

Messiah
Lutheran
Church

Third Sunday After Epiphany
January 25, 2026



The Gathering

*The assembly's parts are in **bold type**.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus walks along the shores of our lives and calls us by name.

We come to listen and to follow.

“Follow me,” Jesus says, and we are drawn into God’s dream for the world.

We come to worship and to be changed.

GATHERING SONG

Fishers of Men



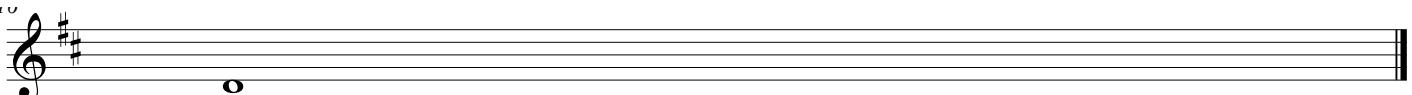
1. I will make you fish - ers of men, fish - ers of men, fish - ers of men;
2. Hear Christ call - ing, “Come un - to Me, come un - to Me, come un - to Me,”



I will make you fish - ers of men, if you fol - low Me. If you fol - low
Hear Christ call - ing, “Come un - to Me, I will give you rest. I will give you



Me, if you fol - low Me, I will make you fish - ers of men, if you fol - low
rest, I will give you rest.” Hear Christ call - ing, “Come un - to Me, I will give you



Me.
rest.”

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into us. Empower us to follow you by serving others. By your Spirit, adopt us all as your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy and calling God, you meet us in the middle of our everyday lives and invite us into something more. Just as Jesus called fishermen from their nets, call us from whatever holds us back and draw us into your work of healing, justice, and love. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

The Word

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.

A reading from Isaiah 9:1-4.

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he 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.

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.
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.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

The gospel according to Matthew 4:12-14, 18-23.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled.

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. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.”

Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 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. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

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.

This is the gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY

Jesus Calls Us Vs 1,2,4,5

ELW 696

1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,

life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in
 may we hear your call, give our hearts to
 care and your o -

sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me:"
 kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
 pleá - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

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. God of grace,

you hear 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. God of grace,

you hear our prayer.

Holy Judge, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. God of grace,

you hear our prayer.

Holy Caretaker, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and those in distress. We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters. Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering. Be with those who are ill, especially those we now name out loud or silently in our hearts. (30 seconds of silence) God of grace,

you hear 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. God of grace,

you hear 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. God of grace,

you hear 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. **Amen.**

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Meal

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, receive these gifts we bring - our time, our talent, and our tithes. Bless them for the work of your love in the world, and shape us into generous people, following Jesus Christ. Amen.

INVITATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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!**

I

n 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.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal, and make us one in this community of faith and with your people worldwide. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

The Sending

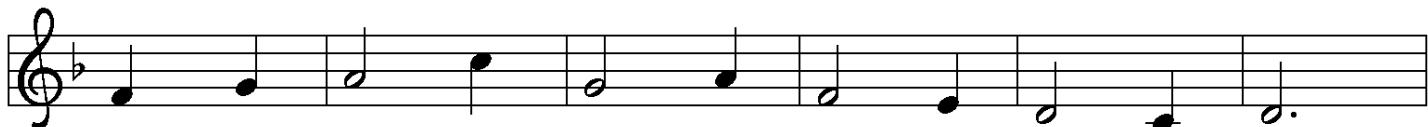
BLESSING

May God's light guide your path, Jesus' love shape your days, and the Holy Spirit strengthen you to follow wherever you are led. Amen.

SENDING SONG

Will You Come and Follow Me Vs 1, 2, 5

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
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



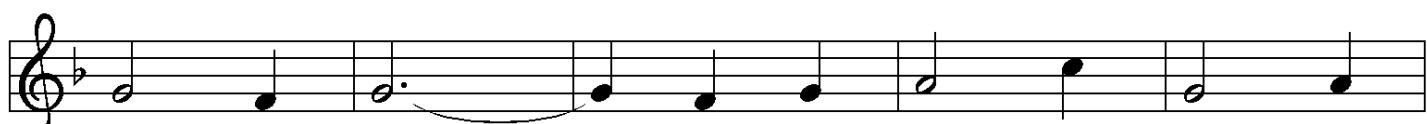
your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you care for cruel and
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
kind 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 -
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
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?"
grow in you and you in me.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Pastor: The Rev. Courtney Geibert Minister of Music: Terry Williams
Organist: Jerel Ellison

Art: Come And Follow Me by Laurent Collective

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Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, Feb 18

6:15 pm - Soup Supper

7 pm - Worship

Worship In Person & On Zoom

