

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Central Lutheran School Sunday

January 24 and 25, 2026



THE WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Rev. Scott A. Zeckzer

Organist: Lynne Eifert

Choir: CLS Angel Chorus, directed by Mrs. Zeckzer (8:00)
CLS Charger Choir, directed by Mrs. Schmidt (10:30)

Acolytes: Asher Peters, Coltyn Richeson (8:00)
Hannah Minden, Hazel Schmidt (10:30)

Elder: Wade Benjamin (5:00)
Benjamin Castens (8:00, 10:30)

Ushers: Group S1 (Dale Loshe) (5:00)
Group 4 (Bill Bremer) (8:00)
Group 3 (Mark Schuller) (10:30)

Communion Assistant: David Herman (5:00)
Steve Hormann (8:00)
Tom Trzynka (10:30)

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 †

Central Lutheran School Sunday

Divine Service IV with Communion – LSB page 203

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.

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.

PRELUDE *Shout for Joy (Johnson)*
(10:30) I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (Brusick)

GREETING, INTRODUCTION OF CLS FACULTY, RINGING OF THE BELLS

♪ **OPENING HYMN** ↓ *Shout for Joy, Loud and Long*
This is Central’s theme hymn this year.
At the 8:00 service, the choir will sing verse 1.

Shout for joy, loud and long, God be praised with a song!
To the Lord we belong – children of our Maker, God, the great life-giver!

2

Refrain: **Shout for joy, joy, joy! Shout for joy, joy, joy!**
God is love, God is light, God is everlasting!

By God’s word all was made, heav’n and earth, light and shade,
Nature’s wonders displayed, we to rule creation from its first foundation. *Refrain*

Yet our pride makes us fall! So Christ came for us all –
Not the righteous to call – by His cross and passion, bringing us salvation! *Refrain*

Now has Christ truly ris’n and His Spirit is giv’n
To all those under heav’n who will walk beside Him, though they once denied Him! *Refrain*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ~ Page 203 ↑

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. (Matthew 28:19)

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 124:8)

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (Psalm 130:3-4)

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

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

People: Amen. (John 20:19-23)

PSALM 98 ↑

Pastor: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

People: The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Pastor: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

People: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Pastor: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!

People: With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!

Pastor: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!

People: Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together

Pastor: before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

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.

♪ KYRIE ~ Page 204 ↑

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. (Mark 10:47)

♪ THIS IS THE FEAST ~ Page 171 ↑ *From Divine Service, Setting Two*

Pastor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,

Whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God,

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia.

COLLECT OF THE DAY ↑

Pastor: The Lord be with you. (Ruth 2:4)

People: And also with you. (Luke 1:28)

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.

⁴ For 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM ↓ (8:00) *Sing! Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord* (Burkart)

Sing! Make a joyful noise to the Lord; break forth in joyous song and praises!

Marvelous things the Lord has now done; sing so all the world can hear it!

God has made salvation known, and His righteousness has shown!

Praises now sing to God the Most High; melodies make that soar to heaven!

Trumpets and lyres are bursting with joy; seas roar and all those who dwell therein!

Rivers then shall clap their hands; hills sing praise throughout the lands!

Sing to the Lord a new joyous song; He will judge the world with righteousness.

Shout with a festal joy, faithful throng; cast aside all sin and waywardness!

Trust in God who sent His Son who, for all, salvation won!

God has remembered His steadfast love; His faithfulness is ours forever.

God sent His Son from heaven above, whose love and mercy fails us never.

Jesus came to die and rise so, in Him, we too arise!

Make a most joyful noise to the Lord; praise sing to Father, Son, and Spirit!

The Lord has done most marvelous things; sing so that all the nations cheer it!

Through faith in the One-in-Three we shall live eternally! Amen!

EPISTLE READING ↓**1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (ESV)**

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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

♪ ALLELUIA and VERSE ~ Page 205 ↑

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, these things are written that you may believe

That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (John 20:31)

HOLY GOSPEL READING ↑**Matthew 4:12-25 (ESV)**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

♪ HYMN OF THE DAY ↓

O Christ, Our True and Only Light

LSB 839

**O Christ, our true and only light,
Enlighten those who sit in night;
Let those afar now hear Your voice
And in Your fold with us rejoice.**

**Fill with the radiance of Your grace
The souls now lost in error's maze;
Enlighten those whose inmost minds
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.**

**O gently call those gone astray
That they may find the saving way!
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed
In you find peace and heav'nly rest.**

**Shine on the darkened and the cold;
Recall the wand'ers to Your fold.
Unite all those who walk apart;
Confirm the weak and doubting heart,**

**That they with us may evermore
Such grace with wond'ring thanks adore
And endless praise to You be giv'n
By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.**

SERMON ↓

*For All of This ... We Thank and Praise***NICENE CREED ~ Page 206 ↑**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH ↑

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)



We welcome the opportunity to explain what we believe, teach and confess regarding the Lord's Supper. In order not to impose those beliefs on you, we ask that if you are not a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, you would speak with a Pastor before receiving Holy Communion.

