

# Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 26, 2025



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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

**Prelude:** “*We Are An Offering*” - arr. Lynette Maynard; words found in ELW #692

*Lois Theesfield, piano*

### Welcome

**Gathering Song:** “*All Are Welcome*” - ELW #641

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
our creator,  
our protector,  
our wellspring of life.

**Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

**you speak blessing and compassion into the world.**

**Forgive us for the ways we act  
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;  
we resist your call to oppose injustice;  
we give in to scarcity and fear;**

**we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults  
and release us from their grasp.**

**Show us your lovingkindness.**

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,  
that we may live in Christ’s ways.**

**Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In + Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.  
 Refreshed by the waters of mercy,  
 live anew as beloved children of God.  
**Amen.**

### Kyrie - ELW Setting 8

*Refrain*

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the  
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for  
 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the

u-ni-ty of all; for  
 hun-gry and the poor; that  
 friends and fam-i-ly; for  
 wa-ter and the word; that you

this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
 we may live out . . . . truth and jus-tice and grace,  
 life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,

*Refrain*

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## **Prayer of the Day**

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

<sup>1</sup>All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup>Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup>Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup>So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup>And 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 when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

<sup>12</sup>For 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. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot would 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. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear would 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. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The 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." <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup> whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31a</sup> But strive for the greater gifts.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Children at Heart Sermon

### Gospel Acclamation - ELW Setting 8

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## **Gospel Reading: Luke 4:14-21**

The Gospel according to Luke  
**Glory to You, O Lord**

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup>He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

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

<sup>18</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,

<sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

<sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

**Hymn of the Day: “Hark, the Glad Sound!” - ELW #239**

### **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**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

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

### **Offering**

**Music Voluntary:** *“Christ is Lord, Praise His Name”* - Howard Starks  
*Memorial Handbells; Emily Dalthorp, bell tree*

### **Offering Prayer**

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.  
Bless what we offer to your service:  
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.  
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
now and always. **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.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

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.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

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 - ELW Setting 8

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est." The score consists of five staves of music.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Words of Institution



## **The 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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

## **Hymns during Communion**

***"By Your Hand You Feed Your People" - ELW #469***  
***"Word of God Come Down on Earth" - ELW #510***

## **Prayer after Communion**

Nourishing God,  
at this table you have refreshed us  
with holy gifts of food and drink.  
Strengthen us for service,  
and send us out to embody your good news  
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.  
In the name of Christ we pray,  
**Amen.**

## **Announcements**

## Blessing

The Spirit of the triune God  
+ bless you with joy,  
anoint you with compassion,  
and send you in love.  
**Amen.**

## Sending Hymn: "He Leadeth Me" - LBW #501



- 1 He lead-eth me: oh, bless-ed thought! Oh, words with heav'n-ly com-fort fraught!
- 2 Some-times mid scenes of deep-est gloom, some-times where E - den's bow-ers bloom,
- 3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ev - er mur - mur nor re - pine;
- 4 And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the vic-t'ry's won,



What-e'er I do, wher-e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that lead-eth me.  
by wa - ters calm, o'er trou-bled sea, still 'tis God's hand that lead-eth me.  
con - tent, what-ev - er lot I see, since 'tis my God that lead-eth me.  
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jor - dan lead-eth me.



He lead-eth me, he lead-eth me, by his own hand he lead-eth me.



His faith-ful fol-l'wer I would be, for by his hand he lead-eth me.

Text: Joseph H. Gilmore, 1834–1918  
Music: HE LEADETH ME, William B. Bradbury, 1815–1868

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude: "He Leadeth Me"** - arr. David Cherwien  
*Lois Theesfield, organ*

## Prayers for Healing

If you have a prayer request, please email [pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org](mailto:pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org) or [emily@mlcnevada.org](mailto:emily@mlcnevada.org), or call the church office at 515-382-6509.

*Please keep Arlys & Mike Neal and Lauren Chitty and their entire family in your prayers following the death of their daughter and sister, Cindy Grosz.*

*Please keep Pastor Anita Nuetzman and family in your prayers following the death of her husband, +Dennis Nuetzman.*

*Please keep the family of +Darla Bohrer (niece of Sandy Christian) following her death*

Karen Anderson	Johann Thiel	Jackie Byers
Caleb Roof	Mike Neal	<i>daughter of Shellie Black</i>
Kelsee Holzmer	Christina King	Donna See
<i>granddaughter of Joyce Mack</i>	Sherry Kluever	Norma Dannan
Jake Jacobson	Kim Elliott	<i>friend of Betty Runge</i>
Evelyn Onstot	Pr. Marcia Kisner	Fred Samuelson
Marty Schuler	Marlene Waddell	Jaylee Bartleson
Katy Beno	<i>friend of Virginia Palmisano-</i>	George Forsyth
<i>sister of Sandy Christian</i>	<i>Goettsch</i>	Janeen Driscoll
Kathy Larsen	John Bass	Julie Sutherland
Eric Forsyth	<i>son-in-law of Ron &amp; Gloria</i>	Jan Cook
Ardith Forsyth	<i>Jacobson</i>	
Crystal Vines	Carol Vincent	
Katie Bass	Cassie Harrell	
<i>niece of Judy Coverdale</i>	Jean Smith	
Wayne Johnson	Easton Farrington	
Troy Vincent	Janice Hartz	

**Hospitalizations:** *If you are in the hospital or are going to be in the hospital and want us to be aware of it, please call the church office or have someone call on your behalf. Unless directed otherwise, your name will be placed on the prayer list and included in electronic notifications.*

## Announcements

### **Save the date: Annual Meeting of the Congregation February 2**

Mark your calendar and plan to be in worship to hear an update of the mission, ministry, and goals at Memorial. After the service we will be taking a group photo before celebrating God's mission together with treats in Fellowship Hall.

