

3rd Sunday after Epiphany
January 25, 2026



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

-Isaiah 9:2

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

TEACHING AND REACHING PEOPLE FOR THE KINGDOM

Pastor: Chuck Westra

Pastor: Isaac Crass

Staff Minister: John Dale

Preschool Director: Juliana Kock

Lead Preschool Teacher: Emma Lucht

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WELCOME VISITORS! We are glad that you have joined us for worship this morning. We have come into God's presence to worship him as our Lord and Savior.

- ❖ Restrooms are located to the right of the main doors.
- ❖ There is a staffed nursery available outside of the worship area for children under 3.
- ❖ There is a private area for nursing mothers located in the main preschool classroom.
- ❖ Coffee and drinks are available after the service.
- ❖ Please sign the guest register in the fellowship area.

3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 25, 2026

IDENTITY REVEALED—JESUS IS THE LIGHT

IDENTITY

revealed

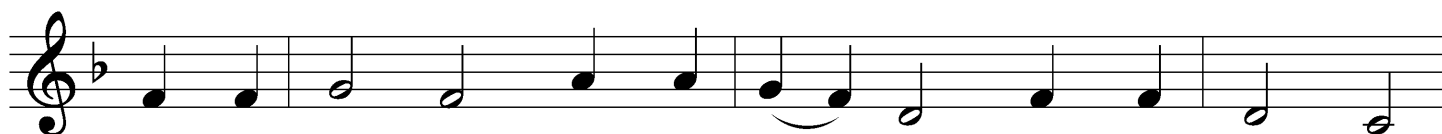
SERIES THEME:

“Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “reveal.” It is the season when you see Jesus begin his public ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. During Epiphany, you will come to understand that when the true identity of Jesus is revealed, you realize your own true identity as well.

THEME OF THE DAY:

The prophet Isaiah vividly described humanity as “people walking in darkness.” Then he foretold that a light would shine on them. Enveloped by sin, suffering, and death, we find our minds and hearts clouded. But Jesus is revealed as the promised light. He 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.

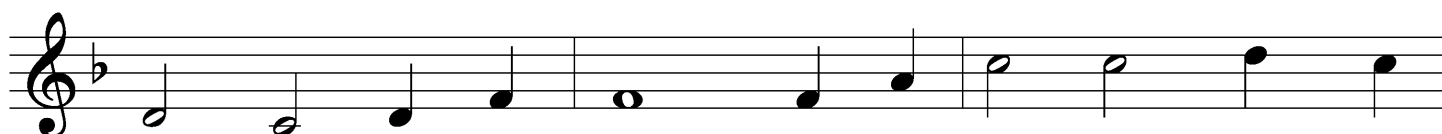
517 PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS



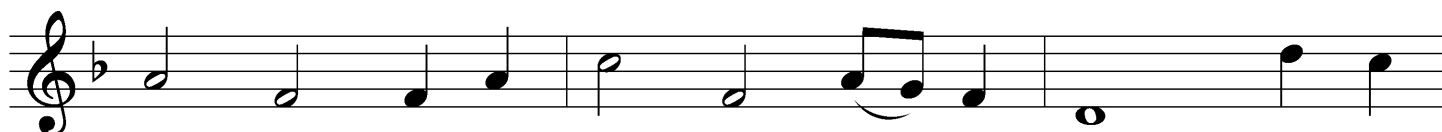
1 Praise the one who breaks the dark - ness with a lib - er -
 2 Praise the one who blessed the chil - dren with a strong, yet
 3 Let us praise the Word in - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



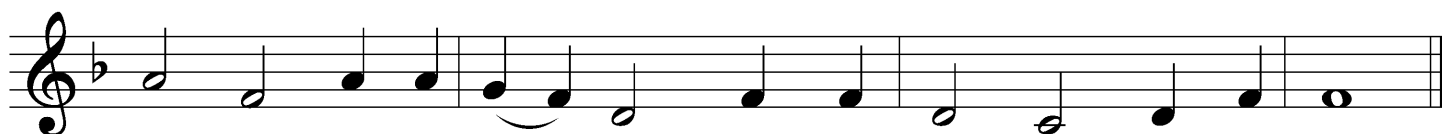
at - ing light; praise the one who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing
 gen - tle, word; praise the one who drove out de - mons with the
 in our place; Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious that we



blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the one who preached the
 pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the one who brings cool
 may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, calm - ing
 wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand; from this
 glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done; let us



storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the Fa - ther's word of peace.
 well comes liv - ing wa - ter, quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 praise the true Re - deem - er, praise the one who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955, alt. Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844 Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission:
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INVOCATION ¹

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ²

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

P: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, merciful Father,**

I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.

