



# Messiah Lutheran Church

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 22, 2023

*The word “epiphany” means coming to a new realization or understanding. The Day of Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup> celebrates the Magi coming to worship the Christ Child. The Gospels following this reveal who the Christ Child grew to be and help us explore what it means to be His followers. The altar and pulpit are dressed in green during Epiphany, a sign of our Christian growth in faith and understanding.*

**PRESERVICE MUSIC:** *Messiah Hand Bell Choir*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lord God, in the chill and dark of winter we are waiting and longing.  
We are looking for you to come into our world!  
We are seeking light.

In our lives,  
**We are seeking light.**

In our neighborhoods,  
**We are seeking light.**

In our families,  
**We are seeking light.**

In our work,  
**We are seeking light.**

In our nation,  
**We are seeking light.**

In our world,  
**We are seeking light.**

In our hearts,  
**We are seeking light.**

Seek and you shall find.  
Knock and the door will be opened.  
Ask and it will be given to you.  
**Jesus Christ you are the light of the world.**  
**May we have eyes to see you and ears to hear you.**  
**Fill our lives with your light today! Amen.**

**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.*

<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 the nation,  
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, 14**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>4</sup>**One thing I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after:  
to live in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the LORD,  
and to inquire in his temple.**

<sup>5</sup>For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will set me high on a rock.

<sup>6</sup>**Now my head is lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent  
sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud,  
be gracious to me and answer me!

<sup>8</sup>**"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"  
Your face, LORD, do I seek.**

<sup>9</sup>Do not hide your face from me.  
Do not turn your servant away in anger,  
you who have been my help.  
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,  
O God of my salvation!

<sup>14</sup>**Wait for the LORD;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the LORD!**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *"Celtic Alleluia"*

*ELW Service Music #174*



# **GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12, 18-23**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 4th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>12</sup>Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.

<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 fishermen. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for 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 Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

L: The Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON SONG:**

**“Will You Come and Follow Me”** (Vs 1, 2, 4, 5)

ELW 798

## **SERMON: “Follow Me!”**

Deacon Joanne

*Sacrament of Holy Baptism  
for Helic Victor Berg*

*Child of Jared & Jenna Berg  
ELW, page 227*



**OFFERING:** *Messiah Hand Bell Choir*

**OFFERTORY:** *"We Are an Offering"*

*ELW 692*

**Chorus 1**

We lift our voices  
We lift our hands  
We lift our lives up to You  
We are an offering  
Lord use our voices  
Lord use our hands  
Lord use our lives they are Yours  
We are an offering

**Bridge**

All that we have  
All that we are  
All that we hope to be  
We give to You  
We give to You

**Chorus 2**

We lift our voices  
We lift our hands  
We lift our lives up to You  
We are an offering  
We are an offering

Dwight Liles © 1984 Curb Word Music (Admin. by WC Music Corp.)  
CCLI License # 2513946

**OFFERING PRAYER:**

**Living God, in your Son, you have given the world a radiant Light shining brightly in the darkness! Lead us onward in Light that we may share your warmth and grace with all people. Let our lives be an offering of love every day. We pray through Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.**

**PRAYERS:**

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Lord God, make your Church one in purpose and plan, ever proclaiming the message of the cross and ever sharing the encouragement to walk in faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We rejoice at the bounty of your creation. Fill the land and sea with your abundance. Bless harvests in the southern hemisphere and fallow fields in the northern hemisphere. Equip farmers to till and be good stewards of the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In Christ your reign comes near and calls all to repentance. Break the rod of the oppressor in every nation. Dispel the shadow of death in places of war and persecution. Grant us leaders who lift the yokes that burden those in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be a stronghold for those in trouble and a rock for all who are afraid. Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter, are facing maltreatment, or are isolated and lonely. We especially pray for those in our community who need your healing grace and mercy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain the ministries of this congregation and our sister congregations, Moe Lutheran and Bethel-Stafford. Nurture each congregation's unique witness to your presence; foster mutual respect; inspire our cooperation in loving our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We praise you for the faithful who've gone ahead of us to live with you in endless light and love. Help us leave our nets and follow that we may join them in the promise of eternal life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

### **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.**

### **BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG: "Beautiful Savior"**

*ELW 838*

### **DISMISSAL:**

L: Go in peace.  
Be the light of Christ.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

