



January 26, 2025

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“With the Lord Begin Your Task”

- ♪ With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it. For His aid and counsel ask;
Jesus will perfect it. Ev’ry morn with Jesus rise, And when day is ended,
In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him commended.
- ♪ Let each day begin with prayer, Praise, and adoration. On the Lord cast ev’ry care;
He is your salvation. Morning, evening, and at night Jesus will be near you,
Save you from the tempter’s might, With His presence cheer you.
- ♪ With your Savior at your side, Foes need not alarm you; In His promises confide,
And no ill can harm you. All your trust and hope repose In the mighty Master,
Who in wisdom truly knows How to stem disaster.
- ♪ If your task be thus begun With the Savior’s blessing, Safely then your course will run,
Toward the promise pressing, Good will follow ev’rywhere While you here must wander;
You at last the joy will share In the mansions yonder.
- ♪ Thus, Lord Jesus, ev’ry task Be to You commended; May Your will be done, I ask,
Until life is ended. Jesus, in Your name begun Be the day’s endeavor;
Grant that it may well be done To Your praise forever.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 869-Text: Morgen und Abendsegen, Waldenburg 1734; tr. W. Gustave Polack 1890-1950;
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Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;

The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the just decrees of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

Moreover, by them is Your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight,

O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalms 19:7-9, 11-14

A Time of Silence

Let us confess our sin to God our Father.

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Jesus Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“Thy Word Is a Lamp”

~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...

♪ 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....

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Old Testament Reading

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10

¹And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had commanded Israel. ²So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. ³And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law...

⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. ⁶And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground... ⁸They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.”

For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 12:12–31a

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“God Has Spoken By His Prophets”

- ♪ God has spoken by His prophets, Spoken His unchanging Word;
Each from age to age proclaiming God, the One, the righteous Lord.
In the world’s despair and turmoil, One firm anchor holds us fast:
God is king, His throne eternal; God the first, and God the last.
- ♪ God has spoken by Christ Jesus, Christ, the everlasting Son,
Brightness of the Father’s glory, With the Father ever one;
Spoken by the Word Incarnate, God of God, before time was;
Light of Light, to earth descending, He reveals our God to us.
- ♪ God is speaking by His Spirit, Speaking to our hearts again,
In the ageless Word declaring His own message, now as then.
Through the rise and fall of nations One sure faith yet standing fast;
God abides, His Word unchanging; God the first, and God the last.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁶And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²²And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph's son?” ²³And he said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, “Physician, heal yourself.” What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.” ²⁴And he said, “Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. ²⁵But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, ²⁶and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. ²⁹And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. ³⁰But passing through their midst, he went away.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Beautiful Savior”

♪ Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

♪ Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

♪ Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer Than all the angels in the sky.

♪ Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration Now and forevermore be Thine!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 537- Text: Munsterisch Gesangbuch, Munster, 1677, tr. Joseph A. Seiss 1823-1904
Tune: Silesian, 19th cent., setting: Service Book and Hymnal 1958; Public Domain.

Proclamation of the Word

“Deaf by Selection”

Luke 4:16–30

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

♪ From all that dwell below the skies Let the Creator’s praise arise: Alleluia, alleluia!

Let the Redeemer’s name be sung Through ev’ry land by ev’ry tongue.

~Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

♪ Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord; Eternal truth attends Thy Word. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and set no more. Alleluia,...

♪ All praise to God the Father be, All praise eternal Son, to Thee. Alleluia, alleluia!

Whom with the Spirit we adore Forever and forevermore: Alleluia,....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 816 - Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748, vv. 1-2; William W. How 1823-97, v. 3
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Postlude