

# Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 25, 2026



MEMORIAL  
**LUTHERAN**  
CHURCH

# **Third Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 25, 2026**

Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

**Prelude:** *"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"* - arr. Douglas Wagner  
*Memorial Handbells*

## ***Prayer of St. Francis***

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.  
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled  
as to console,  
To be understood as to understand,  
To be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

## **Welcome**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.*

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.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.


*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**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: "Gathering" from "Unfailing Light" - Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl

*Assisting Minister*




O ser - vants of God, let us sing our praise.

*All*




We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

*Assisting Minister*




From the ris - ing of the sun to its set - ting,

*All*




We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

*Assisting Minister*




You lift up the weak and hun - gry.

*All*




We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

*Assisting Minister* *All*



And your glo - ry shines a - bove the heav - ens We



bless your ho - ly name, O God.



## When a Star Is Shining - ACS #915



1 When a star is shin-ing o - ver east - ern hills,  
 2 Where the world is wait-ing for an un - known day,  
 3 Lead us on, O Day-star, in the qui - et night;



when the air is si - lent, and the clam - or stills,  
 where a voice for - got - ten cries, "Pre - pare the way!"  
 guide us through the shad-ow with your gen - tle light;



when the night is wait-ing, and the old hopes rise,  
 Where an earth - ly pow-er makes the heart turn cold,  
 show us in a man-ger our re - demp-tion's sign;



then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise.  
 there the gifts are of - fered— in - cense, myrrh, and gold.  
 bring us to a morn-ing where the prom - ise shines.



*Refrain*  
 Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn-ing where the



prom-ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,



to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: WHERE THE PROMISE SHINES, Bob Moore, b. 1962

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## **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**

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 27:1, 4-9

*The LORD is my light and my salvation, of whom should I be afraid, of whom should I be afraid?*

### **Refrain**



<sup>1</sup> 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?

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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. **Refrain**

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup> My heart speaks your message— | “Seek my face.”  
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

<sup>9</sup> 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. **Refrain**

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

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

<sup>18</sup> 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.

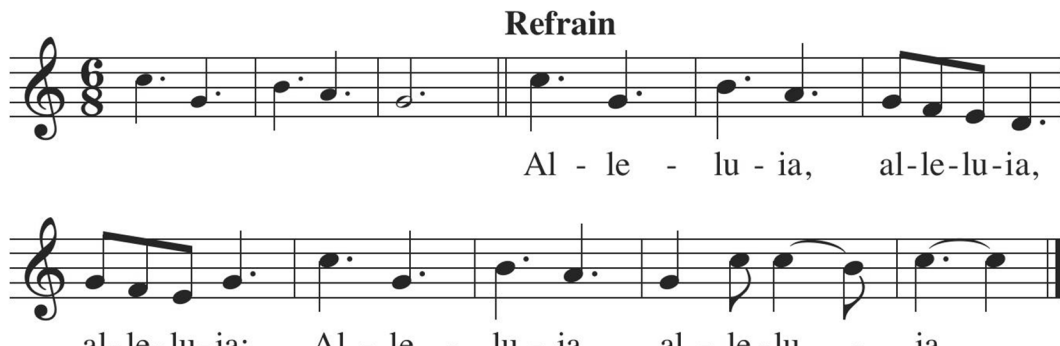
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Children at Heart Sermon**

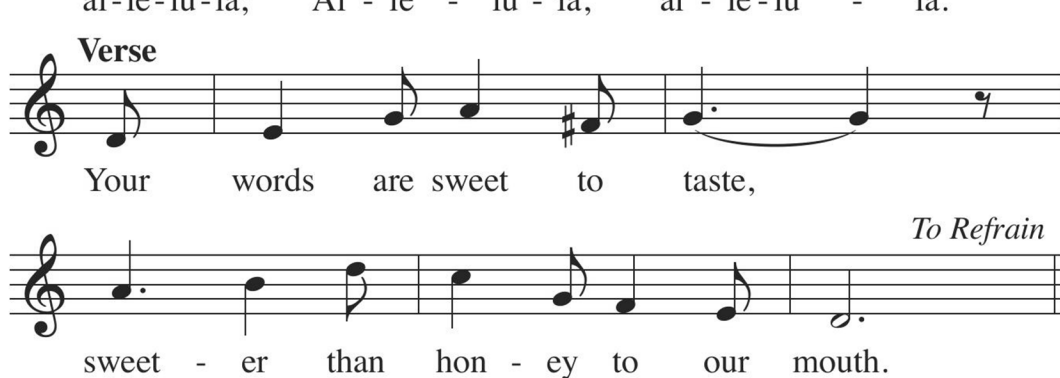
## Gospel Acclamation - "Unfailing Light" - Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl

**Refrain**



Al - le - lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

**Verse**



Your words are sweet to taste,  
sweet - er than hon - ey to our mouth.

*To Refrain*

## Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-23

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

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

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

<sup>16</sup> 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."