PREFACE ~ Page 208 ↑

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly meet, right and salutary.....evermore praising you and saying:

♪ SANCTUS ~ Page 208 ↑

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored:

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING ~ Page 209 ↑

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER ~ Page 209 ↑

(Matthew 6:9-13)

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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD ~ Page 209 ↑

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and, when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI ~ Page 209 ↑

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
 People: Amen.

(John 20:19)

♪ AGNUS DEI ~ Page 210 ↑

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
 Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, and grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(John 1:29)

♪ DISTRIBUTION ↓ *O Christ, Who Called the Twelve*

LSB 856

O Christ, who called the Twelve to rise and follow You,
 Forsaking old, familiar ways for ventures bold and new:
 Grant us to hear Your call to risk security
 And, bound in heart and will to You, find perfect liberty.

O Christ, who taught the Twelve the truth for ages sealed,
 Whose words and works awakened faith, the ways of God revealed:
 Instruct us now, we pray, by Your empow’ring Word.
 True teacher, be for all who seek their light, their life, their Lord.

O Christ, who led the Twelve among the desolate
 And broke as bread of life for all Your love compassionate:
 Lead us along the ways where hope has nearly died
 And help us climb the lonely hills where love is crucified.

O Christ, who sent the Twelve on roads they’d never trod
 To serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim the nearer reign of God:
 Send us on ways where faith transcends timidity,
 Where love informs and hope sustains both life and ministry.

O Christ, th’apostles’ Lord, the martyrs’ strength and song,
 The crucified and risen King to whom the saints belong:
 Though generations pass, our tribute still we bring,
 Our hymns a sacrifice of praise, our lives an offering.

Arise and Shine in Splendor

LSB 396

Arise and shine in splendor; let night to day surrender.
 Your light is drawing near. Above, the day is beaming,
 In matchless beauty gleaming; the glory of the Lord is here.

See earth in darkness lying, the heathen nations dying
 In hopeless gloom and night. To You the Lord of heaven –
 Your life, your hope – has given great glory, honor, and delight.

The world’s remotest races, upon whose weary faces
 The sun looks from the sky, shall run with zeal untiring,
 With joy Your light desiring that breaks upon them from on high.

Lift up your eyes in wonder – see, nations gather yonder
 From sin to be set free. The world has heard Your story;
 Her sons come to Your glory; her daughters haste Your light to see.

Your heart will leap for gladness when from the realms of sadness
 They come from near and far. Your eyes will wake from slumber
 As people without number rejoice to see the Morning Star.

Where Charity and Love Prevail

LSB 845

Where charity and love prevail there God is ever found;
 Brought here together by Christ’s love by love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear His charity we learn;
 Let us with heart and mind and soul now love Him in return.

Forgive we now each other’s faults as we our faults confess,
 And let us love each other well in Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown; let all contention cease;
 Be God’s the glory that we seek; be ours His holy peace.

Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, His only Son;
 As members of His body joined we are in Him made one.

For love excludes no race or clan that names the Savior’s name;
 His family embraces all whose Father is the same.

BLESSING ~ Page 210 ↑

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in
 body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

People: Amen.

♪ NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Page 211 ↑

O Lord, now let Your servant depart in heav’nly peace,
 For I have seen the glory of Your redeeming grace:
 A light to lead the Gentiles unto Your holy hill,
 The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son,
 All glory to the Spirit, forever Three in One;
 For as in the beginning, is now, shall ever be,
 God’s triune name resounding through all eternity.

COLLECT ~ Page 212 ↑

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION ~ Page 212 ↑

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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.

(Numbers 6:24-26)

♪ CLOSING HYMN ↑ *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* *LSB 411*

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.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
 Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.

Refrain

I’m looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
 When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

Refrain

POSTLUDE

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (Behnke)