



FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

**The people walking in darkness have
seen a great light.**

**For those living in the land of the
shadow of death, the light has dawned.**

ISAIAH 9:2

Third Sunday after Epiphany

JANUARY 25, 2026

WELCOME



Worship Series: Identity Revealed

January 25, 2026

“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.

Today's Focus: 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.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

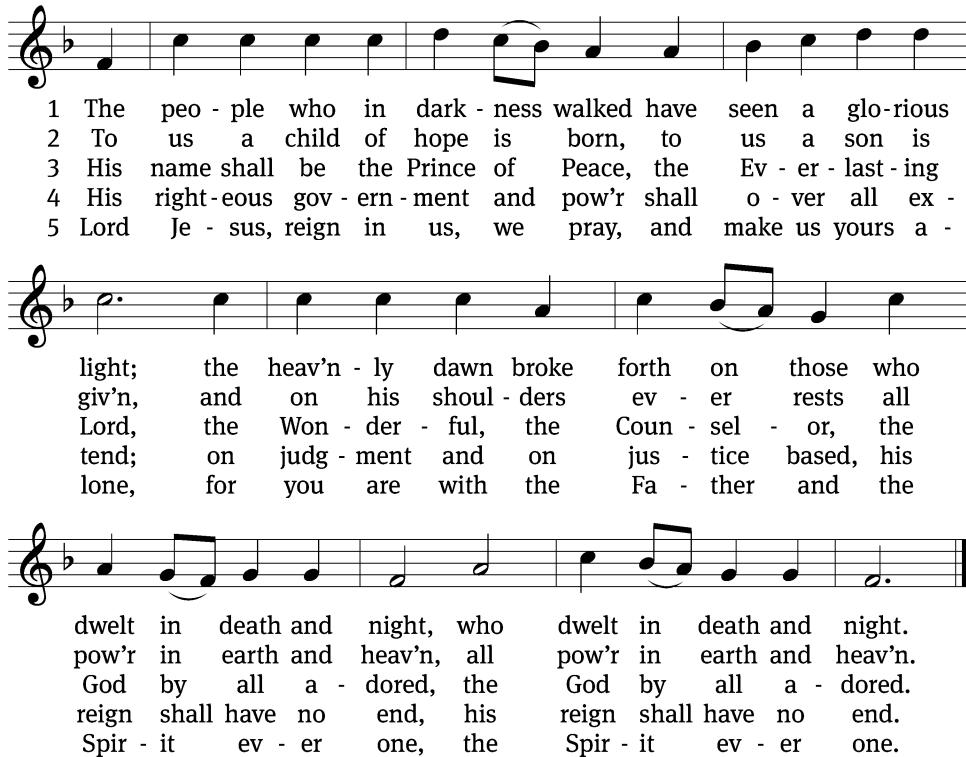
Presiding Minister: Pastor Derek Bartelt

Organist: Ben Warmuth | **Elder:** David Thurow

Altar Guild: Kelly Schwartz and Helen Hacht | **Projectionist:** Margie Smith

Opening Hymn

381 The People Who in Darkness Walked



1 The peo - ple who in dark - ness walked have seen a glo-rious
2 To us a child of hope is born, to us a son is
3 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, the Ev - er - last - ing
4 His right-eous gov - ern - ment and pow'r shall o - ver all ex -
5 Lord Je - sus, reign in us, we pray, and make us yours a -

light; the heav'n - ly dawn broke forth on those who
giv'n, and on his shoul - ders ev - er rests all
Lord, the Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, the
tend; on judg - ment and on jus - tice based, his
lone, for you are with the Fa - ther and the

dwelt in death and night, who dwelt in death and night.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, all pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, the God by all a - dored.
reign shall have no end, his reign shall have no end.
Spir - it ev - er one, the Spir - it ev - er one.

Text: John Morison, 1749-1798, abr., alt.
Tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561
Text and tune: Public domain

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

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

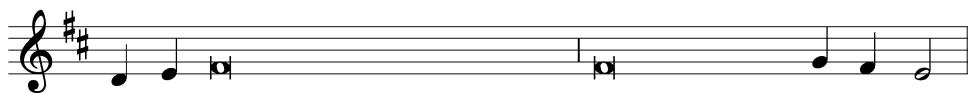
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son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

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy



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



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



Tune: William Gokelman; David Kauffman
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Glory to God in the Highest

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to

God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,

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. 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 - ceive our prayer. For
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
 Lord, 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.
 Glory to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
 God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
 and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

First Reading

Isaiah 8:19—9:4

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

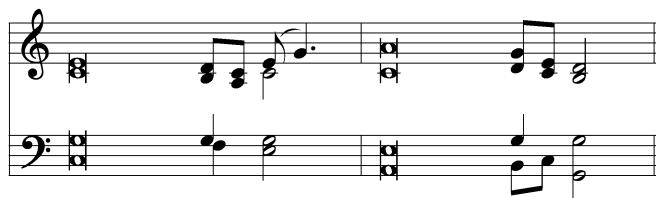
Psalm 27

Refrain



The LORD is my light, the LORD is my help, the
LORD is my salvation.

