

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Michael Seifried

Arthur Berg, Director of Music

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————— WORSHIP, LOVE, AND SERVE — *God, neighbor, and creation* —————



Sunday, January 25, 2026
3rd Sunday after Epiphany

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.

VOLUNTARY

ELW 696 *Jesus Calls Us* ◇ *o'er the Tumult*, **ELW 511** *Thy Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness*, **ELW 307** *Light Shone in Darkness*, **ELW 513** *Listen, God Is Calling*, **ACS 976** *Come and See*, **ELW 306** *Come, Beloved of the Maker*, **ACS 979** *Making Their Way*, **ELW 674** *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*, **ELW 574** *Here I Am, Lord*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Come, Follow Me

Choir


Come, Follow Me echoes Jesus' invitation to the first disciples, preparing our hearts to hear his call and walk in his light.

Come Follow Me

Gael Berberick and Barney Walker


All are invited to sing along with the choir:

Refrain



Come, fol - low me and live; do not be a - fraid. Be -
lieve and trust in me; your faith will give you strength. Leave
all your fears be - hind you; let your heart be free, for
I will be your guide. Oh, come and fol - low me.

Verses



1. Come, fol - low in these foot-steps; I'll lead you gent - ly home.
2. Come, walk a - cross the wa - ter; place all your faith in me.
3. If you re-main with - in me, my words re - main in you.



1. No shel-ter, food nor mon-ey will you need up-on this road.
2. Cast all your doubts be-hind you to the wind and rag-ing sea.
3. What - ev - er you may ask of me, that is what I will do.

THE GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

(*) Please rise as you are able.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

P Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Mighty God,

C **lover of justice, 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.**

C **Amen.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

***GATHERING SONG**

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

ELW 582

1 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev - er dwell-ing in the ho - liest realms of light;
 2 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev - er liv - ing as the church's ver - y life;
 3 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev - er work-ing through the church's min - is - try;

Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er brood-ing o'er a world of gloom and night;
 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er striv - ing through us in a cease - less strife;
 quick-'ning, strength-'ning, and ab - solv - ing, set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free;

Ho-ly Spir-it, ev - er rais - ing those of earth to thrones on high;
 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev - er form-ing in the church the mind of Christ;
 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev - er bind-ing age to age and soul to soul

liv - ing, life - im - part-ing Spir-it, you we praise and mag - ni - fy.
 you we praise with end - less wor-ship for your gifts and fruits un - priced.
 in com-mu - nion nev - er end-ing, you we wor - ship and ex - tol.

*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.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 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.

Refrain



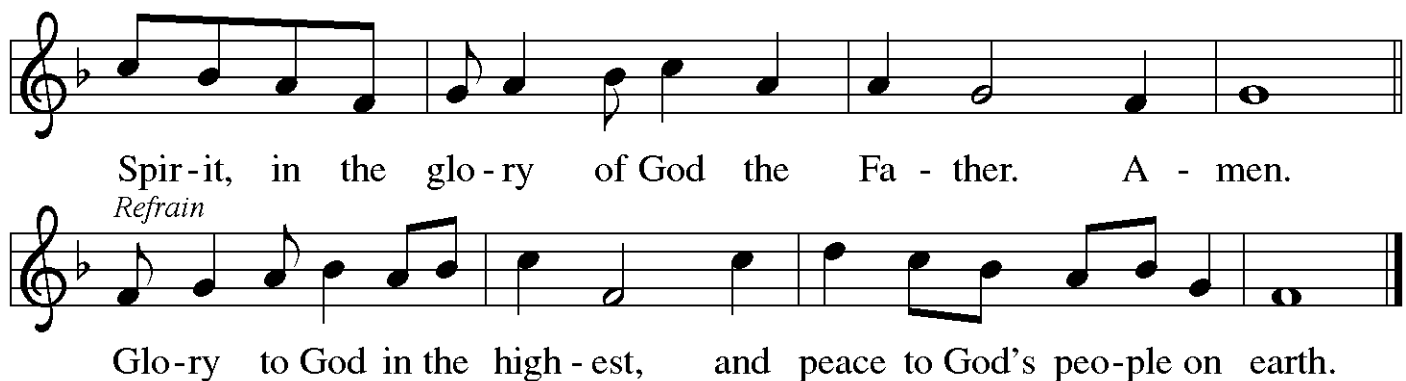
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 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



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Lord God, your lovingkindness 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.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST 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.

