

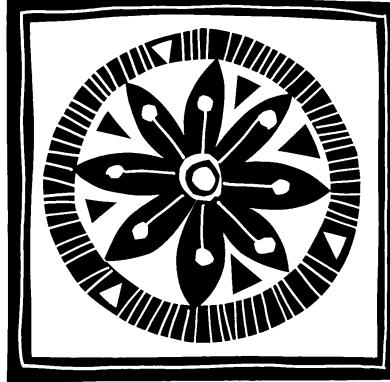
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Our Mission: To share Christ's love with the greatest number of people.

Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 25, 2026
The Service at 8:30 and 11 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

PRELUDE

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand.

Pastor Blessed be the holy Trinity, [☩] one God,
 the Creator of heaven and earth,
 the Word who spoke life into being,
 the Wind stirring the waters.

Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor Mighty God, lover of justice,
Congregation **you call us to life in community,
 but we have served our own interests
 at the expense of our neighbors.
 We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
 We say the right words,
 but our hearts are far from you.
 Turn us to seek your face.
 Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
 that we may do justice, love mercy,
 and walk humbly with you, our God.
 Amen.**

Pastor The former things have passed away,
 and new things God now declares:
 Like a spring of water that never fails,
 God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
 and forgives your sin in [☩] Jesus' name.
 May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
 and bless you with the gift of peace.

Congregation **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING #513

We invite you to turn and face the cross (as you are comfortable). Please turn to the front of the sanctuary after the cross has passed you. All sing.

Refrain
Leader All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.
of - fer - ing for - give-ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: NENO LAKE MUNGU, Tanzanian tune; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, b. 1919 Text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress Arr. © 1968 Austin C. Lovelace, admin. Augsburg Fortress

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Congregation **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

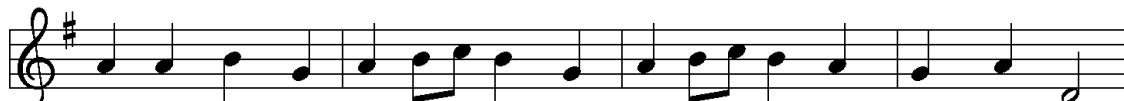
All sing.



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.
Congregation **And also with you.**
Pastor Let us pray.
Lord God, your loving kindness 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.
Congregation **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



THE WORD

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.

¹ 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.

Reader Word of God, word of life.
Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Congregation sings words in bold.



¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then ¹ shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I ¹ be afraid?
⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one ¹ 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 ¹ in the temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will ¹ give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- ¹ on a rock.
⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies ¹ who surround me.**
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make
music ¹ to the LORD.

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, ¹ when I call;
have mercy on me and ¹ answer me.
⁸ **My heart speaks your message— ¹ “Seek my face.”**
Your face, O LORD, ¹ I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- ¹ vant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of ¹ my salvation.

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

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.

¹⁰ 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.

Reader Word of God, word of life.
Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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.

The Gospel is announced.

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

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.

¹² 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 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.

SERMON

What Next? Pastor John Teitman

The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 Though with a scorn-ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 by schisms . . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

APOSTLES' CREED

Asst. Min.
Congregation

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.

PRAYERS

Prayers are included for the whole Church, the nations, those in need, the parish and special concerns.

After each portion of the prayers:

Asst. Min.
Congregation

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

At the end of the prayer:

Pastor

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Congregation

Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor
Congregation

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say, "Peace be with you" or similar words.

TEMPLE TALK

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Our offerings to God are first of all just that – offerings of thanksgiving to God. As you are able please continue to support our ministry with your financial gifts.

Please sign the red attendance book and pass it down the pew.

OFFERTORY

"Christ's Flock" by Martin Shaw

COME TO THE TABLE

OFFERTORY SONG *Please stand and sing.*

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Asst. Min.
Congregation

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.



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor Congregation	The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Pastor Congregation	Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor Congregation	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Pastor	<p>It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.</p> <p>By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:</p>