In what I have done and left undone,

I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.

I have not loved others as you command.

For this I deserve your punishment now and forever.

I am sorry for my sins.

I repent of them.

I beg for your mercy.

P: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for us.

C: **Cleanse me from my sins.**

Release me from my guilt.

Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.

¹ The Invocation, which uses the words spoken over us at our baptisms, remind us of who we are (children of God) and what we are members of—the church of God on earth.

² Publicly confessing sins might seem like a strange practice to those not familiar with it. But to confess our sins is to speak the truth about our lives. To confess our sin is to state our agreement with God's just verdict that we have sinned against him and so deserve only death and hell (1 John 1:8-10). The truth of our sinfulness is answered by the truth of God's forgiveness for the sake of the suffering and death of his Son. From the lips of a pastor "called and ordained" as a servant of the Word, we hear God himself speaking absolution – that is, the forgiveness of sins. To that forgiveness faith says, "Amen," that is, "Truth."

P: Jesus says to his people, "If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven."
Do you believe this?

C: **Yes, I believe.**

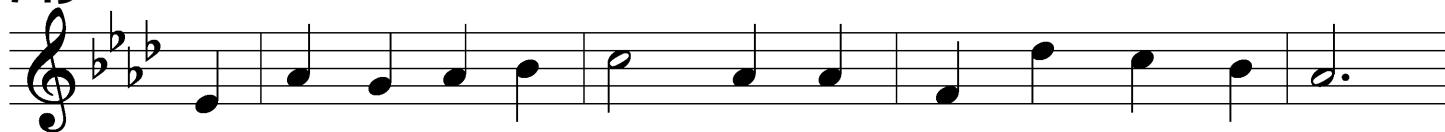
P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.
In the name of Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

C: **Amen.**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us, has reconciled us to God, and has promised us the power to forgive and love one another. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

C: **Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.**

743 I HEAR THE SAVIOR CALLING



1 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! The gos - pel comes to me;



my eyes, once closed in blind - ness, are o - pened now to see



that I my - self was help - less to live e - ter - nal - ly,



but, dy - ing, Christ did save me, and now he calls for me!

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BAPTISMS OF:

NICHOLAS STUMBO AND LIBBY STUMBO (THURSDAY SERVICE)
BENNETT AARON LEE (11:00 SERVICE)

PRAYER OF THE DAY ³

P: 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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 8:19-9:4 ⁴

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.

³The Prayer of the Day is a short general prayer that makes a request of God based on the theme of the day. It is (normally) a five-part prayer: 1) Address; 2) Basis for the petition; 3) the Petition; 4) Reason for the petition; 5) Conclusion of praise to God.

⁴The prophet foretold that people walking in darkness would see a great light.

9 Nevertheless, 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.

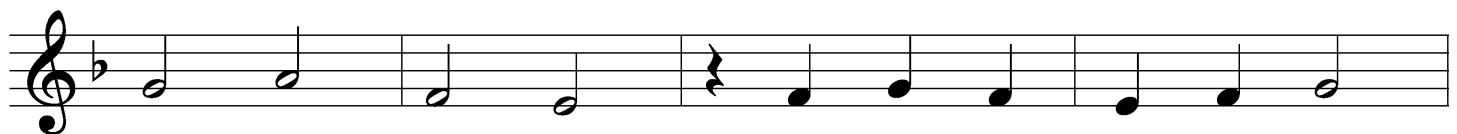
³You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.

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.

