

# THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

## JANUARY 26, 2025

839 *O CHRIST, OUR TRUE AND ONLY LIGHT*

- 1 O Christ, our true and only light,  
Enlighten those who sit in night;  
Let those afar now hear Your voice  
And in Your fold with us rejoice.
  
- 2 Fill with the radiance of Your grace  
The souls now lost in error's maze;  
Enlighten those whose inmost minds  
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.
  
- 3 O gently call those gone astray  
That they may find the saving way!  
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed  
In You find peace and heav'nly rest.
  
- 4 Shine on the darkened and the cold;  
Recall the wand'ers to Your fold.

Unite all those who walk apart;  
Confirm the weak and doubting heart,

5 That they with us may evermore  
Such grace with wond'ring thanks adore  
And endless praise to You be giv'n  
By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

***(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)***

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

**P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life

through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

### *SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*OLD TESTAMENT READING* Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10

**A** The Old Testament Reading is from Nehemiah, chapter 8.

<sup>1</sup> All the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. <sup>2</sup>So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>And 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 above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. <sup>6</sup>And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. And they bowed

their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. . . .

<sup>8</sup>They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and 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 as 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 to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*EPISTLE*

1 Corinthians 12:12–31a

**A** The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 12.

<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 one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>For the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot should 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 should 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 be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? <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 parts, 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 parts of the body that seem

to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, <sup>24</sup>which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

<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 miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and 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 with tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup>But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.



**(Stand)**

*ALLELUIA AND VERSE*

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**C** These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*HOLY GOSPEL*

Luke 4:16–30

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>16</sup>Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and 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 proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
<sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

<sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” <sup>22</sup>And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” <sup>23</sup>And he said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Physician, heal yourself.’ What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.” <sup>24</sup>And he said, “Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. <sup>25</sup>But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land,

<sup>26</sup>and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. <sup>27</sup>And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” <sup>28</sup>When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. <sup>29</sup>And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. <sup>30</sup>But passing through their midst, he went away.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### *APOSTLES' CREED*

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the  
living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.**

*SERMON*

*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH*

**P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God of Zion, we give You thanks that You have arisen to show pity to our fallen world and set us free from sin and death. In Christ the appointed time of favor has come for all people. Cause Your name to be declared among all peoples, that Your grace may not be rejected in our time but received with delight in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** O Lord, Your people in the days of Ezra the priest returned to Your Word with attentive ears. Give us eagerness to hear Your Word with understanding, that our days may be sanctified and Your commandments put into practice among us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord God, Giver of the Holy Spirit, You bless Your servants with a variety of gifts from one and the same Spirit. Grant that each of us may use these

gifts for the common good of Your people. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Give wisdom and courage to all who govern our communities and country, that they may lead well, following Your will rather than man's whims. Grant us willingness to support them with our prayers and encouragement. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Gracious and compassionate Lord, comfort those who mourn [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. As our Great Physician, mend the bodies and uplift the spirits of all in need [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** O Lord, Your Son has come with favor to deliver us, and in His blessed Sacrament He brings cleansing and strength. Give us faith that we would not despise our Savior and this Holy

Communion. Do not pass through us and go away as at Nazareth, but dwell among us graciously.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*OFFERING*

# SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

*PREFACE*

LSB 208

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He



is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life.

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## *SANCTUS*

LSB 208

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the  
glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to  
the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the  
Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## *PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING*

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh.

We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

### *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.**

### *THE WORDS OF OUR LORD*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

*PAX DOMINI*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

*AGNUS DEI*

LSB 210

**C** 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

*973 THY WORD IS A LAMP*

ref Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

And a light unto my path.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

And a light unto my path.

1 When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,  
Still You're there right beside me.  
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near.  
Please be near me to the end. Refrain

2 I will not forget Your love for me, and yet  
My heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;  
And I will love You to the end. Refrain

Text: Amy Grant, 1960

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## *602 THE GIFTS CHRIST FREELY GIVES*

1 The gifts Christ freely gives  
He gives to you and me  
To be His Church, His bride,  
His chosen, saved and free!  
Saints blest with these rich gifts  
Are children who proclaim  
That they were won by Christ  
And cling to His strong name.

2 The gifts flow from the font  
Where He calls us His own;  
New life He gives that makes  
Us His and His alone.  
Here He forgives our sins  
With water and His Word;  
The triune God Himself  
Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.

3 The gifts of grace and peace  
From absolution flow;  
The pastor's words are Christ's  
For us to trust and know.  
Forgiveness that we need  
Is granted to us there;  
The Lord of mercy sends  
Us forth in His blest care.

4 The gifts are there each day  
The holy Word is read;  
God's children listen, hear,  
Receive, and they are fed.

Christ fills them with Himself,  
Blest words that give them life,  
Restoring and refreshing  
Them for this world's strife.

5 The gifts are in the feast,  
Gifts far more than we see;  
Beneath the bread and wine  
Is food from Calvary.  
The body and the blood  
Remove our ev'ry sin;  
We leave His presence in  
His peace, renewed again.

6 All glory to the One  
Who lavishes such love;  
The triune God in love  
Assures our life above.  
His means of grace for us  
Are gifts He loves to give;  
All thanks and praise for His  
Great love by which we live!

*NUNC DIMITTIS*

LSB 211

**☐ 1 O Lord, now let Your servant  
Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory  
Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles  
Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people,  
Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit,  
Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning,  
Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding  
Through all eternity.**



## *POST-COMMUNION COLLECT*

**P** Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## *BENEDICTION*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## *ANNOUNCEMENTS*

### *577 ALMIGHTY GOD, YOUR WORD IS CAST*

- 1 Almighty God, Your Word is cast  
Like seed into the ground;  
Now let the dew of heav'n descend  
And righteous fruits abound.
  
- 2 Let not the sly satanic foe  
This holy seed remove,  
But give it root in ev'ry heart  
To bring forth fruits of love.
  
- 3 Let not the world's deceitful cares  
The rising plant destroy,  
But let it yield a hundredfold  
The fruits of peace and joy.
  
- 4 So when the precious seed is sown,  
Life-giving grace bestow  
That all whose souls the truth receive  
Its saving pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt.

Text: Public domain

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Book

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