



January 25, 2026

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“The Church’s One Foundation”

- ♪ The Church’s one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord; She is His new creation
By water and the Word. From heav’n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
- ♪ Elect from ev’ry nation, Yet one o’er all the earth; Her charter of salvation:
One Lord, one faith, one birth. One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses With ev’ry grace endued.
- ♪ Though with a scornful wonder The world sees her oppressed, By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed, Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up, “How long?”
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.
- ♪ Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.
- ♪ Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One, And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won. O blessed heav’nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 644—Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt.; Text: Public domain

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

I will go to the altar of God,

To God my exceeding joy.

Psalm 43:4

The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light,

On them a light has dawned.

Matthew 4:16

Confession and Absolution

Today Jesus Christ comes to you with an invitation, saying, “Repent” and “Follow Me.” Let us prepare to receive His Word, leave our sin behind, and follow Him in the power of His forgiveness.

Lord God, open our ears to hear Your call of salvation and life. Enable us to hear the voice of Your Son, Christ our Lord, that His Word may move us to turn from our ways and our walk without You, and follow Him in faith, that we may learn and live in the light of Your love.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“Amazing Grace”

- ♪ Amazing grace—how sweet the sound— That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!
- ♪ The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.
- ♪ Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
- ♪ Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven’s joy and peace.
- ♪ When we’ve been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we’d first begun.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 744—Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond; Text: Public domain

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:1–4

¹But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.” ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may 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.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

♪ Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Thou are the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will, While I am waiting, yielded and still.

♪ Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Search me and try me, Master, today!
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now, As in Thy presence humbly I bow.

♪ Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!
Power all power, surely is Thine! Touch m and heal me, Savior divine!

♪ Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Hold o’er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see Christ only, always, living in me!

The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration, Hymn 371-Text: Adelaide A. Pollard 1862-1934;
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Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Matthew 4:12–25

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹²Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

¹⁸While walking 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 fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

Children’s Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“When Peace Like a River”

- ♪ When peace, like a river, attendeth my way
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.
~It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.
- ♪ Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. ~It...
- ♪ He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! ~It...
- ♪ And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul. ~It....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 763-Text: Horatio G. Spafford 1828-88;
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Proclamation of the Word

“Why Repent?”

Matthew 4:12–25

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

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.
Amen.

Numbers 6:24–26

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

- ♪ Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.
- ♪ Before our Father’s throne We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.
- ♪ We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows The sympathizing tear.
- ♪ When here our pathways part, We suffer bitter pain;
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, We hope to meet again.
- ♪ From sorrow, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free
And perfect love and friendship reign Through all eternity.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 749-Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.; Text: Public domain

Postlude