

Sunday & Monday January 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

# IDENTITY

revealed

**JESUS IS THE LIGHT**



**ST. PAUL**  
LUTHERAN MINISTRIES



# ST. PAUL

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## LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

*As Christians united in common faith, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to nurture believers and bring the lost to faith in Jesus through God's Holy Word and Sacraments.*

### **Welcome!**

- Restrooms are in the church basement located just at the bottom of the front stairs. Changing tables are available to parents.
- An elevator is available on the north side of the church entrance.
- The basement is available to parents needing to quiet small children. The area is equipped with closed circuit TV.
- Out of respect for all who worship today, please silence all electronic devices.
- Children's Activity Bags are available in the narthex. Please return them to the 'used' bin after service.

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## JESUS IS THE LIGHT

*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.*

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Service Setting 2, CW p. 172

### Hymn

### Christ Begins

CW 385

**Holy Baptism** (10:30 service)

CW p. 151

Brandon Richard Whalley

Stand

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

### Confession

CW 172

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176

The musical notation consists of six staves of music in common time, treble clef, and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with each line of text corresponding to a staff. The lyrics are:

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his  
peo - ple on earth. Lord God,  
heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we  
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your  
glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

peace to his people on earth.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-cieve our prayer.

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his people on earth. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it in the glo-ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen

Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703831

## The Word

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

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.

**Amen.**

Be seated

## First Reading

*Isaiah 8:19—9:4*

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

<sup>19</sup>When 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? <sup>20</sup>Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. <sup>21</sup>Distressed 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. <sup>22</sup>Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and

darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness.

<sup>1</sup>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—

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.  
<sup>3</sup>You 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.

<sup>4</sup>For 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm** (Choir sings verses, congregation sings refrain)

**We Are Singing**

Psalm 27D

*Refrain*



We are sing - ing, for the LORD is our light, we are  
sing-ing, for the LORD is our light. We are sing - ing, for the  
LORD is our light, we are sing-ing, for the LORD is our light.  
We are sing-ing, oh, we are sing-ing, for the

LORD is our light.  
We are sing-ing,  
oh,  
we are sing-ing, for the LORD is our light.

*Verses*

The LORD is the strength of our lives; of  
One thing have we asked of the LORD, yes, our  
When bur-dens are heavy to bear, our  
We walk in the strength of the LORD; God's

whom shall we be a-fraid? Though foes may be  
this is the thing we seek: to dwell in the  
shel-ter is God a-lone. Our feet are  
love is ev-er sure. We shout that the

near to de-stroy, the LORD will be our light.  
house of the LORD, to live with God for ev-er.  
lift-ed high, yes, high up-on a rock.  
world-may hear; we sing a joy-ful song.

Text: South African; tr. and original verses by Hal H. Hopson

Tune: Zulu melody, adapted by Hal H. Hopson

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## Second Reading

*1 John 2:3-11*

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

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

<sup>7</sup>Dear 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. <sup>8</sup>Yet 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.

<sup>9</sup>Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. <sup>10</sup>Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. <sup>11</sup>But 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

*Isaiah 9:2*

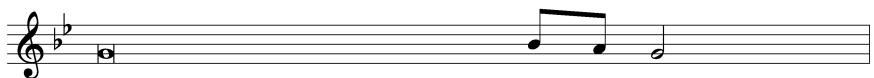


*Refrain*



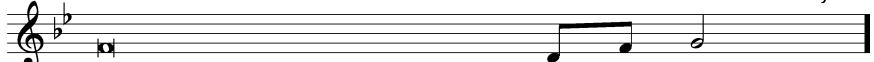
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Tone*



The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

*Refrain*



on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

Tune: © 2010 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703831

## Gospel & Sermon Text

*Matthew 4:12-23*

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>18</sup>As 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. <sup>19</sup>“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>20</sup>At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>21</sup>Going 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, <sup>22</sup>and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## **Children’s Message**

**Hymn**

**I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

*CW 713*

**Sermon**

**Pastor Matt Holtz**

*Stand*

## **Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**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 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.**

*Be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church**

## **Offering**

### **Choir Anthem**

### **Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)**

*Words and Music by Ed Cash, Martin Cash, Franni Cash, Scott Cash and Andrew Bergthold;*

*Arranged by Cliff Duren; Copyright 2020 We The Kingdom Music*

*Light of the world, Treasure of heaven, brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky. Joy of the Father, reach through the darkness, shine across the earth, send the shadows to flight.*

*Light of the world from the beginning, the tragedies of time were no match for Your love. From great heights of glory, You saw my story. God, You entered in and became one of us.*

*Refrain: Sing hallelujah! Sing hallelujah! Sing hallelujah for the things He has done! Come and adore Him! Bow down before Him. Sing hallelujah to the Light of the world! Light of the world!*

*Light of the world, Crown in a manger, born for the cross, to suffer, to save. High King of heaven, death is the poorer. We are the richer for the price that He paid! (Refrain)*

*Light of the world soon will be coming. With fire in His eyes, He will ransom His own. Through clouds He will lead us straight into glory. And there He shall reign forevermore! Forevermore! (Refrain)*

*Stand*

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **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.**

### **Blessing**

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.**

### **Hymn**

### **May the Peace of God**

**CW 929**

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#### **Acknowledgments**

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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### **WORSHIP NOTES**

Preacher: Matt Holtz

Presiding Minister: Justin Shrum

Accompanist: Becky Ryan

Featuring the Hallel Group

#### **Service Teams:**

8:00 a.m.	Team Blob; AV: R. Volhard
10:30 a.m.	Team Hoh; AV: T. Luehring
6:00 p.m.	Team Waack