### **Save the Date: Community BINGO & Nachos February 2**

Join us for BINGO and nachos from 5:00—6:30 PM on Sunday, February 2 (nachos will be served at 5:00 followed by BINGO at 5:30). Free-will donations will go to Memorial's Dorcas Fund, which provides assistance to those in need. This is a fun community event for all ages (kids and adults welcome!), but please note that children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Lastly, we need prizes for our BINGO winners! We're looking for items with a value of around \$5 (or less) for a variety of ages (kids and adults). If you would like to donate a prize or two, please bring them to the church office. Thank you!

### **Book Study: “*The Rapture Exposed*” by Barbara Rossing**

Beginning February 16, join us after worship for discussion as we read through “*The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation*”. Please sign up in the narthex or contact Pastor Kathleen. If you would like a book provided the suggested donation is \$13. While it's not a requirement, you might want to read through Revelation prior to our first meeting with special focus on chapters 4-7, 21, and 22.

Please contact Pastor Kathleen with any questions.



### **Transportation Help Needed for MLC Member**

A Memorial member is seeking assistance in rides to and from church on Sundays, as well as for weekly grocery shopping. Please note that they will need help getting in and out of the vehicle. If you can help, please contact the church office for more details. *Thank you!*

## **Listen God is Calling, Loving Our Global Neighbors**

Join Bishop Amy Current and leaders from across the synod for a short presentation and discussion. Register once and attend any one or all of these events:



**January 30:** Loving our Neighbors of Palestine, Israel, and the Middle East.

**February 6:** Loving our Neighbors by "Preaching and Teaching with Love and Respect for the Jewish People."

**February 13:** Loving our Neighbors through Accompanying Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.

**February 20:** Loving our Neighbors in partnership with the Pare and Mwanga Dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania as global companions.

Register for any or all of these events using the QR code.

## **Middle School Lock-In Friday, February 21**

Youth from Memorial and area churches are invited to attend this fun event!

**When:** February 21, 2025, starting at 6:00 PM and ending at 7:00 AM the next morning

**Where:** Resurrection Lutheran Church in Ankeny, IA

**Who:** All 6th - 9th graders.

**How?** Use this registration link to sign up!  
<https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/9505678>

**Cost:** \$25

## **Stay Connected with Memorial**

Keep up-to-date with Memorial and community events, prayer requests, volunteer opportunities, and more; sign up to receive emails and/or periodic texts at [bit.ly/memorialconnect](https://bit.ly/memorialconnect) or by using the QR code



## MLC Member Survey

Earlier this year our congregation council set a goal to reach out to Memorial's membership in the hopes of listening well to the needs and hopes of our congregation. A subcommittee was formed to create a survey that would help in identifying what needs are being met, as well as what needs are not currently being met. The council needs everyone's honest feedback in order to identify how we can best serve and love as Memorial Lutheran Church. Thank you in advance for your time and your thoughts. Your participation will help us to grow and abide together in Christ for the sake of the world.



## Online Giving with Tithe.ly—New Funds Available for Designated Gifts

Thank you for joining us for worship today! If you would like to support our ministries, online gifts can be made using <http://tithe.ly/> give or by scanning the QR code. ***Did you know? In Tithe.ly, you can set up one-time or recurring gifts to the General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, Drive for the Drive Pavement Project, Sanctuary Screens Fund, Sanctuary Carpet Fund, and more!***



### **Save the Date**

#### **Annual Meeting of the Congregation**

When: Sunday, February 2 following worship

#### **Community BINGO & Nachos**

When: Sunday, February 2, 5:00 - 6:30 PM

Where: MLC Fellowship Hall

#### **Book Study Begins: *"The Rapture Exposed"* by Barbara Rossing**

When: Sunday, February 16 following worship

Where: MLC Chapel

**Middle-school Lock-in**

When: Friday, February 21

Where: Resurrection Lutheran Church in Ankeny

**Listen God is Calling, Loving Our Global Neighbors**

*Register once using the QR code and attend any or all of the following events:*



**January 30:** Loving our Neighbors of Palestine, Israel, and the Middle East.

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▶ Memorial Lutheran

Memorial Lutheran ELCA

Kathleen Lotz, Pastor | Lois Theesfield, Director of Music Ministry  
Emily Dalthorp, Parish Administrator for Outreach & Engagement  
Mike Coverdale, Custodian

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