375 ARISE AND SHINE IN SPLENDOR



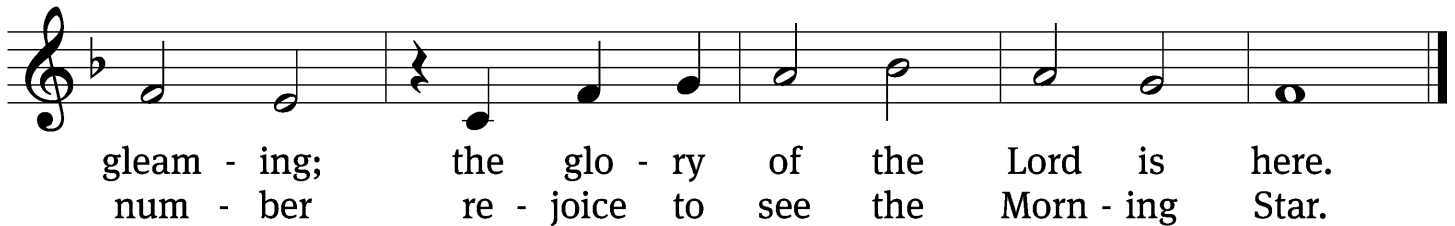
1 A - rise and shine in splen - dor; let night to
4 Your heart will leap for glad - ness when from the



day sur - ren - der. Your light is draw - ing near.
realms of sad - ness they come from near and far.



A - bove, the day is beam - ing, in match-less beau - ty
Your eyes will wake from slum - ber as peo - ple with - out



Text: Martin Opitz, 1597–1639, abr.; tr. Gerhard Gieschen, 1899–1987, alt. Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450–1517 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712940 Tune: Public domain

SECOND LESSON: 1 JOHN 2:3-11 ⁵

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.



⁵ God’s children walk in the light of Christ by living in love for God and for one another.

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

606 ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re-deemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, abr., alt. Tune: adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867; Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827 Text and tune: Public domain

⁶ The Verse of the Day, traditionally called the Alleluia (a Latinized form of the Hebrew word meaning "praise the Lord") highlights a text of particular relevance to the theme of the day.

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 4:12-23

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.”

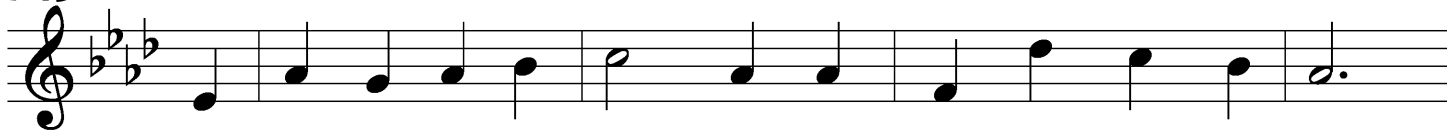
¹⁸As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ²⁰At once they left their nets and followed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



743 I HEAR THE SAVIOR CALLING



2 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He leads a soul to me,
 3 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He gives this charge to me:
 4 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He chang - es hearts for me;
 5 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! His call has ur - gen - cy;



a soul in bit - ter an - guish, one need - ing to be free.
 to serve the best I'm a - ble, what - e'er the call may be.
 from door to door I wit - ness to share my Sav - ior's plea.
 each mo - ment souls are dy - ing, soon comes e - ter - ni - ty.



The gift I have to of - fer is Christ, my Lord's de - cree
 Thus hand in hand with oth - ers who share the gos - pel key
 Yet noth - ing can be add - ed, no word on bend - ed knee,
 And so, my pre - cious Sav - ior, this is my hum - ble plea:



that all have been for - giv - en; my Sav - ior calls for me!
 we spread the gos - pel ti - dings; my Sav - ior calls for me!
 be - yond the sim - ple gos - pel; my Sav - ior calls for me!
 pre - pare me for my mis - sion, for you are call - ing me!

