



Thursday Sunday after Epiphany

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
2417 Drexel Avenue - Racine, Wisconsin 53403
(262) 634-7998
<https://www.facebook.com/LCRRacine>

January 25, 2026 + 9:30 am



Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

We gather today on the ancestral lands of the Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówi, Kickapoo, and Peoria peoples. We honor and acknowledge the traditional stewards of this land, recognizing their enduring connection to this region. As we come together in worship, let us commit ourselves to respecting their history and culture, and work toward healing and justice for Indigenous communities. May we be mindful of our role in creating a more equitable future for all.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Song

"Will You Come and Follow Me" ELW #798

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call

your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low

know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my -
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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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.

Gloria

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace

to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace

to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -



alone are the MostHigh, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

Final refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est.



A - men, a - men.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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.

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.

At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

The LORD is my light and my salvation. (Ps. 27:1)

- ¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then I 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 up on 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 I 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

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.

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.

At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

The Assembly may rise in body or spirit as the Gospel is proclaimed.



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

Gospel Announcement

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel

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.

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

Matthew 4:12-23

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“Drawn to the Light” ELW #593

Words and music on following page.

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day

"Drawn to the Light" ELW #593

1 Peo - ple who walk in dark - ness have sought a light in the
2 How can we tell a heav - en from hell if ev - 'ry - one
3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the

heart of the dark - est night. Just when we thought all would be
dwells in the dark of night? Morn-ing dis - pels, gent - ly com -
one who is shin - ing bright, bids us to come! Life has be -

lost, we were drawn to the light of God.
pels, and we're drawn to the light of God.
gun when we're drawn to the light of God.

Refrain

Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the
light and the morn - ing. Glo - rious and bright, oh, what a
sight to be drawn to the light of God.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: LA CROSSE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1990 John C. Ylvisaker.



Prayers of Intercession

The Assisting Minister leads the prayers of the people for the church, the world, and all people in need. Each petition ends with:

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

We remember our homebound members and all who have asked for our prayers: Erna Joswig, Joyce Owens, Dorothy Popadic, Pat Quale, Bonnie Ayers, Sue Heckel, Donna Johnson, Linda Bagley, Carmen Falk, Tom Johnson, Mario Miranda, Lynda, Sheila Fair, Cherie Julius, Lynn Hooper, Randy Weit, Aimee and Mark Hooper, Missy Hoffman, Mary Scruggs, Linda Losito, Anne Maley, Judi and Larry Krebs, and Eloise and Larry Laugen, and the family of Dennis Painter (Teresa Miranda's father).

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering



Your offering helps us carry on God's mission in our community! You may place your offering in the offering plate as it is passed, you may mail your offering to the church office, you can even text to give by texting the amount you wish to give to 262.592.5757, then follow the prompts. You may also scan the code to the right with your smartphone's camera to give on our website (www.racinelcredeemer.com). You can also sign up for automatic giving on our website as well!

Thank you for your generosity!

Offering Song

Three staves of musical notation in G clef, with lyrics underneath each staff.

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. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. 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.**

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, our duty and our joy...

.... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-
 san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

The Presiding Minister prays giving thanks to God, for God's saving work throughout history. The Assembly responds when prompted:

The earth is full of your glory
The earth is full of your glory. ...
 Amen and amen.
Amen and Amen.

The 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.

Invitation to Communion

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Distribution of Communion

If you are worshipping with us at home, you are invited to partake in Communion as well! All you need is bread of any kind and wine or juice of any kind. As you receive the bread: 'This is the Body of Christ given for you.' As you receive the wine or juice: 'This is the Blood of Christ shed for you.' If you are worshipping with more than one person, please serve one another as you able using the above words.

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.

Communion Song

“One Bread, One Body” ELW #496

Refrain

One bread, one body, one Lord of all; one cup of blessing which we bless, and we, though many through-out the earth, we are one bod-y in this one Lord.

1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
 2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
 3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and grown,

Refrain

wom - an or man, no more.
 one in the Lord of all.
 gath - ered to one for all.

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ

Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Table Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. 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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, **✚** Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“The Little Light of Mine” ELW #677

Words and music on following page.

Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

Serving Today

Assisting Minister:	Charles Julius
Reader:	Linda Rattle
Usher:	Linda Bagley
Altar Guild:	Marion Julius & Jane Wilson
Musician:	James Winfield
Pastor:	The Rev. Matt James

Cover Image: Koenig, Peter. St. Peter and St. Andrew, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://digilib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59035> [retrieved January 20, 2026]. Original source: Peter Winfried (Canisius) Koenig, <https://www.pwkoenig.co.uk/>.

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Sending Hymn

"The Little Light of Mine" ELW #677

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 oh, oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 oh,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935
 Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

This Week @ Redeemer

Wednesday:	Bible Study – 1:30pm
Sunday:	Sunday Worship – 9:30am, Annual Congregational Meeting Following Worship

Celebrations this Week

Birthdays:	Andrew Naegeli (1/27); Teresa Miranda (1/31)
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Upcoming Commemorations

Conversion of Paul

Sunday, January 25, 2026

The week of prayer begun by the remembrance of Peter's confession now comes to an end as we recall the pivotal moment in the life of the other pillar of the early church, the apostle Paul. His encounter with the risen Christ turned him from persecutor of the followers of Christ to one of their leaders.

Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries

Monday, January 26, 2026

These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.

Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae.

Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter.

Texts for Next Sunday, February 1st, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12



Getting Ready for the Annual Meeting (February 1st, 2026)

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is next Sunday!

Copies of the Annual Report are in the Narthex.

Redeemer Leadership and Committee Needs for 2026

Some of our current leaders will continue on in 2026. There are some positions that we are looking to fill. We need new thoughts and young ideas. We are working on descriptions for the openings. In the meantime, please ask any of us on the Council or Pastor Matt for details.

You can consider a team lead, participate in specific activities that you have interest in or participate in the activities as they occur. Prayers are always helpful too.

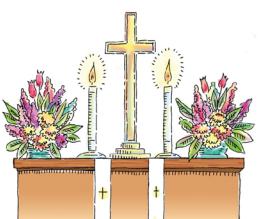
We need some change as our world changes and 2026 is the year to make that start to happen.

Blessings,
Lynn

Altar Flowers for 2026

The new sign-up sheet to sponsor Altar Flowers is now up in the Narthex. The cost will remain at \$25 for this coming year. You may mail a check to the church, place your check in the offering plate, or pay online (please be sure to designate your gift toward Altar Flowers). Please be sure to include:

- Your name
- Date you are sponsoring
- Any celebration or commemoration the flowers are honoring.



Altar Flowers