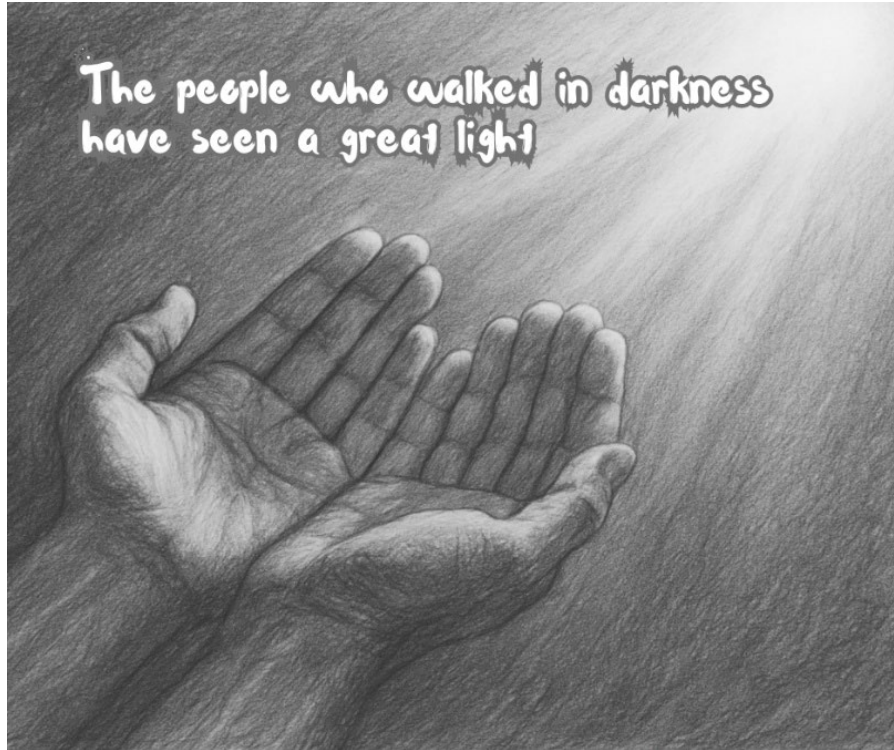


3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 25th, 2026

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.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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**For our weekly prayer list, news, and events, please visit our News and Events page,
found on our website: <https://www.livingfaithlemars.com/blog>**

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

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.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Mighty God, lover of justice,
you 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.

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 Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 582

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 27:1, 4-9

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴ **One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary,
and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up
above my enemies who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary,
sacrifices of rejoicing;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

⁷ Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”
Your face, O Lord, I will seek.**

⁹ Hide not your face from me,
turn not away from your servant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper;
forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

Amen.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

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

¹⁸ 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.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p.205

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 593

Drawn to the Light

THE APOSTLES' 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

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

ELW 496

One Bread, One Body

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p.207

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

... we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

... all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

... we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

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.**

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW 798 & 674

BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

**Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart,
and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to
be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

ELW 841

Lift Every Voice and Sing

SENDING

Go in peace. Be the light.

Thanks be to God.

Thank you, worship leaders!

Greeter/Usher: Tim Kass

Accompanist: Dawn Richards

Reader: Jess Kopperud

Communion Assistant: Karen Schroeder

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+++++ UPCOMING EVENTS! +++++

February 1: Following worship, Living Faith will hold its 2025 Celebratory Lunch and Annual Meeting. Annual reports may be picked up in the narthex.

February 8: 11 a.m. Worship with ELCA Western Iowa Synod's Bishop Scott Dalen

February 18: Ash Wednesday Worship...*more details to come!*