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 27:1, 4-9

| The LORD is my light and my salvation. (*Ps. 27:1*)

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one 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
in the temple.**

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high
upon a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.**

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices
of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message—"Seek my face."
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in

anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

SECOND 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.

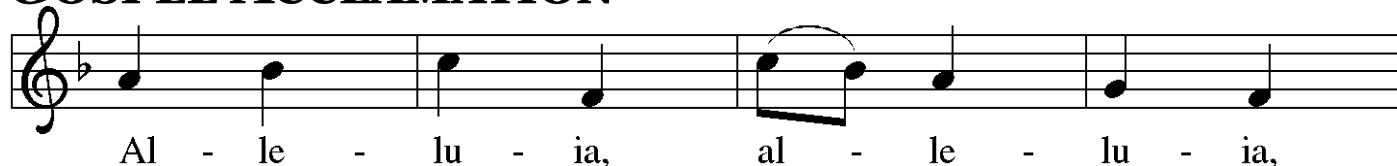
¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

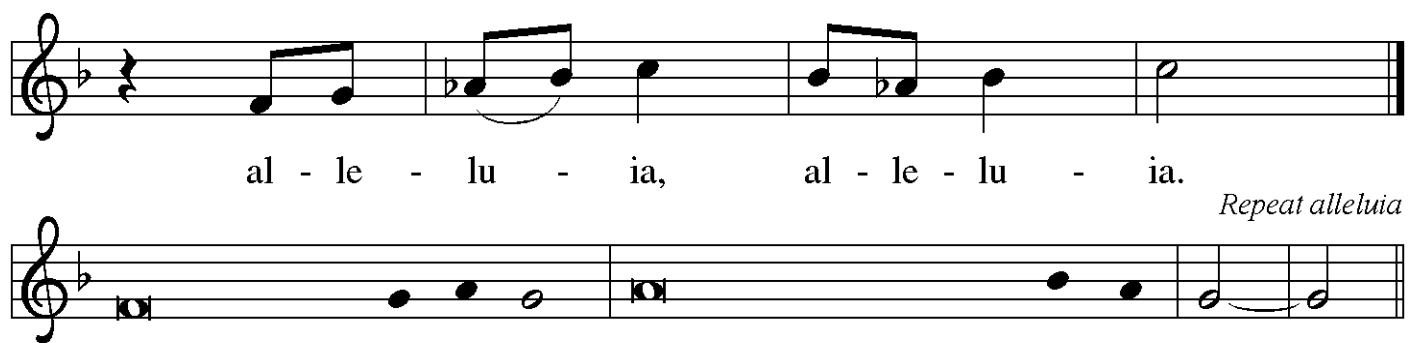
L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

(*) Please rise as you are able.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**





Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

***GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:12-23**

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

PUPPET SHOW

SERMON

Pastor Mike Seifried

(*) Please rise as you are able.

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons)

