



# Welcome to Worship

*Third Sunday after Epiphany  
January 25, 2026*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GATHERING SONG: “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”**

*ELW 533*

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

Glory to you, O God:  
you speak a word of power,  
and Creation springs forth!

**We praise you, O God!**

Glory to you, O God:  
your Spirit hovers over the earth,  
and order is birthed from chaos!

**We bless you, O God!**

Glory to you, O God:  
The sun to rules our days,  
The moon and stars brighten our nights,  
Bringing light to our darkness!

**We exalt you, O God!**

Glory to you, O God:  
May blessing, glory, and praise be yours!  
**Now and forever, Amen!**

### CANTICLE OF PRAISE: *ELW Setting 10, page 205*

♪ Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:  
We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

♪ Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;  
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:  
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.  
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

## **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**

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 27:**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> **When evildoers assail me  
to devour my flesh—  
my adversaries and foes—  
they shall stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war rise up against me,  
yet I will be confident.

<sup>4</sup> **One thing I asked of the Lord;  
this I seek:  
to live in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the Lord,  
and to inquire in his temple.**

<sup>5</sup> For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will set me high on a rock.

**<sup>6</sup>Now my head is lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent  
sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;  
be gracious to me and answer me!

**<sup>8</sup>“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”  
Your face, Lord, do I seek.**

<sup>9</sup>Do not hide your face from me.  
Do not turn your servant away in anger,  
you who have been my help.  
Do not cast me off; do not forsake me,  
O God of my salvation!

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *ELW Setting 10, page 205***



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23**

**L:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

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

<sup>12</sup>Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup>He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: <sup>15</sup>“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—<sup>16</sup>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.” <sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. <sup>23</sup> 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.

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

**SERMON SONG: “Will You Come and Follow Me”**

(Vs 1, 2, 4, 5)

ELW 798

**SERMON**

**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.**

**OFFERING**

## OFFERTORY:

*We give thee but thine own, Whatev'r that gift may be.  
All that we have is thine alone, A trust O Lord from thee.*

## PRAYERS:

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Lord God, make your Church one in purpose and plan, ever proclaiming the message of the cross and ever sharing the encouragement to walk in faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We rejoice at the bounty of your creation. Fill the land and sea with your abundance. Bless harvests in the southern hemisphere and fallow fields in the northern hemisphere. Equip farmers to till and be good stewards of the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In Christ your reign comes near and calls all to repentance. Break the rod of the oppressor in every nation. Dispel the shadow of death in places of war and persecution. Grant us leaders who lift the yokes that burden those in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be a stronghold for those in trouble and a rock for all who are afraid. Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter, are facing maltreatment, or are isolated and lonely. We especially pray for those in our community who need your healing grace and mercy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain the ministries of this congregation and our sister congregations, Messiah Lutheran and Bethel-Stafford. Nurture each congregation's unique witness to your presence; foster mutual respect; inspire our cooperation in loving our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We praise you for the faithful who've gone ahead of us to live with you in endless light and love. Help us leave our nets and follow that we may join them in the promise of eternal life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER:**

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.

**BENEDICTION:**

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you,  
the Lord look upon you with favor and give you his peace.

**SENDING SONG: “Beautiful Savior”**

*ELW 838*

**DISMISSAL:** Go in peace, Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

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