



**January 26, 2025**  
**Worship with Holy Communion**  
***Third Sunday After Epiphany***  
**10:00 a.m.**

***Pastor Samantha Perret, Presiding***

***Welcome to all who worship with us today, especially our visitors. We invite you to return and worship with us again.***

Hymns are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Service Book and Hymnal (red book).



**+ GATHERING +**

Welcome and Announcements

\* Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful God,

**C: 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.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

*Music today by Barbara Mase*

**\*Gathering Hymn:** *Arise, Your Light Has Come* **ELW:** #314

\*Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

**C: 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.**

+ WORD +

*Reading for us today is: Blanche Feero*

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

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. 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. 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. 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. 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. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

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. 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."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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

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. 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.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 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. 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. 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? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be?

As it is, there are many members, yet one body. 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." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 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; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 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. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"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, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

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. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

**Hymn of the Day:** *Christ, Be Our Light*

**ELW:** #715

### **\*Apostles' Creed**

Let us confess our faith, in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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.**

*Sharing prayers with us today is: Lisa Rapisarda*

### **Prayers of Intercession:**

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery. Be present to all who are sick, grieving or in any need, especially those on our prayer list below, all whom we send cards through our Care Card Ministry, on our prayer tree and those we now name in our hearts or with our voices... [*Current prayer list: Matt, Kristina, Jace, Keith W, Brittany, Larisa & JTL, JP, Barbara S, Kathy M, Joshua, Luna, Myra S, Elaine W, Jim C, Arlene & William S, Judy J, Jacky A, Eva B, Shawn Y, Candie L, The LeClair family, Mark B, Nadia & Gary M, Glenn & Ann, Betsy C, Adam K, Don M, Lori, Susan A, Randy and Priscilla B, Randolph K, Jeff S.*] God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Dear God, we give you thanks for the gift of life to Martina Persaud, Rita Villano, Joshua Rapisarda and Pastor Sam who will be celebrating their birthdays this week. Grant them the joy of your continued presence throughout the years to come. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Generous God, we know that all good things come from you, and we give you thanks for the many blessings we have received. We name before you now some of the gifts for which we are thankful... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**Amen.**

**\*Sharing the Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

+ Meal +

\*Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray,

**C: 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.**

\*The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; 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:

**C: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, god of power and might. Heaven and Earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life.

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

③ 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 peace, grant us peace.



*Assisting with Communion today is: Sr. Carol Weaver*

**Communion Distribution:** This is the Lord's table and **all** are invited to participate in this banquet of life.

\*Post Communion Blessing

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

**C: Amen.**

**A: Let us pray.**

**C: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.**

**+ SENDING +**

P: The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

**C: Amen.**

**Sending Hymn:** *We All Are One in Mission*

**ELW:** #576

**P: Go in peace, share the good news!**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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**Bible Study:** Tuesdays, at 6PM on Zoom and Thursdays, at 10am in the Conference Room.

**Altar Care Volunteers:**

Today: Del Blewitt & Seita Glasgow  
2/5: Sister Carol & Tish Hunter  
2/9: Charmaine Lawton & Delphine Blewitt  
2/16: Janine Kifer & Sister Carol  
2/23: Tish Hunter & Charmaine Lawton

**Hospitality Volunteers:**

1/26: No fellowship today due to the floor work in the Community Room  
2/2: TBD  
2/9: TBD  
2/16: Char Lawton & Becky Armington

**Cross of Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the  
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*To welcome all into safe, sacred relationship, as the Spirit works  
through us to embody God's love and grace in the world.*