ELW 798



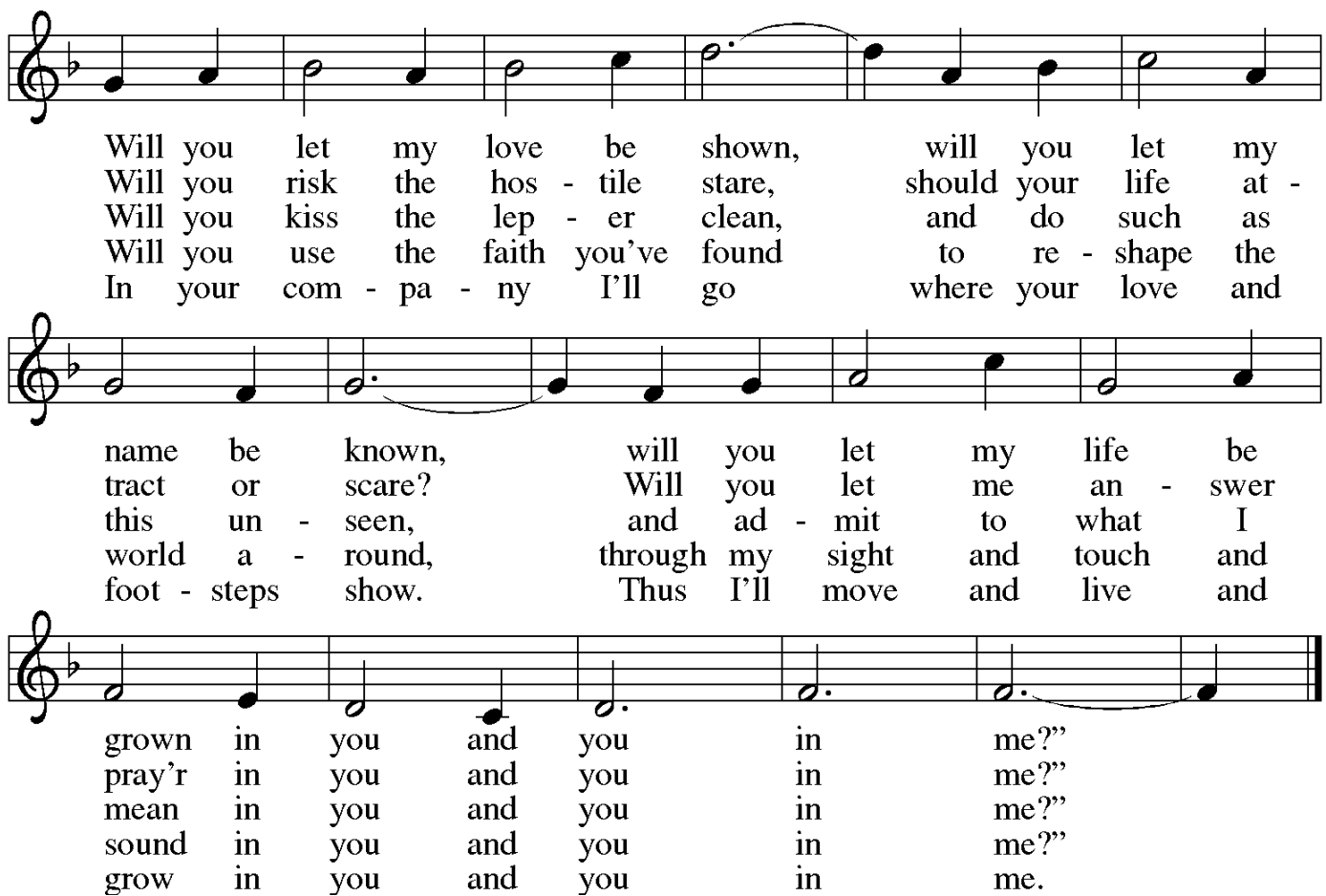
1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



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.

***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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide the newly baptized and deepen the faith of all who follow Christ.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth's resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority (*local and national officials may be named*).

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick (*especially*). We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters (*individuals or situations may be named*). Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Savior, you free us from the power of death. Lead and guide us until we come at last into the communion of all your saints in light.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C Amen

***PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Please be seated.

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Come Follow Me Forever

Come Follow Me Forever (Michael Haydn, arr. Patrick M. Liebergen) calls us to praise God's holy name and follow Christ together, offering our lives along with these gifts.

(*) Please rise as you are able.

