

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 24-25, 2026



14940 62nd St. N—Stillwater, MN 55082
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Third Sunday after Epiphany

Identity Revealed:

Jesus is the Light

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Loving Savior, our world can be dark and dreary. Our days can be long and tiresome. Thank you for the light of your promise and the warmth of your presence. Bless me in worship today. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: The prophet Isaiah vividly described humanity as "people walking in darkness." Enveloped by sin, suffering, and death, we find our minds and hearts clouded. But Isaiah foretold that a light would come. Jesus shines his light by preaching repentance and the good news of the kingdom. Our Savior is the Light of the world, and we reflect his light onto everyone around us.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: "Epiphany" comes from a Greek word that means "reveal." In this season we see Jesus begin his public ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. During Epiphany, we come to understand that when the true identity of Jesus is revealed, we realize our own true identity as well.

A WORD ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION: Our church observes the biblical practice of member communion (also called close communion). In Holy Communion we not only receive forgiveness from God, but we also express the unique relationship our members have with each other. If you are not a member of our congregation, we kindly ask that you not take communion today, but speak with our pastor after the service. We would love to share the sacrament with you in the future.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano: Madison Boerner

Men's Chorus Director: Steve Angus

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Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



HYMN: O Trinity, Most Blessed Light

CW 792



1 O Trin - i - ty, most bless - ed light, O U - ni -
2 To you our morn - ing song of praise, to you our
3 To God the Fa - ther, heav'n - ly light, to Christ re -



ty of sov - 'reign might, as now the fi - ery
eve - ning prayer we raise; our hum - ble joy shall
vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Spir - it



sun de - parts, come shed your light with - in our hearts.
ev - er be to praise your name e - ter - nal - ly.
let us raise one heart and voice in cease - less praise.

Please stand.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: **Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.** (*Psalm 32*)

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: **Almighty and merciful Father,**

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

And we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

(Sunday) Men Chorus

I Praise the God of Grace

By Susan Powell

Not what my hands have done can save my guilty soul,
not what my toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.

Refrain

I praise the God of Grace! I trust His truth and might!
He calls me His, I call Him mine. My God! My Joy! My Light!

Your voice alone, O Lord, can speak to me of grace.
Your pow'r alone, O Son of God, can all my sin erase. *(Refrain)*

Your work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin.
Your blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within. *(Refrain)*

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 8:19-9:4

The prophet foretold that people walking in darkness would see a great light.

¹⁹When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead

on behalf of the living? ²⁰Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. ²¹Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. ²²Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness.

¹Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

³You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

1 John 2:3-11

God's children walk in Christ's light by living in love for God and for one another.

³We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

⁷Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. ⁸Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

⁹Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. ¹⁰Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. ¹¹But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 9:2



Refrain



The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. **Refrain**

Gospel

Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus preached the light of the gospel to a world in the dark in unbelief.

¹²When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— ¹⁴to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶the people living in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ²⁰At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²²and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: O Christ, Our True and Only Light

CW 904



1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, en - light - en
2 Fill with the ra - diance of your grace the souls now
3 O gent - ly call those gone a - stray that they may
4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold, re - call the
5 That they with us may ev - er - more such grace with



those who sit in night; let those a - far now
lost in er - ror's maze; en - light - en those whose
find the sav - ing way; let ev - 'ry con - science
wan - d'ers to your fold; u - nite all those who
won - d'ring thanks a - dore and end - less praise to



hear your voice and in your fold with us re - joice.
in - most minds some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.
sore op - pressed in you find peace and heav'n - ly rest.
walk a - part, con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,
you be giv'n by all your Church in earth and heav'n.

Sermon

Based on Matthew 4:12-23

"Lord of Light, Call us from Darkness!"

Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Be seated.

Offering



Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The meal also bears witness to the unity and fellowship we share with each other. Therefore, we invite to communion all those who share in our confession by virtue of their membership here or in a sister WELS or ELS congregation. We ask visitors to speak to the pastor before communing.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -
 san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he,
 bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

