

3rd Sunday after Epiphany – ELW 8  
January 25, 2026 – 8:15 & 10:45 am

Accompanist

Dave Vagts

Liturgist

8:15 - Jen Christy/10:45 -

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*ELW = the red hymn book underneath your seat. Hymns are located in the back of the book.*

*† indicates stand as able*

**Gathering**

***Prelude: Jubilate Deo***

**Adult Choir**

***Welcome***

***† Confession and Forgiveness***

We confess our sins before God and one another.

God of grace and mercy,

**We who have seen the signs of Jesus' presence in the world still fall into doubt and despair. We put our trust in ourselves and in the powers of the world, in material goods and in finite and fallible people. In our fear we act out against our neighbors, and hurt those most in need of our help. Restore our faith, O God. Forgive us for our failings and make us one with our beloved siblings throughout creation.**

Your God hears and answers, beloved children, and with love and tenderness washes away all your sins. Know that you are always made whole, always loved, and always held, even in your doubts and failings. Go forth with joy in this knowledge. **Amen.**

***† Gathering Hymn: Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters***

**ELW 445**



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.  
2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.  
3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.  
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.  
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.  
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,  
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.  
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.  
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

## Liturgy of the Word

### † *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.

### † *Kyrie*

ELW p. 184

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and

praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,**

**Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,**

**Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,**

**Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;

that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,**

**Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

### ***† Prayer of the Day***

Holy God, Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and make us new creations each day, born again out of your eternal love for us. Invite us deeper into the mystery of your world-transforming presence, that we might follow you more closely. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

***Special Music: A Joyful Psalm***

***Bell Choir***

***Reading: Psalm 139: 13-18***

<sup>13</sup>For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup>I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are

**your works; that I know very well.**

<sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

<sup>16</sup>**Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.**

<sup>17</sup>How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup>**I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.**

**† Gospel Acclamation**

**ELW p. 188**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**† GOSPEL: John 3: 1-21**

The Holy Gospel according to John the 3rd chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one

can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.”

<sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

<sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”

<sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

<sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”

<sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

<sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they

have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

***Children's Sermon***

**Maggie**

***Global Ministries Presentations: Luz de Vida, Border Servant Corps***

***Sermon***

**Pastor Beth Wartick**

***Hymn of the Day: God Loved the World***

**ELW 323**

God loved the world so that he gave  
his only Son the lost to save,  
that all who would in him believe  
should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,  
who was made flesh and suffered death;  
all who confide in Christ alone  
are built on this chief cornerstone.

If you are ill, if death draws near,  
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus rescues us from death;  
that is the firmest ground of faith.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son  
forgives all sins that you have done,  
and justified by Jesus' blood,  
your baptism grants the highest good.

All glory to the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To you, O blessed Trinity,  
be praise now and eternally!

### ***† 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, 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***

Trusting in your power to transform all things, we pray for the  
church, the world, and all in need.

God of revelation, nothing can be hidden from you. Shed light on  
all the corners of our lives, and make us honest to bring our  
whole selves to you. God of light, **Hear our prayers.**

We are indeed fearfully and wonderfully made, along with your  
whole creation. Open our eyes to the wonders of this world, and

humble us to be taught by all of nature, that we might learn respect and responsibility. God of light, **Hear our prayers.**

Open the minds and hearts of all who lead to the differing ideas and needs of all people, that they would find creative solutions to difficult problems, for the benefit of all involved. We pray especially for our global ministries partners: Luz de Vida, Border Servant Corps, and Mashiah Foundation. God of light, **Hear our prayers.**

Give us daily chances to be reborn in you. Bless our lives and our loved ones with your healing presence, especially Bob, Gene, Vera, Elora and Marcia. God of light, **Hear our prayers.**

We are by no means the first to question, to wonder, to misunderstand. Generations have done so before us, and have found their peace in you. Join us with all the saints of every age, in your eternal communion where light shines perpetually. God of light, **Hear our prayers.**

With confidence in your mercy, we lift these prayers and those of our hearts into your care, through Jesus Christ our light and our life. **Amen.**

*† Peace*

### **Liturgy of the Meal**

***Offering:** RLC Ministry relies on your generosity. You can make a gift in support of our ministry by placing it in the offering plates as they are passed, or by scanning the QR to give securely online. Thanks!*



### ***Offering Prayer***

All that we have is yours, O God. Accept and use these gifts in ways we cannot begin to imagine, to reach those whom we will



never meet, but to whom we are joined by your love for all humanity. For the sake of Jesus. **Amen.**

***† 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 God thanks and praise.**

***† Thanksgiving at the Table***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... and join their unending hymn:

***† Holy Holy Holy***

**ELW p.190**

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

***† Eucharistic Prayer***

***† 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

***Padrenuestro***

***Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,  
santificado sea tu nombre.  
Venga tu reino.  
Hágase tu voluntad  
en la tierra como en el cielo.  
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.  
Perdona nuestras ofensas  
como también nosotros  
perdonamos a los que nos ofenden.  
No nos dejes caer en tentación***

and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

*y líbranos del mal.  
Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es  
el poder y tuya es la gloria,  
ahora y siempre. Amén.*

### ***Communion***

*If you are communing at home, receive the bread with the words  
“The Body of Christ given for you,” and the cup with “The blood  
of Christ shed for you.”*

### ***Lamb of God***

**ELW p. 191**

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

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

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

### ***Communion Hymn: Oh, Love, How Deep***

**ELW 322**

Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
beyond all thought and fantasy,  
that God, the Son of God, should take  
our mortal form for mortals' sake!

God sent no angel to our race,  
of higher or of lower place,  
but wore the robe of human frame,  
in Christ our Lord to this world came.

For us baptized, for us he bore  
his holy fast and hungered sore;  
for us temptation sharp he knew;  
for us the tempter overthrew.

For us he prayed; for us he taught;  
for us his daily works he wrought,

by words and signs and actions thus  
still seeking not himself, but us.

For us by wickedness betrayed,  
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
he bore the shameful cross and death;  
for us he gave his dying breath.

For us he rose from death again;  
for us he went on high to reign;  
for us he sent his Spirit here  
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

All glory to our Lord and God  
for love so deep, so high, so broad;  
the Trinity whom we adore  
forever and forevermore.

## **Sending**

### ***Announcements***

#### ***† Blessing***

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

#### ***† Sending Song: Baptized in Water***

**ELW 456**

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:  
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,  
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
dead in the tomb with Christ our king:  
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,

thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
marked with the sign of Christ our king:  
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;  
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

### ***† Dismissal***

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

### ***Postlude***

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