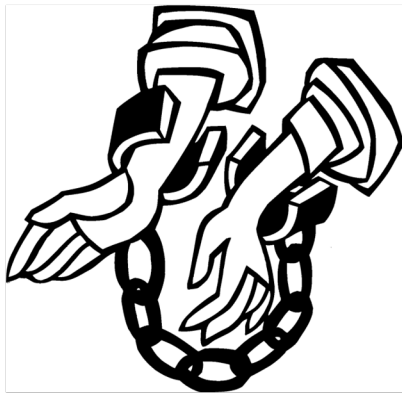




Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 26, 2025
8:30 am



God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

Order of Worship

= Hymn Number, pp. = Page in front part of "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" (ELW)
or "All Creation Sings" (ACS)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING MEDITATION

"Winter Sonata" David Lanz
David Singer, piano

(stand) **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

C **Amen.**

P Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (*Romans 6:3-5*)

P We give you thanks, holy and gracious God,
for you created the waters of the earth:
wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, mighty rivers.
You led your people through the sea and called them to life in covenant with you.
Your Son was baptized in the river Jordan to begin his mission among us.
You pour out your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth.
Through this water remind us of the gift of baptism.
Renew us in your promise so that we may serve this world in all its need;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God,
who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit
and forgives us all our sins,
strengthen us in all goodness
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

(stand) **GATHERING HYMN**

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”ELW #886 vs 1,3,4

(stand) **GREETING**

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

C And also with you.

(stand) **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray...
Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the
nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and
inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever
hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING.....Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

(stand) **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. Both staves are in the treble clef and the key signature of D major (two sharps). The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes on both staves.

Music: Fintan O’Carroll and Christopher Walker
Music © 1985 Fintan O’Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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(stand) **GOSPEL READING**..... **Luke 4:14-21**

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit) **SERMON**..... **Pastor Scott Sessler**

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Christ Be Our Light" **ELW #715 vs 1-2**

(stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

P God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **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,
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.**

(stand)

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Silence for reflection.

Each petition will close with the words: "God of grace,"

The response is "hear our prayer."

P We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of our Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(sit) **THE OFFERING**

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Let us pray. God of grace,
C **your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.
Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always.
Amen.**

(stand) **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
C **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

P The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

G Thanks be to God.

(sit) **COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS**

Communion will be distributed at the altar railing. The usher will indicate when each section of pews should come forward. Whether kneeling or standing, those wishing to receive anointing, cross your arms after reaching the rail. If you are not able or not comfortable coming to the altar, the pastor will bring the bread and wine to you at the pew. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available. Simply request these from the pastor.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“Lamb of God” ELW pp112

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.

“One Bread, One Body” ELW #496

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

G Amen!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray...
Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of hope and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray.

G **Amen.**

BLESSING

P The Spirit of the triune God
✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.

G **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“We All Are One in Mission”ELW #576

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Live in hope.

G **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Postlude in G”J. Cramer

David Singer, organ

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Associate Pastor *Rev. Katie Christie*
Traditional Choral & Worship Director..... *Kristen Passmore*
Contemporary Worship Leader & Handbell Choir Director *LeRoy Kennedy*
Organist..... *David Singer*
Director of Youth and Family Ministries *John Parson*
Office Coordinator *Kristy Perkins*
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