

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Douglas Skalka	Organist
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Missionaries: The Rev. Vincent Mroz, The Rev. Dr. Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl Naumann

Sunday bulletins, news, puzzles, and sermons are available on our website listed above. Services are live-streamed on our Facebook page.

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The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 25, 2026

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prayer on entering church: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

Variations on “More Love to Thee”

Ann Slowins

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN (*please rise and sing*)

The Church's One Foundation

Hymnal p. 644

The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses With ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O bless `ed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

CONGREGATION GREETINGS

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross (t) may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism

P: In the name of the Father and of the (t) Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

CONFESSIO^N¹

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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

C: **who made Heaven and Earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

(We take a moment of silence before the Lord as we call to mind how we have not properly loved Him, ourselves, or other people.)

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: **I, a poor miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

KYRIE

Hymnal p.186

P: Merciful God, we humbly implore You to cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth and finally attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

A: (*sung*) **Lord, have mercy upon us;**
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Hymnal p. 187

P: Glory be to God on high,
C: and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
 We praise Thee, we bless Thee,
 we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,
 we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty
 O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
 that takest away the sin of the world,
 have mercy upon us.
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world,
 receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
 have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: (*sung*) **And with thy spirit.**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (*sung*) **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:1-4

L: The first reading for the Third Sunday after The Epiphany is from chapter nine of Isaiah.

Light and joy will replace gloom and sadness.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

Psalm 27

L: 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?

C: **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?

L: When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.
Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

C: **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?

L: One thing have I asked of the Lord that I shall seek after,
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 inquire in His temple.
For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble;
He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high
upon a rock.
And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in His Tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and
make melody to the Lord.

C: **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?

L: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!
You have said, "Seek My face."
My heart says to You, "Your face, Lord, do I seek."
Hide not Your face from me. Turn not Your servant away in anger,
O You who have been my help.
Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

C: **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?

A: **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.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

L: The second reading is from chapter one of 1 Corinthians.

There should not be divisions in the one Church.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*please rise*)

Hymnal p. 190

P: Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness
but will have the light of life.

A: (*sung*) **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12–25

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew, chapter four.

C: (*sung*) **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

In Galilee, Jesus calls the first four disciples.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (*sung*) **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED²

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Christ, Our True and Only Light

Hymnal p. 839

O Christ, our true and only Light,
Enlighten those who sit in night;
Let those afar now hear Your voice,
And in Your fold with us rejoice.

Fill with the radiance of Your grace
The souls now lost in error's maze;
Enlighten those whose inmost minds
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.

O gently call those gone astray
That they may find the saving way!
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed
In You find peace and heav'nly rest.

Shine on the darkened and the cold;
Recall the wand'lers to Your fold.
Unite all those who walk apart;
Confirm the weak and doubting heart.

That they with us may evermore
Such grace with wondering thanks adore,
And endless praise to You be given
By all Your Church in earth and heaven.

SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Be Still My Soul

Kenneth T. Kosche

OFFERING SONG

Hymnal p. 192

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for ourselves, the church, and the world.

Following each petition:

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

P: Almighty God, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that He may rule and direct us according to Your will, strengthen us in all our temptations, afflictions and sorrows, defend us from all error, and lead us into all truth that we might continue steadfast in faith, may increase in all good works and in the end join You in Your everlasting kingdom of glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: (*sung*) **And with thy spirit.**

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: (*sung*) **Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with His favor and (†) give you His peace.

C: (*sung*) **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

The People That in Darkness Sat

Hymnal p. 412

The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.

To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness, The gath'ring nations come:
They joy as when the reapers bear
Their harvest treasures home, Their harvest treasures home.

To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulder ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored, The God by all adored.

His righteous government and pow'r Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end, His reign shall have no end.
Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one, And Holy Spirit, one.

Prayer after worship: Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

POSTLUDE

The People That in Darkness Sat

Brad Hall

¹*The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."* John 20:22-23. We take heart that the absolution proclaimed by the pastor is as from the Lord Himself.

²*It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.* Romans 10:10. Our response to the Word of God that has just been read is our confession of faith in the one, true, triune God.

³Martin Luther teaches us about hearing the Word: "Know, therefore, that you must be concerned not only about hearing, but also about learning and retaining it in memory, and do not think that it is optional with you or of no great importance, but that it is God's commandment, who will require of you how you have heard, learned, and honored His Word." (Large Catechism) *Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!* Luke 11:28

Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.