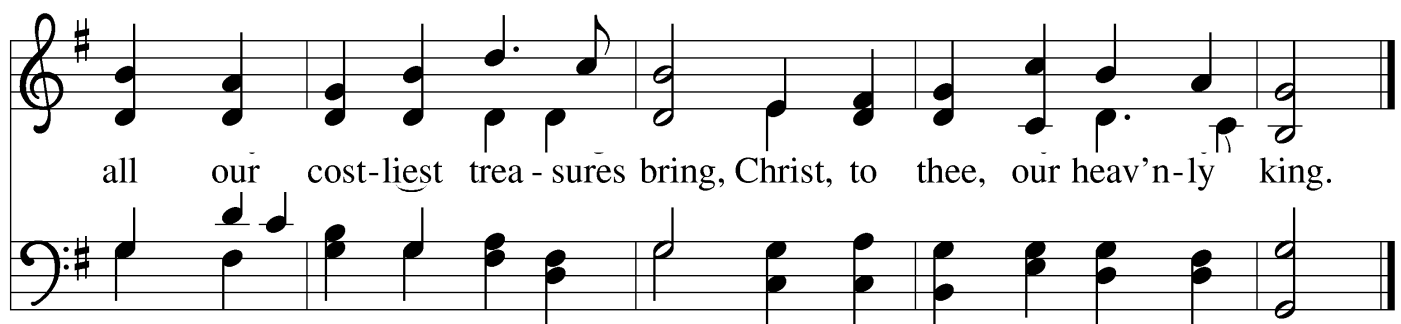
***OFFERING SONG**

As with Gladness Men of Old

ELW 302 (v. 3)

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system contains the first line of the hymn, and the second system contains the second line. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with the first line of lyrics starting with a '3' indicating a triplet. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some chords in the lower parts.

3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,



*OFFERING PRAYER

A 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.

C 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.

*PREFACE

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 in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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:





***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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:

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

P 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.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P 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.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

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

C Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

C Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

All are welcome at God's table and invited to receive the Sacrament of Communion, the body and blood of Christ. To receive communion, please come to the altar, picking up a small plastic cup on the way. In addition to bread and wine, grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available. Those who do not wish to receive communion may come forward for a blessing. Those who are not able to come forward may have communion brought to them by the pastor and assisting minister.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Lamb of God, you

One Bread, One Body

Refrain

ser - vant or free,
man - y the works,
scat - tered and grown,

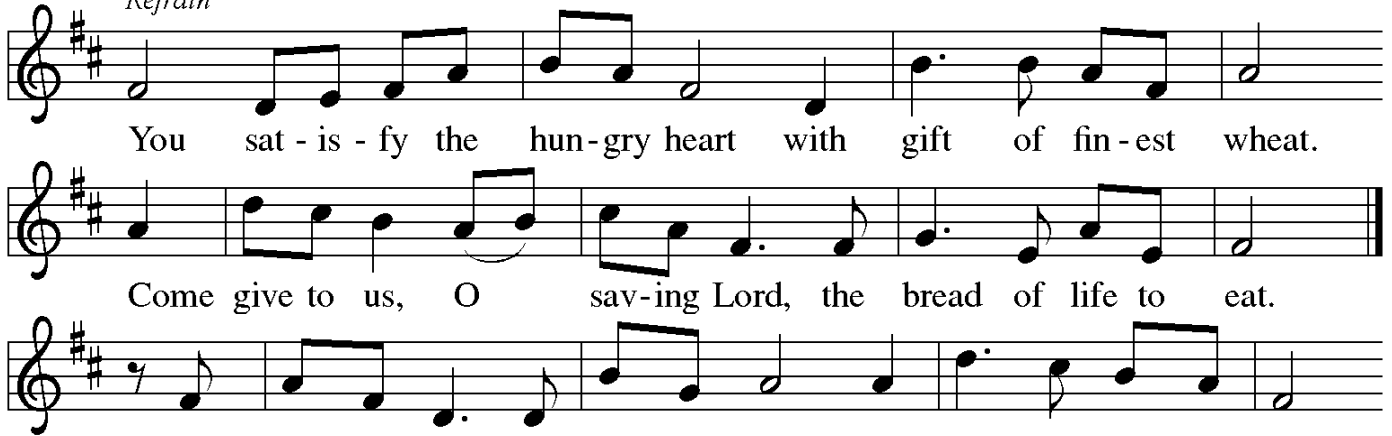
ser - vant or free,
man - y the works,
scat - tered and grown,



You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (Gift of Finest Wheat)

