

# Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 26, 2025

10:15 am

## Prelude

## Announcements

## Introduction

God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

**Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God, **you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In ✚ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

**Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn: ELW #886 "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

1. Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and king, the triumphs of his grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.
3. The name of Jesus charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease,  
sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
4. He speaks, and list'ning to his voice, new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

**5. Look unto him, your Savior own, O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone, be justified by grace!**

**6. To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.**

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### **Prayer of the Day**

**Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## *Readings and Psalm*

### **First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

*The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that "the joy of the LORD is your strength."*

<sup>1</sup>All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup>Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup>Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup>So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup>And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

### **Psalm: Psalm 19**

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>**One day tells its tale to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

<sup>3</sup> Although they have no words or language,  
and their voices are not heard,  
<sup>4</sup> **their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**  
<sup>5</sup> It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.  
<sup>6</sup> **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**  
<sup>7</sup> The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.  
<sup>8</sup> **The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**  
<sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.  
<sup>10</sup> **More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**  
<sup>11</sup> By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.  
<sup>12</sup> **Who can detect one's own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**  
<sup>13</sup> Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.  
<sup>14</sup> **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

*The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.*

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup> whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member

suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31a</sup> But strive for the greater gifts.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia.* The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, and to proclaim release to the captives. *Alleluia.* (Luke 4:18)

## **Gospel: Luke 4:14-21**

*Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.*

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup> He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

## **Sermon**

### **Hymn of the Day: ELW #715 "Christ, Be Our Light"**

**1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.**

*Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

**2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. Refrain:**

**3. Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. Refrain:**

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for worth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. *Refrain:*
5. Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain:*

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## **The Apostle's Creed**

### **Peace**

### **Offering**

#### **Offering Hymn: ELW #677 "This Little Light of Mine"**

1. This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine; this little light of mine, I'm goin'a ;let it shine; this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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### **Offering Prayer**

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

### **Blessing**

The Spirit of the triune God ✚ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

#### **Sending Hymn: ELW #551 "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"**

1. The Sprit sends us forth to serve; we go in Jesus' name to bring glad tidings to the poor, God's favor to proclaim.
2. We go to comfort those who mourn and set the burdened free; where hope is dim, to chare a dream and help the blind to see.
3. We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter joy like seed and, all our days to cherish life, to do the loving deed.
4. Then let us go to serve in peace, the gospel to proclaim. God's Spirit has empowered us; we do in Jesus' name.

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## Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

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## Announcements

✚ **The Annual Meeting** is set for today, following worship.

✚ **Thank You** Eric Henderson for leading worship today.

✚ Calvary is looking for a volunteer (or volunteers) to represent Calvary on the **Welcome Committee**, which is where Calvary and four other Mankato ELCA churches are sponsoring a family of four from Nicaragua. Ariac and Andrea Cruz and their two boys have been in Minnesota almost two years. This committee meets monthly at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Contact Bob Diesch or Jolene Anderson for more information on the committee.

✚ **Prayers:** Please continue to keep our members and loved ones in your prayers, including Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Vivian, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Chloe, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Paul, Jeannie and Gregg Nelson.