

ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG *Cry of My Heart*

Chorus: It is the cry of my heart to follow You.

It is the cry of my heart to be close to You.

It is the cry of my heart to follow all of the days of my life.

Teach me Your holy ways, oh Lord, so I can walk in Your truth.

Teach me Your holy ways, oh Lord, and make me wholly devoted to You. Chorus

Open my eyes so I can see the wonderful things that You do.

Open my heart up more and more, and make it wholly devoted to You.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Rev. David O. Stecker

Praise Team: Annette Carbaugh, Praise Leader

Todd Phillips, Keyboard; Pau Thupha Thang, vocals

Tobias Wise, KoKo Oo, Peter Czubakowski, Jason Miller, Instrumental

Choir: CLS Cherubim Choir, directed by Mrs. Robinette

Acolyte: Martin Georges

Elder: Jerry Schlund

The Gathering

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 25, 2026



Emanuel Lutheran Church

www.emanuelnh.org

749-2163

Central Lutheran School

www.cluth.org

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Emanuel Lutheran Church is a united and growing family of Christians joyfully dedicated to furthering God's Kingdom.

† The Third Sunday after the Epiphany †

WELCOME to those visiting us this Lord's Day. It is our joy to have you worshipping with us. We invite you to come again and worship the Lord.

FELLOWSHIP DIRECTORY ~ Everyone, please sign in! We ask guests to include your address, zip code and phone number so that we may acknowledge your visit.

AS WE GATHER ~ The Epiphany season proclaims and celebrates the salvation of God coming into the world as a light shining in a dark place. Matthew quotes the prophet Isaiah predicting the dawning of that light into the darkness of unbelief, separation from God, sin, and “the shadow of death” (Matthew 4:16). That light was and is Jesus and His message: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (v. 17). It may seem like a minor detail that Matthew says Isaiah’s prophetic words were fulfilled when Jesus left His hometown of Nazareth to live “in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali” (v. 13). Yet even this little fact testifies to how real the words of the Old Testament are and how they are fulfilled in Jesus, the Christ.

Likewise, it may at times seem insignificant and even unimportant when the light of the Gospel is preached in our hearing and in our world today. How many of us have heard God’s voice directly saying, “Follow me”? Those who were baptized as infants have no memory of ever being apart from God or His church. The life of faith in God may just seem normal or even routine to us—nothing out of the ordinary. Still, our sins remind us of the temptation to ignore God. Like the Christians in Corinth, we have sinful pride that causes divisions and quarreling among us. And while that’s no different than anywhere else in our world, to be a disciple of Jesus means to be truly different than the world. Repentance means being transformed by love of God and love of neighbor. Today, Jesus truly is saying to you, “Repent” and “Follow Me,” even in the ordinary details of life.

PRE-SERVICE PRAISE

This Is My Desire

**This is my desire you to honor you, Lord, with all my heart I worship you.
All I have within me, I give You praise. All that I adore is in you.**

**Chorus: Lord I give you my heart, I give you my soul, I live for you alone.
Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake,
Lord have Your way in me. Repeat all, then chorus again**

WELCOME/SHARING OF THE PEACE

2

OPENING SONG

My Lighthouse

In my wrestling and in my doubts, in my failures You won't walk out.
Your great love will lead me through, You are the peace in my troubled sea.

In the silence You won't let go, in the questions Your truth will hold.
Your great love will lead me through, You are the peace in my troubled sea.
My lighthouse, my lighthouse, shining in the darkness, I will follow You.
Whoa, my lighthouse, my lighthouse, I will trust the promise.
You will carry me safe to shore.

I won't fear what tomorrow brings. With each morning I'll rise and sing.
My God's love will lead me through, You are the peace in my troubled sea.
My lighthouse, my lighthouse, shining in the darkness, I will follow You.
Whoa, my lighthouse, my lighthouse, I will trust the promise.
You will carry me safe to shore.

Fire before us, You're the brightest, You will lead us through the storms.
My lighthouse, my lighthouse, shining in the darkness, I will follow You.
Whoa, my lighthouse, my lighthouse, I will trust the promise.
You will carry me safe to shore.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

CONFESION and ABSOLUTION

(Psalm 43:4; Matthew 4:16; Psalm 22:22)

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,
People: to God my exceeding joy.

Pastor: The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, . . .
People: on them a light has dawned.

Pastor: Today Jesus Christ comes to you with an invitation, saying, “Repent” and “Follow Me.” Let us prepare to receive His Word, leave our sin behind, and follow Him in the power of His forgiveness.

People: Lord God, open our ears to hear Your call of salvation and life. Enable us to hear the voice of Your Son, Christ our Lord, that His Word may move us to turn from our ways and our walk without You, and follow Him in faith, that we may learn and live in the light of Your love.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, "I will tell of Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You." Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **¶** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Now, let us follow Him!

People: Amen.

PSALM 27:1-9

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

People: **When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.**

Pastor: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

People: **One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: 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 inquire in his temple.**

Pastor: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

People: **And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

Pastor: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

People: **You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek."**

Pastor: Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

All: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

Trust in You

Letting go of every single dream, I lay each one down at Your feet,
Every moment of my wandering never changes what You see.
I've tried to win this war I confess my hands are weary I need Your rest.
Mighty Warrior, King of the fight, no matter what I face, You're by my side.

Chorus: **When You don't move the mountains I'm needing You to move,
When You don't part the waters I wish I could walk through,
When You don't give the answers as I cry out to You –
I will trust, I will trust, I will trust in You!**

**Truth is, You know what tomorrow brings,
There's not a day ahead You have not seen.
So, in all things be my life and breath,
I want what You want Lord and nothing less.** *Chorus*

**You are my strength and comfort, You are my steady hand,
You are my firm foundation; the rock on which I stand.
Your ways are always higher, Your plans are always good,
There's not a place where I'll go You've not already stood!** *Chorus twice*

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:1-4 (ESV)

¹ There will be no gloom for her who was 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 has made 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 dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

EPISTLE READING

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may 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.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

THY WORD

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Repeat

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:12-25 (ESV)
¹²When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:
¹⁵"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned."

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

¹⁸While walking 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 fishermen.

¹⁹And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

THY WORD

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Repeat
You're the Light unto my path.**

SONG OF THE DAY *I Will Follow*

**Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay,
When you move, I'll move. I will follow...
All your ways are good, all your ways are sure, I will trust in you alone.
Higher than my side, high above my life, I will trust in you alone.**

**Chorus: Where you go, I'll go, where you stay, I'll stay,
When you move, I'll move, I will follow you.
Who you love, I'll love, how you serve I'll serve,
If this life I lose, I will follow you. I will follow you.**

**Light unto the world, light unto my life, I will live for you alone.
You're the one I seek, knowing I will find, all I need in you alone, in you alone. Chorus
In you there's life everlasting. In you there's freedom for my soul.
In you there joy, unending joy, and I will follow. Chorus twice**

MESSAGE *There's a Tragedy at The Center of It*

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

STATEMENT OF FAITH - THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He