ELW 484

Refrain



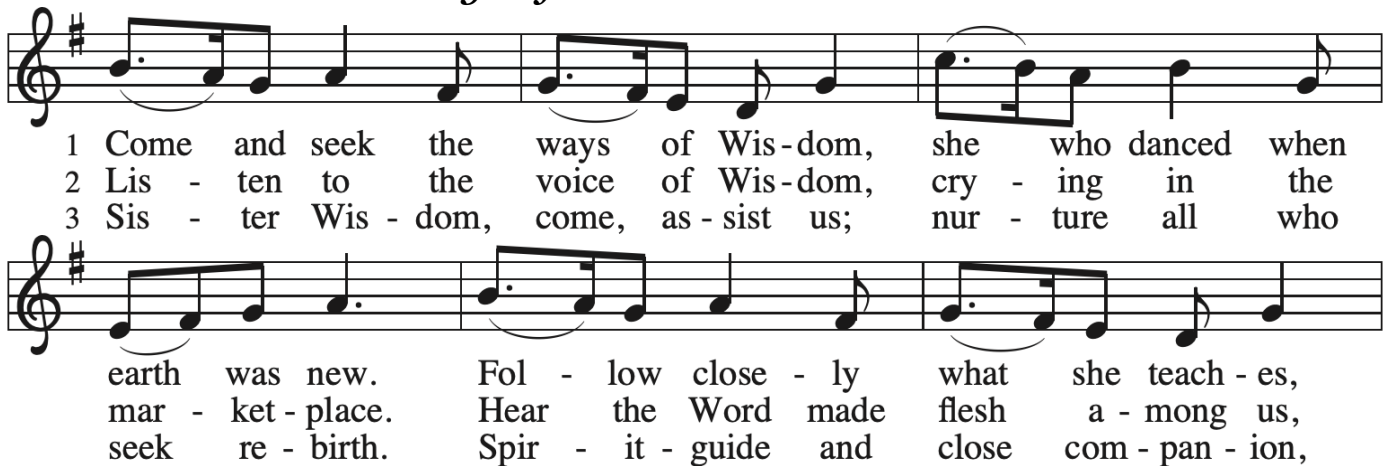
- 1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

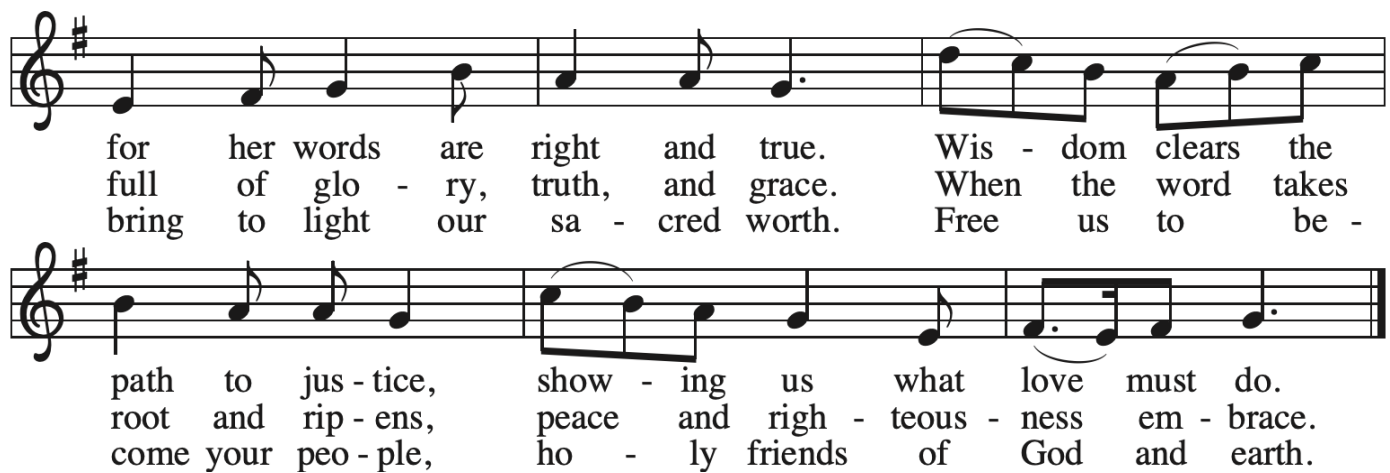
Refrain



Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

ACS 971





(*) Please rise as you are able.

*BLESSING

P The body and blood of Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A 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.

C Amen.