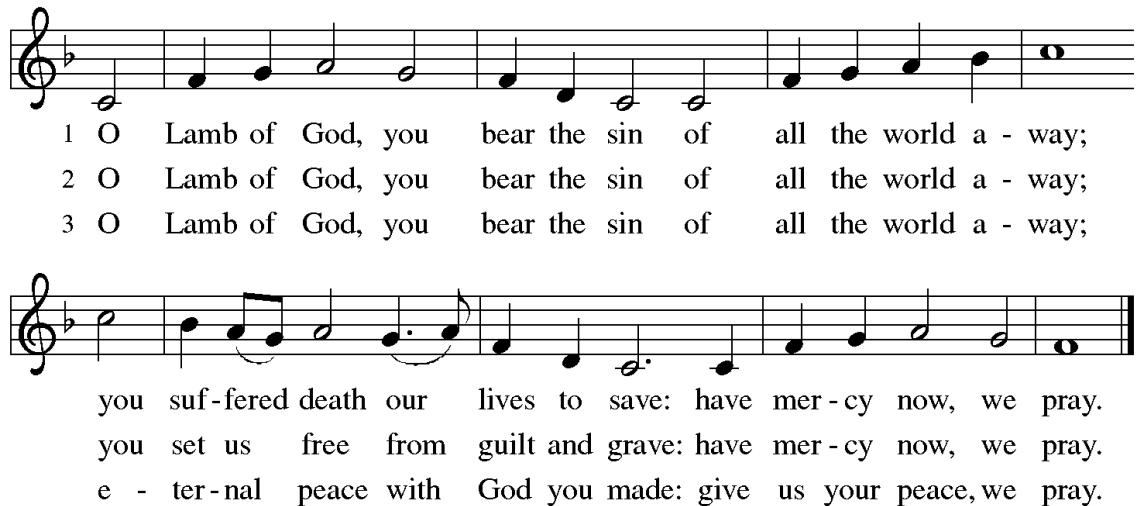
All sing.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glory. 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, ho-san-na in the high-est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All sing.



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a-way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a-way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a-way;
you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e-ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

INVITATION TO COMMUNE

Pastor

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion will be offered by intinction.

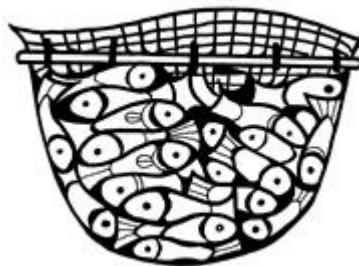
*For those not comfortable receiving from those who are distributing the elements, a separate tray is available.
Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

Anyone not comfortable receiving the bread or the wine is invited to come forward for a blessing.

To receive a blessing, please cross your arms.

You are an important part of our faith community.

In Holy Communion we receive the true body and blood of Christ.



COMMUNION HYMN: WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME #798

All sing.

Will You Come and Follow Me
The Summons

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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Please stand.

Pastor
Congregation

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Asst. Min.

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.

Congregation

Amen.



THE SENDING

BLESSING

Pastor

May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
☩ bless you now and forever.

Congregation

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: HALLELUJAH! WE SING YOUR PRAISES #535

Please follow the cross, turning toward the cross as it passes by your pew. As the cross leads, so Christ leads us out into the community to share Christ's love.

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona

Refrain—sung twice each time

Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our

bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your

ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la.
prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.

1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

Repeat stanza, then sing refrain

Text: South African; tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984
Music: HALELUYA! PELO TSA RONA, South African; arr. *Freedom Is Coming*
English text and arr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

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DISMISSAL

Asst. Min. Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Children are welcome in our worship. There is a children's worship bulletin for them. If you prefer, a nursery and/or childcare is available for children up to age 3 during all worship services.

Hearing help available: We have personal hearing amplification units available for your use. Please speak with the person at the sound board.

Church Phone: 703-356-3346
Email: church@redeemermclean.org

*Sunday Services:
8:30 and 11 am for traditional services and 9:45 am for the contemporary service*

Next Sunday's Scripture: Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12

A New Way to Follow

Nations wage war, gangs battle each other, families quarrel, communities of faith divide. We hear others say and even hear ourselves saying, "There is no other way."

In Jesus, the light of God's kingdom draws near and a new way shines for us to follow.

In today's gospel, Jesus first withdraws (Matt. 4:12). The word *anachoreo* (to withdraw) is used ten times in Matthew's gospel—each time as Jesus' response to violence or conflict. John the Baptist has been arrested, and tension is beginning to build. The way of God and the way of the world's rulers are beginning to collide.

In Jesus, a new kingdom has drawn near, a kingdom of nonviolence and non-retaliation. Jesus' withdrawal is not simply passivity but points to a vision of an alternate way of reigning as king. Jesus rules not with violence, abusive power, or through division but through voluntarily emptying himself of power, identifying with the oppressed and burdened, and healing that which is broken. Into this new reign, Jesus calls the disciples to follow him, a way that appears foolish and weak to those who cannot discern it. To those God calls, it is the wisdom and strength, the light and power of God.

To follow in the way of Jesus places one's life at risk, for it eventually leads to the cross. To follow, though, implies someone is leading. The way God calls us to follow has already been filled with the loving kindness and mercy of Jesus who has gone before us and who leads us to the foot of the cross. There, in the shadow of the cross, God makes a way for unity in the midst of division, for healing in the midst of brokenness, for peace in the midst of violence, for forgiveness in the midst of betrayal. Around the table, the kingdom of God draws near; Jesus' broken body announces forgiveness, healing, peace, and unity. Many bodies are nourished and formed into the one body of Christ, called and sent to follow in the way of Jesus, to be broken and shed for the sake of the world.

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

Today we are using Setting 10 from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal.

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