

# Stewardship 2026

## Join the Journey

*"Trust in God from the bottom of your heart;  
don't try to figure out everything on your own.  
Listen for God's voice in everything you do,  
everywhere you go." Proverbs 3:4-6*



### WELCOME TO WORSHIP

#### Third Sunday after Epiphany

#### January 25, 2026

#### 8:00 AM Traditional Worship

**Pastor:** Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

**Organist/Pianist:** Linda Kunz

**Lector:** Greta Hanson

**Acolytes:** Carter Swain

**Ushers:** Sue Walls, Sandra Maerz, Sue Weum & Manson

**Technical Support:** Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

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.

#### CALL TO WORSHIP: “Be Thou My Vision”

Karen Warwick on Dulcimer

#### CONFESSON 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, lover of justice,  
**C:** **y**ou 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. 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  $\dagger$  Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

**C:** Amen.

*Stand*

**HYMN: "Will You Come and Follow Me" ELW #798 Vss. 1 & 3**

**Vs. 1:** "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

**Vs. 3:** "Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?

Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

## **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:** **a**nd the Word was with God and the Word was God.

**P:** In the Word was life,

**C:** **a**nd the life was the light of all people.

**P:** The word became flesh and lived among us,

**C:** **a**nd we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

## **HYMN OF PRAISE: “Arise, Your Light Has Come” ELW #314 Vss. 1,2 & 4**

**Vs. 1: Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.**

**Vs. 2: Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

**Vs. 4: Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.**

## **SALUTATION**

**P: The Lord be with you.**

**C: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P: Let us pray.**

**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.**

*Sit*

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

<sup>1</sup>But there'll be no darkness for those who were in trouble. Earlier he did bring the lands of Zebulun and Naphtali into disrepute, but the time is coming when he'll make that whole area glorious—the road along the Sea, the country past the Jordan, international Galilee. <sup>2-4</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. For those who lived in a land of deep shadows— light! sunbursts of light! You repopulated the nation, you expanded its joy. Oh, they're so glad in your presence! Festival joy! The joy of a great celebration, sharing rich gifts and warm greetings. The abuse of oppressors and cruelty of tyrants— all their whips and clubs and curses—Is gone, done away with, a deliverance as surprising and sudden as Gideon's old victory over Midian.

**P: The word of the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## **GOSPEL CANTICLE: “Open My Eyes, That I May See”**

**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.**

*The Gospel is announced...*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 4th Chapter.

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

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23**

<sup>12-17</sup> When Jesus got word that John had been arrested, he returned to Galilee. He moved from his hometown, Nazareth, to the lakeside village Capernaum, nestled at the base of the Zebulun and Naphtali hills. This move completed Isaiah’s revelation: Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, road to the sea, over Jordan, Galilee, crossroads for the nations. People sitting out their lives in the dark saw a huge light; Sitting in that dark, dark country of death, they watched the sun come up. This Isaiah-prophesied revelation came to life in Galilee the moment Jesus started preaching. He picked up where John left off: “Change your life. God’s kingdom is here.” <sup>18-20</sup> Walking along the beach of Lake Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers: Simon (later called Peter) and Andrew. They were fishing, throwing their nets into the lake. It was their regular work. Jesus said to them, “Come with me. I’ll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I’ll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass.” They didn’t ask questions but simply dropped their nets and followed. <sup>21-22</sup> A short distance down the beach they came upon another pair of brothers, James and John, Zebedee’s sons. These two were sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, mending their fishnets. Jesus made the same offer to them, and they were just as quick to follow, abandoning boat and father. <sup>23</sup> From there he went all over Galilee. He used synagogues for meeting places and taught people the truth of God. God’s kingdom was his theme—that beginning right now they were under God’s government, a good government! He also healed people of their diseases and of the bad effects of their bad lives.

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## SERMON

*Stand*

### HYMN: "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore" ELW #817 Vss. 1.3 & 4

#### You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore *Tú has venido a la orilla*

1 *Tú* has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -  
1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing  
2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther  
3 You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing  
4 You who have fished oth - er wa - ters; you, the

ca - do ni\_a sa - bios ni\_a ri - cos; tan só - lo  
nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly  
treas - ure nor wea - pons for con - quest, just these my  
love for the rest of the wea - ry - a love that's  
long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing: O lov - ing

quie - res que yo te si - ga.  
ask - ing for me to fol - low.  
fish nets and will for work - ing.  
will - ing to go on lov - ing.  
Friend, you have come to call me.

*Refrain / Estribillo*

Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos; son - ri - en - do,  
Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind - ly smil - ing,

has di - cho mi nom-bre. En la a-re - na he de - ja - do mi  
you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a - ban - doned my

bar - ca; jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.  
small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

Text: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1936-1991; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946  
Music: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES, Cesáreo Gabaráin  
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## **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:** 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*

**P:** 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,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** 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,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** 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. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick. We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters. Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** 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,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** 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,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** 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.**

### **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

**C: And also with you.**

*Sit*

**OFFERTORY: “Face to Face With Christ My Savior”**

**Karen Warwick on Dulcimer**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**P:** God of majesty,

**C: no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in all we see, your Word reveals 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. Amen.**

### **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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Stand*

## BLESSING

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

**C: Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

**P:** Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## SENDING HYMN: “Guide My Feet” ACS #987

**Vs. 1: Guide my feet, while I run this race. (3x)**  
**for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**Vs. 3: Stand by me, while I run this race. (3x)**  
**for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**Vs. 4: I'm your child, while I run this race.**  
**for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

## POSTLUDE: “Let Streams of Living Justice” Holst