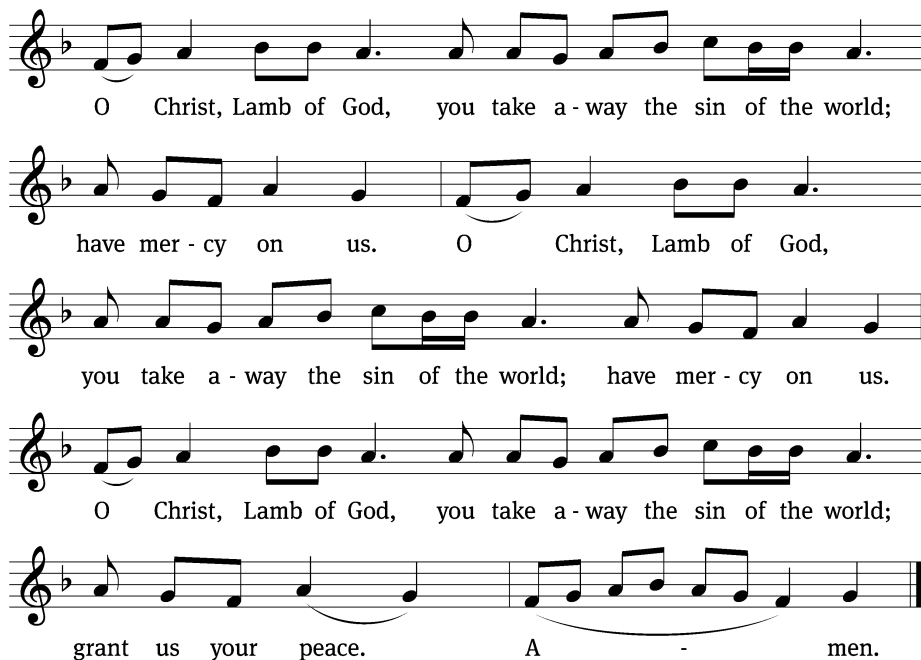
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated.

Communion Distribution

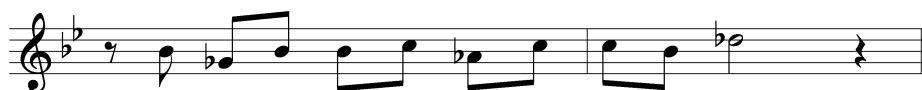
For those who cannot have any alcohol for personal or medical reasons we offer white grape juice. You will find cups of white grape juice in the center of each communion tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by request for those medically unable to tolerate gluten.

Communicants may choose to receive the wine by individual or common cup. If you choose the common cup, please allow the individual tray to pass and then assist the minister by helping to tip the common cup.

If you have not communed with us before, please see the announcement on the inside cover of this service folder.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: *Take and Eat*

CW 676



2 I am the way that leads the ex - ile home;

3 I am the Lamb that takes a - way your sin;

4 I am the cor - ner - stone that God has laid;



I am the truth that sets the cap - tive free;

I am the gate that guards you night and day;

a cho - sen stone and pre - cious in his eyes;



I am the life that rais - es up the dead;

you are my flock: you know the shep - herd's voice;

You are God's dwell - ing - place, on me you rest;



I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.

you are my own: your ran - som is my blood.

like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.

- 5 I am the light that came into the world;
I am the light that darkness cannot hide;
I am the Morning Star that never sets;
lift up your face, in you my light will shine. (Refrain)
- 6 I am the first and last, the Living One;
I am the Lord who died that you might live;
I am the bridegroom, this my wedding song;
you are my bride, come to the marriage feast. (Refrain)

HYMN: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

CW 713



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of Right - eous - ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark - ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Please stand at the pastor's direction.

Response of Thanksgiving

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **His mercy endures forever.**

Psalm 118:1

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

1 Corinthians 11:26

Closing Prayer & Blessing

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift.

We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn: The People Who in Darkness Walked

CW 381



1 The peo - ple who in dark - ness walked have seen a glo - rious
2 To us a child of hope is born, to us a son is
3 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, the Ev - er - last - ing
4 His right - eous gov - ern - ment and pow'r shall o - ver all ex -
5 Lord Je - sus, reign in us, we pray, and make us yours a -



light; the heav'n - ly dawn broke forth on those who
giv'n, and on his shoul - ders ev - er rests all
Lord, the Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, the
tend; on judg - ment and on jus - tice based, his
lone, for you are with the Fa - ther and the



dwelt in death and night, who dwelt in death and night.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, all pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, the God by all a - dored.
reign shall have no end, his reign shall have no end.
Spir - it ev - er one, the Spir - it ev - er one.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:15am in the sanctuary. Adult Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Identity Revealed: Jesus Calls You Blessed

Bible Readings: Zephaniah 2:3, 3:11-13; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Hymns: 619, 690, 849



Launching February 1 | Caring Sunday

Salem is excited to launch NOURISH, a new care ministry focused on feeding the body and lifting the spirit. Through meals, fellowship, and Christ's love, NOURISH supports those experiencing hardship while creating meaningful opportunities to serve one another.

NOURISH stands for: Nurture • Offer • Uplift • Restore • Include • Serve • Heal

Beginning Sunday, February 1, NOURISH will take place once a month on the first Sunday of the month, known as Caring Sunday. On these Sundays, the Caring Committee will host a table in the Narthex with opportunities to donate, share recipes, and learn more.

Please keep this ministry in your prayers as we begin. Pray for those who will serve and for those who will be served. See your announcements for more details about how to get involved.

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize I have sinned against God and deserve punishment, what will I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

Welcome to worship!

FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help. Please take note of a few helpful things:

- † **Restrooms** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers. Cards can be placed in the offering basket or left on the table near the sanctuary entrance.
- † Salem members give an **offering** to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.

FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- † If your child needs to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

