

3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

PASTOR ED PEASE

JANUARY 25, 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.

(*please stand as you are able)

(Congregation reads **bold print**)

Welcome & Announcements

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

*Opening Hymn “Making Their Way” #979 ACS

*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.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

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.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.

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 -- p. 142**

*The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 4th Chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

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.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned."

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

¹⁸ As he walked 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 fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Message

Hymn "Faith Begins By Letting Go" #1004 ACS

***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**

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.

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,
receive our prayer.

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,
receive our prayer.

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 (*local and national officials may be named*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick (especially we pray for Barb, Carla, Barb, Diane, Bill, Ed, Pat, Jeni, Kenny, and Jayme). We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters (*individuals or situations may be named*). Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

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,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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,
receive our prayer.

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.
Amen.

***Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Offering

***Offering Prayer**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***Great Thanksgiving**

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, Holy, Holy** p. 144

***Thanksgiving at the Table** p.144

***Lord's Prayer**

***Invitation to Communion**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Communion (continuous)

Come forward in the center aisle, distancing as desired. Please cup your hands to receive the bread. Move to the right or left to receive the wine. Return to your pew via the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available in the container in front of the font.

Those who wish to be served at their seats may remain seated.

Distribution Hymns: #815 – I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light; #798 – Will You Come and Follow Me?

***Prayer after Communion**

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

***Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

Amen.

***Sending Hymn** “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” #674

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Baptized believers sent into God’s world to share God’s love and grace.

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Welcome! May you be blessed as we worship together!

Pastor Ed Pease:

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- A special welcome to any visitors! Please take the time this morning to fill out the visitor card located with the hymnals and either place it on the offering plate or give it to an usher.
- Sunday, February 8 is Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. Please bring non-perishable food items between now and then.
- There is a confirmation sign-up sheet for adult volunteers on the usher’s table.
- There is a sign up on the usher’s table for the fellowship and visitation committees. If you are interested, please sign up on the usher’s table.

This Week’s Events: January 25-February 1

Today	9:00am	2nd Sunday After Epiphany
	10:15am	Annual Meeting
Tues.	7:00pm	AA Meeting (Contact person is Larry S., 712-251-4207)
Wed.	6:00pm	Confirmation
Sun.	9:00am	4th Sunday After Epiphany

Upcoming Events:

Wed. Feb 4	KidZone Starts
Sun. Feb 8	Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday
Wed. Feb 18	Ash Wednesday

Worship Assistants for January:

Organist: Ruth Chartier
Scripture Reader: Blake Stratton
Tech Assistant: Jill & Casey Stratton
Greeters: Blake & Sadie Stratton
Greeters Next Week: Jill & Casey Stratton

Altar Guild: Dave & Patti Christiansen
Offertory Accountants: Dave & Patti Christiansen

Worship Assistants for February:

Organist: Ruth Chartier
Scripture Reader: Liz Wahlberg
Tech Assistant: Rebecca Brockhaus

Altar Guild: Rotating
Offertory Accountants: Blake & Sadie Stratton

Birthdays: 25 - Colin Christiansen; 28 - Scott Malm; 29 - Dawn Bain

Anniversaries: 30 – Jeff & Mishelle Powell

Prayers

We pray for Kenny Stroman; Barb Kunkel; Carla Boggs; Barb Allner; Diane Riediger; Bill Nagel; Ed Kunkel; those in addictions/recovery; all who are grieving; victims of extreme weather and natural disasters, violence and domestic abuse.
For those battling cancer: Jayme Webb –breast cancer; Jeni Aman.

God’s Work. Our gifts. Thank you to all who support our ministry!

<u>Our budget needs each week: \$3,175</u>	
Electronic Giving	\$ 820.00
<u>General Fund</u>	<u>\$ 876.00</u>
Total	\$ 1,696.00

