

**Stewardship 2025
United in Christ**



**Yesterday,
Today and
Tomorrow**

Psalm 46:7 “The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.”

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP
Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 19, 2025
8:00 AM Traditional Worship**

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman
Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz
Lector: Sharie Buskager
Acolytes: Caitlyn Helm & Ella Pavolonis
Ushers: Jeffrey Morgan, Jerry Graffin, Jerry Buskager, Mark Holzhuter
Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God’s glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan’s banks at Jesus’ baptism—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God’s people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

CALL TO WORSHIP “Here I Am to Worship” First Class Ringers

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.

Brief silence 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 loving kindness. 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.

Stand

HYMN: "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" ELW #310

**vs. 1: Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
manifested by the star to the sages from afar,
branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**

**vs. 2: Manifest at Jordan's stream, prophet, priest, and king supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in pow'r divine, changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**

**vs. 4: Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy word;
grace to imitate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we might become like thee at thy great epiphany,
and may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.**

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.

LITANY

P: In the beginning was the Word,

C: and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

P: In the Word was life,

C: and the life was the light of all people.
P: The word became flesh and lived among us,
C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" ELW #815 vs 1
vs. 1: I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain
In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.
C: Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sit

ANTHEM "Glory – Let There Be Peace" Chancel Choir

This is typically considered a Christmas piece, but the text reminds us to take the Christmas message of 'Let there be peace!' with us out into our everyday world.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 62: 1-5

¹⁻⁵ Regarding Zion, I can't keep my mouth shut,
regarding Jerusalem, I can't hold my tongue,
Until her righteousness blazes down like the sun
and her salvation flames up like a torch.
Foreign countries will see your righteousness,

and world leaders your glory.
You'll get a brand-new name
straight from the mouth of God.
You'll be a stunning crown in the palm of God's hand,
a jeweled gold cup held high in the hand of your God.
No more will anyone call you Rejected,
and your country will no more be called Ruined.
You'll be called Hephzibah (My Delight),
and your land Beulah (Married),
Because God delights in you
and your land will be like a wedding celebration.
For as a young man marries his virgin bride,
so your builder marries you,
And as a bridegroom is happy in his bride,
so your God is happy with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL CANTICLE: "This Little Light of Mine" ELW #677

**vs. 1: This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine; (3 times)
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**vs. 2: Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine; (3 times)
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 2nd Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 2: 1-11

¹⁻³ Three days later there was a wedding in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples were guests also. When they started running low on wine at the wedding banquet, Jesus' mother told him, "They're just about out of wine." ⁴ Jesus said, "Is that any of our business, Mother—yours or mine? This isn't my time. Don't push me." ⁵ She went ahead anyway, telling the servants, "Whatever he tells you, do it." ⁶⁻⁷ Six stoneware water pots were there, used by the Jews for ritual washings. Each held twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus ordered the servants, "Fill the pots with water." And they filled them to the brim. ⁸ "Now fill your pitchers and take them to the host," Jesus said, and they

did. ⁹⁻¹⁰ When the host tasted the water that had become wine (he didn't know what had just happened but the servants, of course, knew), he called out to the bridegroom, "Everybody I know begins with their finest wines and after the guests have had their fill brings in the cheap stuff. But you've saved the best till now!"

¹¹ This act in Cana of Galilee was the first sign Jesus gave, the first glimpse of his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Stand

SONG OF THE DAY: "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

**vs. 1: Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**vs. 2: Open my ears, that I may hear
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
Ev'rything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see;
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**vs. 3: Open my mouth, and let me bear
Gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere;
Open my heart, and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see;
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

APOSTLE'S 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

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

A Brief Silence

P: Giver of gifts, you form each member of the church to serve. Inspire us to boldly use gifts of welcome and healing, service and teaching, leading and preaching, for the sake of your work in the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Refuge of creatures, you place all the living under the shadow of your wings. Lead us in ways that tend to the needs of wild and domestic animals, creatures threatened by extinction, and the environment we share. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Voice of the oppressed, you call prophets throughout time. We remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a voice for racial and economic justice and for peace. Guide our nation in continuing to heed your prophetic call. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of steadfast love, as Jesus celebrated at Cana, nurture marriages and relationships in mutual care; in times of separation or divorce hold tenderly

broken hearts and broken dreams. Be present to all who are sick, grieving or in any need. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Spirit of peace, celebrating this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we pray for neighboring congregations and ministry sites. Nurture our shared commitment to embody Jesus' love, justice, and healing. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Wellspring of life, in living and dying we trust in you. We give thanks for the saints. Guide us in our living until, at last, we rest in you. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERTORY "The Gift of Love" arr by Tonioli

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: 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.

C: Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness. The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Music is played as those who wish to come forward for communion come forward and kneel at the communion rail. Others are invited to commune in your pew.

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: 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.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN: "We All Are One in Mission" ELW #576

**vs. 1: We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.**

**A single great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.**

vs. 2: We all are called for service, to witness in God's name.

**Our ministries are diff'rent; our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others with God's surprising grace,
so ev'ry folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.**

vs. 3: Now let us be united, and let our song be heard.

Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word.

**We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.**

POSTLUDE "God Extends an Invitation" Kolling/Young