Tone



The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom / shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I / be afraid?

One thing I ask / from the LORD,

this only / do I seek:

that I may dwell in the house / of the LORD

all the days / of my life,

to gaze on the beauty / of the LORD

and to seek him in his / temple. *Refrain*

He will hide me in the shelter of his / sacred tent

and set me high up- / on a rock.

I remain confi- / dent of this:

I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land / of the living.

Wait / for the LORD;

be strong and take heart and wait / for the LORD.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in / the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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;

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

Refrain

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Gospel

Matthew 4:12-23

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

904 O Christ, Our True and Only Light



1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, en - light - en
2 Fill with the ra - diance of your grace the souls now
3 O gent - ly call those gone a - stray that they may
4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold, re - call the
5 That they with us may ev - er - more such grace with

those who sit in night; let those a - far now
lost in er - ror's maze; en - light - en those whose
find the sav - ing way; let ev - 'ry con - science
wan - d'wers to your fold; u - nite all those who
won - d'ring thanks a - dore and end - less praise to

hear your voice and in your fold with us re - joice.
in - most minds some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.
sore op - pressed in you find peace and heav'n - ly rest.
walk a - part, con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,
you be giv'n by all your Church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Tune: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, Nürnberg, 1676, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Offering

The Sacrament

Preface

Musical notation for the preface. The key signature is G major (one sharp). The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. The lyrics are: The Lord be with you.

Musical notation for the preface. The key signature is G major (one sharp). The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. The lyrics are: And also with you.

Musical notation for the preface. The key signature is G major (one sharp). The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. The lyrics are: Lift up your hearts.

Musical notation for the preface. The key signature is G major (one sharp). The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. The lyrics are: We lift them up to the Lord.

Musical notation for the preface. The key signature is G major (one sharp). The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. The lyrics are: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Musical notation for the preface. The key signature is G major (one sharp). The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. The lyrics are: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts,
heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to 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.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my \dagger body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my \dagger blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us, grant us peace.

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Distribution Hymn

558 Salvation unto Us Has Come

1. Sal - va - tion un - to us has come by God's free grace and
2. What God did in his law de - mand and none to him could
3. It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream that God his law had
4. From sin our flesh could not ab - stain, sin held its sway un -

fa - vor; good works can - not a - vert our doom, they help and
 ren - der caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand for man, the
 giv - en that sin - ners could them-selves re-deem and by their
 ceas - ing; the task was use - less and in vain, our guilt was

 save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, who
 vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those pure de - sires the
 works gain heav - en. The law is but a mir - ror bright to
 e'er in - creas - ing. None can re-move sin's poi-soned dart or

 did for all the world a - tone; he is our one Re - deem - er.
 spir - it of the law re - quires, and lost is our con-di - tion.
 bring the in - bred sin to light that lurks with - in our na - ture.
 pu - ri - fy our wick - ed heart, so deep is our cor - rup - tion.

5 Yet as the law must be fulfilled
 or we must die despairing,
 Christ came and has God's anger stilled,
 our human nature sharing.
 He has for us the law obeyed
 and thus the Father's vengeance stayed
 which over us impended.

6 Since Christ has full atonement made
 and brought to us salvation,
 each Christian therefore may be glad
 and build on this foundation.
 Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
 your death is now my life indeed,
 for you have paid my ransom.

7 Let me not doubt, but truly see
your Word cannot be broken;
your call rings out, "Come unto me!"
 No falsehood have you spoken.
 Baptized into your precious name,
 my faith cannot be put to shame,
 and I shall never perish.

8 The law reveals the guilt of sin
 and makes us conscience-stricken;
but then the gospel enters in
 the sinful soul to quicken.
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live;
the law no peace can ever give,
 no comfort and no blessing.

9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
 and rests in him unceasing;
and by its fruits true faith is known,
 with love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify;
works serve our neighbor and supply
 the proof that faith is living.

10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
 to Father, Son, and Spirit,
the God who saved us by his grace;
 all glory to his merit!
O triune God in heav'n above,
you have revealed your saving love;
 your blessed name be hallowed!

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551, abr., alt.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Etlich Cristlich Lider, Wittenberg, 1524
Text and tune: Public domain

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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.

Closing Hymn 614 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise | V. 1,4

Text: W. Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, abr., alt.
 Tune: Welsh, Caniadau y Cysegr, Denbigh, 1839
 Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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