hold my hand
Stand by me while I run this race.
I'm your child
Search my heart



Guide my feet
Hold my hand
Stand by me while I run this race,
I'm your child
Search my heart



for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: GUIDE MY FEET, African American spiritual

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

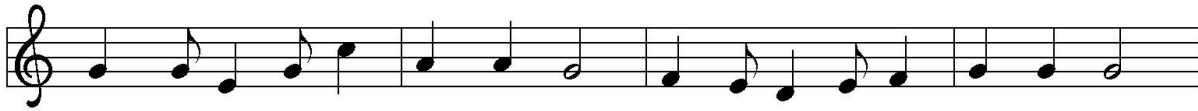
Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. **In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our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

Sending Hymn: ELW 674 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



- 1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
- 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
- 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

Announcements:

- **Brendan's Friday Backpack Drive: Feb. 8th.** Bring kid-friendly items, such as canned soup and pasta, pudding or fruit cups,

plastic jars of peanut butter (16 oz or smaller), individual snacks (cookies, chips, trail mix, etc.), granola or breakfast bars, single-serve cereal.

- **Getting Crafty Group:** February 11th, 6:30 p.m.
- **Ash Wednesday Service:** Feb. 18th, 7 p.m.
- **Book Club:** February 26th, 7 p.m.
- **Lent Bible Study:** Signs of the Kingdom: Studies in Matthew, time TBD

focelca.com
foclutheran@gmail.com
Pastor Jane Brda, SAM
Ellen Mueller — Music

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