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Jesus Calls You to Walk in the Light

APOSTLES' CREED ⁸

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.	<i>2 Cor. 6:18</i> <i>Is. 51:13</i>
I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.	<i>1 Cor. 8:6; Jn. 3:18</i> <i>Lk. 1:35</i> <i>Lk. 1:34; 2:7</i> <i>Lk. 23:16</i> <i>Mt. 27:32-61 et al.</i> <i>1 Pet. 3:19</i> <i>1 Cor. 15:4b</i> <i>Ac. 2:33-34</i> <i>Heb. 1:13</i> <i>Mt. 25:31; 2 Tim. 4:1</i>
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.	<i>Mt. 3:16-17</i> <i>Eph. 5:23</i> <i>Eph. 4:3-6</i> <i>Rom. 4:6-8</i> <i>Ecc. 12:7</i> <i>1 Th. 4:17</i>

⁷The Sermon is the Word of God, proclaiming the living voice of the Gospel to God's people. The preacher is the appointed representative who illuminates the Scripture for the congregation and applies it to our contemporary situation. He is neither lecturer nor entertainer, but a link through whom the Holy Spirit brings law and gospel to bear upon the hearts and minds of the worshiper and enlivens their faith and life.

⁸ Having heard the Word of God, we confess our faith in his name. The creed is our saying back to God what he has first said to us. In the Creed we acclaim the truth of the triune God and his work of salvation accomplished for us in his incarnate Son, Jesus Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Philippians 2:11).

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

The members of Christ Our Savior have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. An offering box is located in the back of the sanctuary. We also offer an electronic giving option. If you would like to start giving your weekly offering electronically, please go to the App Store or Google Play and



search for "Vanco Mobile" to download the App for free or use this QR Code: This offering is a joyful response of our faith; so, if you are visiting with us this morning, we do not want you to feel obligated. Please stand for the next hymn.

518 CHRIST BE MY LEADER

1 Christ be my lead - er by night as by day;
safe through the dark - ness, for he is the way. —
Glad - ly I fol - low, my fu - ture his care, —
dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH ⁹

⁹ Through the Prayer of the Church we heed Christ's command to "love one another." One of the greatest forms of love we can show for our neighbor is to pray for them.

LORD'S PRAYER ¹⁰

C: 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.

518 CHRIST BE MY LEADER



2 Christ be my teach - er in age as in youth,
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife;
drift - ing or doubt - ing, for he is the truth. —
death can - not hold me, for he is the life. Nor
Grant me to trust him; though shift - ing as sand, —
dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor sin and its stain can
doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926 Tune: Irish Text: © 1964, ren. 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712940 Tune: Public domain

¹⁰ The Lord's Prayer is a prayer given us by Christ himself. Daily the baptized people of God pray. The Lord's Prayer is both a prayer to pray and a model for all our prayers.

THE LORD'S BLESSING ¹¹

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. 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.

746 I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

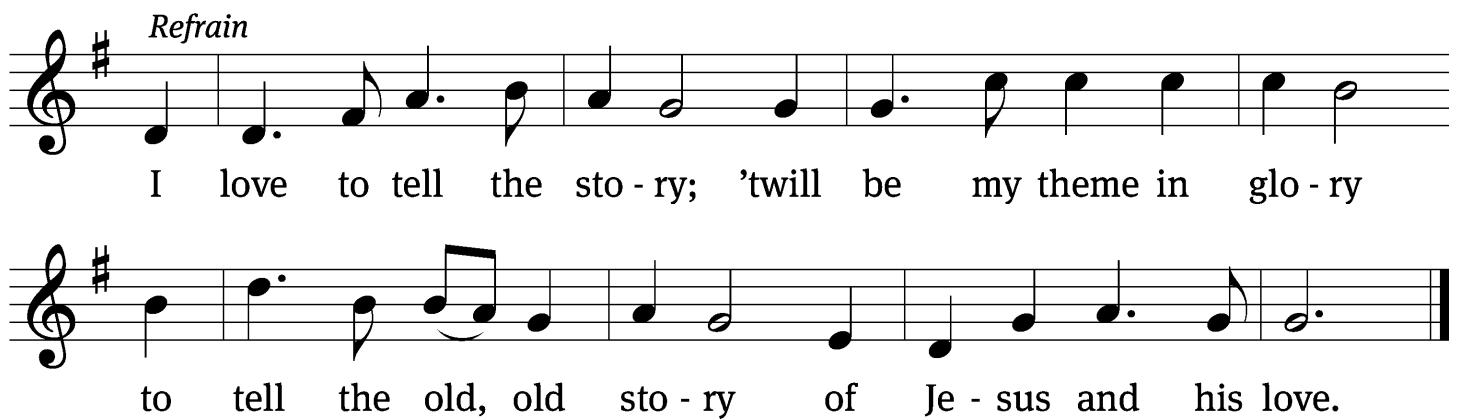
1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 The Sav - ior of all peo - ple has brought his peace to you;
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
now go and tell the sto - ry, for oth - ers need it too.
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry be - cause I know it's true;
To ev - 'ry land and na - tion ring out the gos - pel call;
And when in scenes of glo - ry I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
pro - claim that Christ is ris - en and grants his peace to all.
'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