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*BLESSING

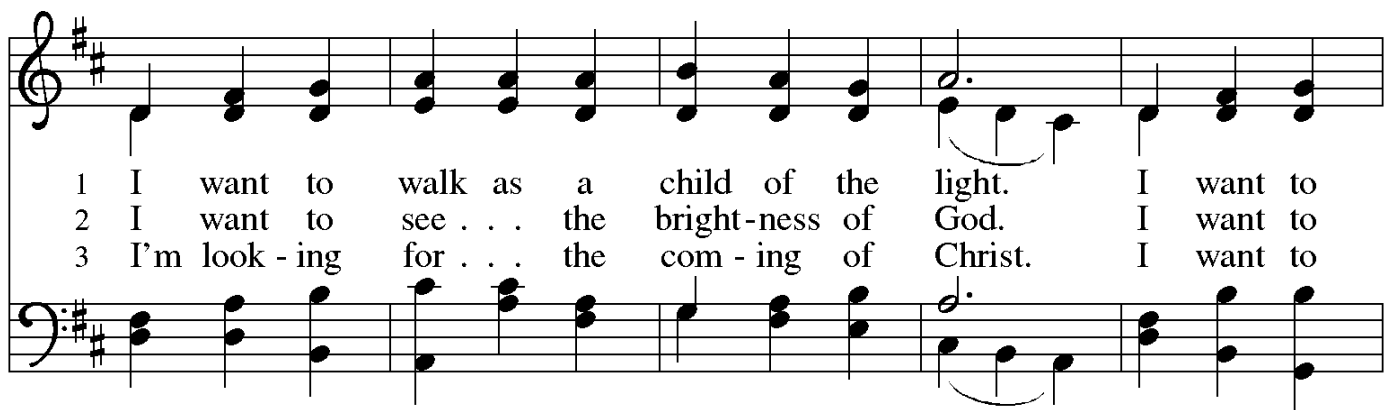
P May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✝ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