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

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> 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**

## **Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day: “Come Follow Me, the Savior Spake” - ELW #799**

## **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:** *“He Leadeth Me”* - arr. Paul Owen  
*Memorial Handbells with Dave Lekwa, soloist*

## **Offering Prayer**

God of majesty,  
no eye has seen, no ear has heard  
what you have prepared for those who love you,  
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.  
Use what we have gathered  
to feed us with the reign of God come near,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **The Meal**

*This is Christ's table and Christ's meal. All are welcome here. Kids are welcome to commune at the discretion of their parents. If you are unable to come forward please let an usher or the pastor know so that we can bring you Communion at your seat.*

## The Great Thanksgiving - “Unfailing Light” - Marty Haugen & Susan Briebl

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. It is divided into four systems, each with a vocal part and lyrics. The first system is for the 'Presider' and 'All', with lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second system is also for 'Presider' and 'All', with lyrics 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third system is for the 'Presider' with lyrics 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth system is for 'All' with lyrics 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The music consists of simple, stepwise melodic lines with some rests and a final whole note.

*Presider* *All*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Presider* *All*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Presider*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All*  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right and good everywhere and always to give you thanks and praise, Holy God, mighty and immortal, through your Son Jesus Christ. Sharing our life, he lived among us, revealing your boundless love, a light to all the nations, and life for ev'ry people  
And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



**“Holy, Holy, Holy” - “Unfailing Light” - Marty Haugen & Susan Briebl**

*All*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the One who comes, who  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name,

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est, 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**

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

## **Hymns during Communion**

*"Lamb of God" - "Unfailing Light" - Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl*  
*"I Want to Walk as a Child of The Light" - ELW #815*

**Lamb of God**  
*(Unfailing Light)*

*All*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

1., 2.

world; have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.

3.

world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**Hymn after Communion: "Now Lord You Let Your Servant Go in Peace" from "Unfailing Light" - Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl**

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef. It begins with a 4/4 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line. The tempo marking 'All' is placed above the first staff.

*All*

Now Lord, you let your

ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful - filled. My

own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-

pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a

light to re - veal you to the na - tions, and the

glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace.

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Radiant God,  
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In the sacrament of his body and blood  
you have drawn us to your heart.  
Send us from this table with delight,  
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,  
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **Announcements**

*Please see insert*

## **Blessing**

May the triune God,  
who has put a new song in your mouth  
and tuned your heart for praise  
+ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **Sending Hymn: "We are Marching in the Light" - ELW #866**

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"**

*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 Shelley Ludeman and family in your prayers following the death of her sister, Rhonda Thompson*

*Please keep Kenzie and Fred Alderson and family in your prayers following the death of Fred's mother Beverly Alderson.*

Mary Brinkman	Connie Robinson	Mike Neal
Ashley and Ming Xu	<i>sister of Shirley Klonglan</i>	Christina King
<i>friends of Aly Sassman</i>	Barb McDaniel	Sherry Kluever
Julia Zaffarano	Ken Huffaker	Kim Elliott
Joan Stensland	<i>father of Kendra McCauley</i>	Pr. Marcia Kisner
Kathy Lynn Johnson	Emma Nelson	Marlene Waddell
Teresa Krebs	<i>granddaughter of Steve &amp; Nan Jungst</i>	<i>friend of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch</i>
Kari Toot	Ardith Forsyth	Cassie Harrell
Tanya Sorem	Eileen Miller	Jean Smith
Julie & Craig Sutherland	Karen Anderson	Easton Farrington
June Copenhaver	Caleb Roof	Janice Hartz
<i>mother of Diane Martin</i>	Evelyn Onstot	Jackie Byers
Pastor Andrea Myers	Katy Beno	<i>daughter of Shellie Black</i>
<i>wife of Pastor Ronald Myers</i>	<i>sister of Sandy Christian</i>	Donna See
Charlie Lloyd	Eric Forsyth	Norma Dannan
Bert Ann Ray	Crystal Vines	<i>friend of Betty Runge</i>
Wayne Kinyon	Katie Bass	Fred Samuelson
Loren Bryant	<i>niece of Judy Coverdale</i>	Jaylee Bartleson
<i>brother of Arlys Neal</i>	Wayne Johnson	Janeen Driscoll
Jill Rhodes	Troy Vincent	Jan Cook
	Johann Thiel	

**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.*

## **Save the Date.**

### **TODAY: Newcomer Orientation**

When: Sunday, January 25 following worship

### **Wednesday Night Live & Confirmation**

When: Wednesday, January 28, 6:30 PM

### **Weekly Bible Study**

When: Thursday, January 29, 9:00 AM

### **Memorial Volunteers @ Harmony Clothing Closet**

When: Monday, February 2, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

### **Wednesday Night Live & Confirmation**

When: Wednesday, February 4, 6:30 PM

### **Weekly Bible Study**

When: Thursday, February 5, 9:00 AM

### **Beer & Theology**

When: Thursday, February 5, 6:30 PM

Where: Cubbies on Main

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

When: Sunday, February 8 following worship

### **Executive Committee Meeting**

When: Tuesday, February 10, 5:00 PM

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### **Ash Wednesday Service**

When: Wednesday, February 18, 7:00 PM

### **Community BINGO & Nachos**

When: Sunday, February 22, 5:30 - 6:30 PM



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@memluthnevada



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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