

ELW Service of the Word Sunday, January 26, 2025

## **WELCOME VIDEO**

## **PRELUDE**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **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.

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.**

**GATHERING SONG *This Little Light of Mine* (ELW 677)**

1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
 this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
 this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
 ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
 ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

**GREETING (ELW p. 213)**

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.**

**KYRIE (ELW p. 203)**

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.  
 We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.  
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.  
 Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 213)**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you,  
we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth,  
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 215)**

Let us pray.

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**

*A reading from Nehemiah.*

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. 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. 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. 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. 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. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

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. 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.**

**PSALM: Psalm 19**

1 The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

**2 One day tells its tale to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

3 Although they have no words or language,  
and their voices are not heard,

**4 their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the  
ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

5 It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs  
about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

7 The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**8 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the  
eyes.**

9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;  
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine  
gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

11 By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**12 Who can detect one's own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not  
get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a  
| great offense.

**14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a (VISUALWORD)**

*12 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. 13 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.*

*14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 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. 16 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. 17 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? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body. 21 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.” 22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 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; 24 whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, 25 that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.*

*27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 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. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31a But strive for the greater gifts.*

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 216)****Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?****Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.****Alleluia, alleluia.****GOSPEL (VISUALWORD): Luke 4:14-21**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

16 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, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

18 “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,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20 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. 21 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.**

**SERMON****HYMN OF THE DAY *The Church's One Foundation* (ELW 654)**

1 The church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
she is his new creation  
by water and the word.  
From heav'n he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her,  
and for her life he died.

2 Elect from ev'ry nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation  
one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
one holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with ev'ry grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder  
this world sees her oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder,  
by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping;  
their cry goes up: "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping  
shall be the morn of song.

4 Through toil and tribulation  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation



of peace forevermore;  
 till with the vision glorious  
 her longing eyes are blest,  
 and the great church victorious  
 shall be the church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union  
 with God, the Three in One,  
 and mystic sweet communion  
 with those whose rest is won.  
 Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!  
 Lord, save us by your grace,  
 that we, like saints before us,  
 may see you face to face.

### **A STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

READER 1 As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents;

teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

READER 2 As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

READER 3 As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

PASTOR As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery (*especially*). God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

READER 4 As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

READER 5 As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church, and beloved friends and family who have died. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**Amen.**

### **PEACE (ELW p. 217)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **VISUALWORD**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

### **LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 221)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**BLESSING**

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

**SENDING SONG *Shine, Jesus, Shine* (ELW 671)****DISMISSAL (ELW p. 222)**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**CONGREGATION JOINS IN SINGING:**

God be with you 'til we meet again, By his counsel's guide, uphold you,  
With his sheep securely fold you, God be with you 'til we meet again.  
**Amen.**

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