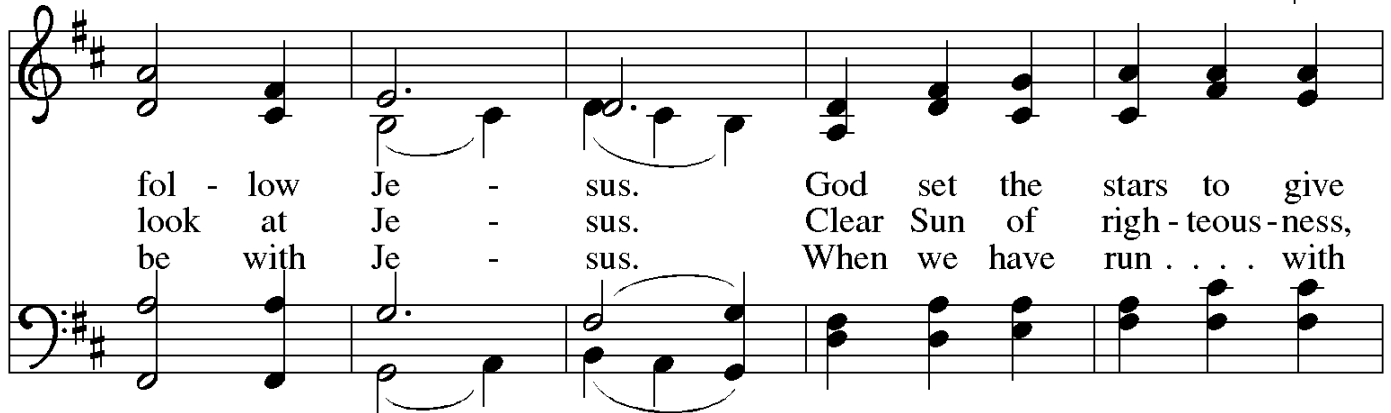
SENDING SONG

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

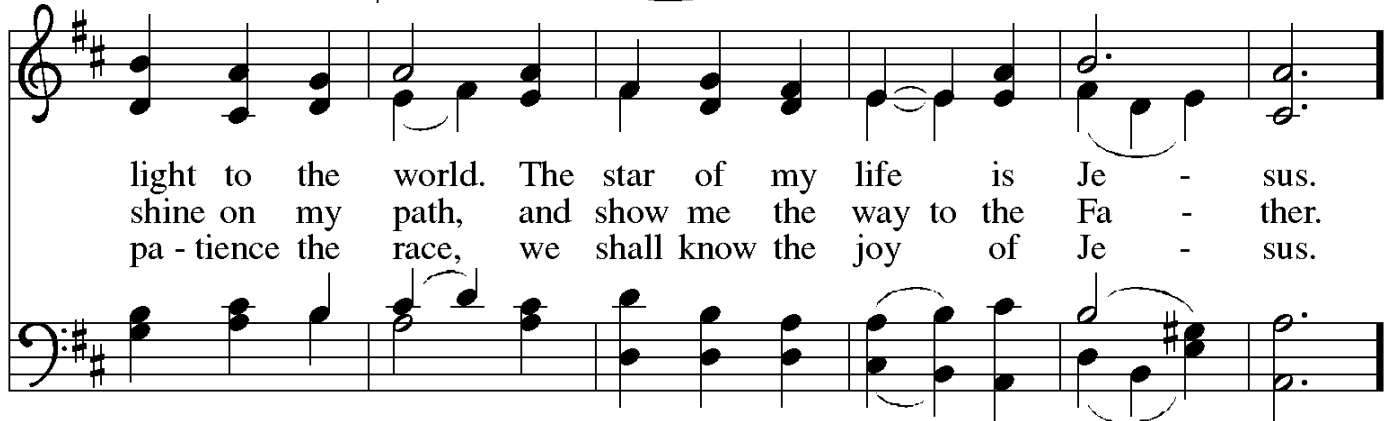
ELW 815



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

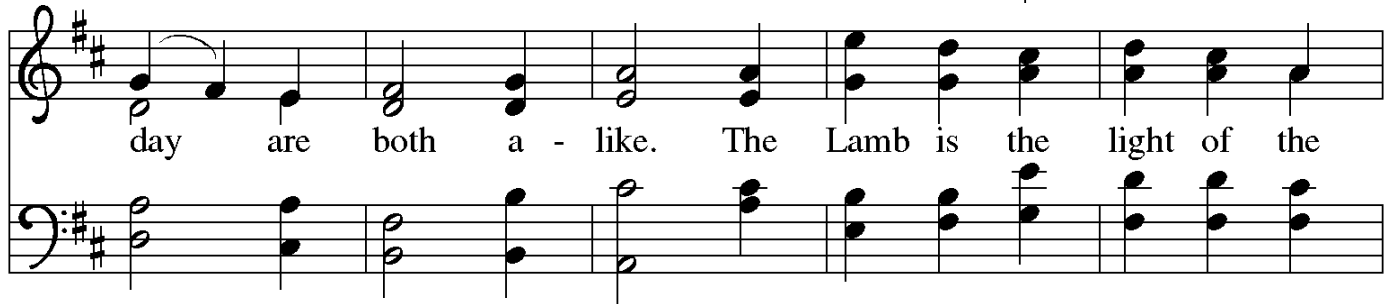


light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ sends us forth to use our gifts and voices, sharing the good news with all we meet.

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📖 Sermon Study 📖

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-18

Paul not only had personal knowledge of the church in Corinth, he also received reports from others (e.g. Chloe's people). From that information, he grew concerned about conflicts in the church, especially in today's reading, divisions among members of the congregation.

At the root of the problem of divisions was this tradition. At that time, a person instrumental in another's conversion was that person's "spiritual father." In Corinth that meant a new disciple should follow their "spiritual father." Hence, the designation of "I belong to Paul, I belong to Apollos," etc. (1 CORINTHIANS 1:12)

To Paul, such designations were deceptive and caused divisions

within the church. While they may be instrumental in our spiritual journey, human beings are not the source of our Christian faith. Christ is! In fact, Paul was glad he did not baptize many people in Corinth (1 CORINTHIANS 1:16). Instead, his call was to proclaim the good news of Christ, not the good news of Paul (1 CORINTHIANS 1:13). To him the message of the gospel (good news) is the message of the cross which provides the power of salvation unifying all people.

The standard Paul has left us is the message of Christ to unify all people. As Paul would also write in GALATIANS 3:23, “for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”