



## **SERVICE OF COMMUNION – THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

January 25, 2026

[P]=Pastor [A]=Assistant [R]=Reader \*=Stand if you are able

### **OPENING**

### **PRELUDE**

#### **\* BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

[P] In the name of the Father, and of the  Son, and, of the Holy Spirit

[C] Amen

[P] Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[C] Amen

[P] If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[P] Most merciful God.

[C] **We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

[P] Almighty God, in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

## \* SHARING THE PEACE:

[P] The peace of the Lord be with you always.

[C] And also with you.

## GATHERING

### \* OPENING HYMN – Love Lifted Me

I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore, very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more; but the master of the sea heard my despairing cry, from the waters lifted me, now safe am I.

*Refrain: Love lifted me! Love lifted me! When nothing else could help, love lifted me.  
Love lifted me! Love lifted me! When nothing else could help, love lifted me.*

All my heart to him I give, ever to him I'll cling, in his blessed presence live, ever his praises sing; love so mighty and so true merits my soul's best songs; faithful loving service, too, to him belongs. Refrain

## \*GREETING OF PEACE

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

[C] And also with you.

## \*KYRIE

**Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy on us.**

**Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy on us.**

**Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, have mercy on us.**

[P] Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE: Praise Him

**[C] Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him!**

**Jesus, blessed Savior, He's worthy to be praised.**

**From the rising of the sun, until the going down of the same,**

**He's worthy! Jesus is worthy! He's worthy to be praised!**

**Glory! Glory! In all things give Him glory!**

**Jesus, blessed Savior, He's worthy to be praised.**

**For God is our rock, hope of salvation; a strong deliverer, in Him I will always trust!**

**Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him!**

**Jesus, blessed Savior He's worthy to be praised. Jesus, blessed Savior He's worthy to be praised.**

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

[A] The Lord be with you.

**[C] And also with you.**

**[A] Let us pray together the Prayer of the Day.**

**[C] 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. Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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.

**[R] The Word of the Lord**

**[C] Thanks Be to God**

## **PSALMODY : CHOIR - Thy Word Is A Lamp Unto My Feet**

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid think I've lost my way still you're there right beside me  
And nothing will I fear As long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

I will not forget Your love for me and yet My heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus be my guide And hold me to your side and I will love you to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> 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." <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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.

[R] The Word of the Lord

[C] **Thanks Be to God**

**\*ALLELUIA VERSE: HALLELUJAH**

[C] **Halle, Halle, Halle-lujah Halle, Halle, Halle-lujah  
Halle, Halle, Halle-lujah. Hallelujah, Hallelujah. (Repeat)**

**\*THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO: St. Matthew 4:12-23**

[C] **Glory, Glory, Hallelujah, Lord we praise your holy name!**

**Glory, Glory, Hallelujah, Lord we praise your holy name!**

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: <sup>15</sup> “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles— <sup>16</sup> 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.” <sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. <sup>23</sup> 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] **Glory, Glory, Hallelujah, Lord we praise your holy name!**

**Glory, Glory, Hallelujah, Lord we praise your holy name!**

**SERMON:**

**\* SERMON HYMN: Here I Am Lord**

"I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

*Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

"I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

"I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

## \* THE APOSTLES' CREED

[P] Let us join together and confess our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed.  
[C] **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 THE CHURCH

### OFFERING

[A] Please take this time to prepare your tithes and offerings. You should mail your offering or visit the congregation's website ([abiding-savior-lutheran.org](http://abiding-savior-lutheran.org)) to give online.

### CHOIR ANTHEM: Just A Closer Walk

*Refrain:* Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea;  
daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak but thou art strong: Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *(Refrain)*

Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *(Refrain)*

When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;  
guide me gently, safely o'er  
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. *(Refrain)*

### THE 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. Amen**

## **SENDING**

### **PRAYER**

[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.**

### **BENEDICTION**

[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.**

### **\*CLOSING HYMN – Down At The Cross**

Down at the cross where my Savior died, down where for cleansing from sin I cried; there to my heart was the blood applied: glory to his name.

*Refrain: Glory to his name, glory to his name!*

*There to my heart was the blood applied: glory to his name.*

I am so wondrously saved from sin, Jesus so sweetly abides within; there at the cross where he took me in: glory to his name. *Refrain*

Oh, precious fountain that saves from sin, I am so glad I have entered in; there Jesus saves me and keeps me clean: glory to his name. *Refrain*:

Come to this fountain so rich and sweet; cast your poor soul at the Savior's feet; plunge in today, and be made complete: glory to his name. *Refrain*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Bible study has begun the book of Matthew, Wednesdays Noon-1:00 pm in-person and on zoom, and Wednesday evening 7:00 – 8:00 pm via zoom only.
- The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual African American Cultural Celebration will be held on January 31<sup>st</sup> at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh.
- The NC Chapter of ADLA (African Descent Lutheran Association) will sponsor a planned lecture on “Stories We Can Tell”, Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- WELCA will again this year will sponsor “Dinner and a Movie” Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at the church at 6:00 pm. This year’s movie is “The Green Book”. Come out, bring your valentine, your friends, neighbors, and family.

- On Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> following the worship service, the next “Holy Conversation” will take place in fellowship hall.
- February 18, 2026 is ASH WEDNESDAY. Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be held at 6:00 pm. The distribution of ashes will take place at 12:00 noon and at the 6:00 pm worship.
- Each Wednesday during Lent, there will be mid-week service beginning with a simple dinner that includes soup and bread.
- MISSION: We are Gathered and Sent to Proclaim, Serve and Share the Love of Jesus

**CHARGE:**

[P] Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.  
[C] Thanks be to God.