¹¹ As we began the service with the Lord's name, so we are sent out in his name. Worshippers may make the sign of the cross on themselves as they are encouraged to live each day with Baptismal confidence, knowing that they have the Lord's blessing and presence with them.



Text (sts. 1–3): Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911, verses, abr., alt.; (Ref): William G. Fischer, 1835–1912, refrain Text and tune: Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS:

The altar flowers are given by the Crass family in thanks for God's gift of baptism.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

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

SERVING THEIR SAVIOR AT CHRIST OUR SAVIOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1:

Flowers: **Needed**

Nursery: 8:30am—Jamie and Sawyer Davis

11:00am—Lisa Seltz

Ushers: 8:30am—Ryan Hintz and Christopher Fowler

11:00am—Bob Davis and Larry Williams

First Sunday Snacks: Weidenbenner

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT CHRIST OUR SAVIOR:

Sunday Worship	8:30 AM & 11:00 AM
Thursday Worship	7:00 PM
Sunday School, Adult & Teen Bible Study	9:45-10:45 AM
Lord's Supper	1 st and 3 rd Sundays
Youth Confirmation	Sundays, 6:00 PM
Men's and Women's Bible Study	Sundays, 6:00 PM
Choir	Wednesdays, 7:00 PM
Women's Bible Study	2 nd & 4 th Wednesdays, 10:00 AM
Iron Sharpens Iron	1 st Saturday of the month, 8:30 AM
Youth Ski Trip	2/6-2/8



Want to hear more from us? Use this QR code to sign up for our weekly devotion and newsletter.

Adult Bible Study: You have heard the accusation: "The Bible is an old book filled with contradictions. How can you believe it is the Word of God?" As Christians, we *do* believe the Bible is the Word of God. We do *not* believe the Bible is filled with contradictions. And yet, we can admit that there are paradoxes in the Bible. A paradox is something that sounds like a contradiction, but actually reveals a deeper truth. For example, the Christian is both a sinner *and* a saint. Jesus is both Shepherd *and* Lamb. Faith is individual *and* communal. In this Bible study series, we will discuss some of the paradoxes of Christianity. We will also examine some of the places the Bible appears to contradict itself and offer possible resolutions. Join us on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary during the Bible study hour (9:45am).

Bible 101 Class: We are starting another round of our Bible 101 on January 26. The class will meet on Mondays at 6pm. This 12-week course is a review of the primary teachings of the Bible. It is intended for all who want to learn more about the Bible. It serves as our membership class at Christ Our Savior, as well as a great review for all members. Please speak to a member of the pastoral staff or email the church office (office@coslutheran.com) if you are interested in attending.

February Adult Bible Study: *Bless the Lord, O my soul.* In the Bible, the word “soul” refers to who we are--physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally. We hope you can join us for a look at how we can care for the “soul” that God has given us. We will focus especially on caring for our “soul” from a mental health perspective. Come learn more about this important topic on Sunday, February 8th, at 9:45am during the Bible Study hour.

Call Received: Dear members of Christ Our Savior, I recently received a call from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Rapid City, SD, to serve as one of their pastors. In our church body, pastors, teachers, and staff ministers occasionally receive calls from other churches and schools. Over the coming weeks, I will deliberate between my call at Christ Our Savior and this call from the members of St. Paul's. I request your prayers. Also, if you have any questions about the call process, feel free to ask.
In Christ,
Pastor Crass

2025 Tax Statements: Giving statements for 2025 are now in the church mailboxes. Please email the church office (office@coslutheran.com) if you have any questions.

Council Meeting Minutes: Notes from the December and January COS council meetings are available under the bulletin board in the fellowship area.

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