

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 18, 2026

WELCOME!

We love that you are here today! Our service can be found in the blue hymnal beneath the chair in front of you. Projections are also provided on the front wall.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right as you exit the worship space, as well as across the hall as you enter into the school.

Quiet room Parents may use the library in the back of this worship space which still enables you to hear/see the service.

A **Connection Card** and pen are found in the pocket of the chair in front of you. Time will be provided to fill it out during the service. You may drop it in the wicker basket along the wall after the service.

THEME: EPIPHANY 2 THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD HAS COME:

A LIGHT THAT SHINES THROUGH THE PREACHING

An epiphany is a revealing of something - like when the light goes on and you say, "Aha!" In the Church calendar the Season of Epiphany provides many "aha moments" which reveal Jesus to be the true Messiah and promised Savior. Today, we see how Jesus begins His ministry of preaching and calls disciples to learn and carry on this ministry of preaching the Word.

PLEASE RESPECT OUR PRACTICE OF "CLOSE COMMUNION"

Christ says the Sacrament is an expression of unity (1 Co 10:16-17). We WANT to be unified with you on the basis of Christ and His doctrine! Honesty compels us to ask you to WAIT before communing with us: 1) until you've had a chance to find out what we teach; 2) until you make your unity with us evident by membership at Peace. Regular classes are conducted for this purpose (837-5346). WELS & ELS guests please sign a Connection Card and give it to an usher before communing. Thank you.

You may wish to review what Holy Communion is from the Small Catechism on page 293 of the blue hymnal.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Service – Setting Two pg. 172 in the blue hymnal

Hymns

Psalm of the Day	Psalm 27	page 27 in the blue hymnal
Hymn of the Day	382	<i>The People Who Walked in Darkness</i>
Communion Hymns	375	<i>Arise and Shine in Splendor</i>
	897	<i>Lord Jesus, You Have Come</i>
Closing Hymn	689	<i>Renew Me, O Eternal Light</i>

Scripture Lessons

First Lesson	Isaiah 8:19–9:4
Second Lesson	1 John 2:3-11
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 4:12-23

Sermon *Isaiah 8:19 – 9:4*
Look to the Dawn

PEACE BELONGS TO A LARGER CHURCH BODY

It is called the WELS – Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. It was founded by 3 congregations in Milwaukee in 1850 and today includes some 1100 congregations with at least one congregation in all 50 states. It is a church body dedicated to the truth of Scripture. Please check out the WELS website – www.wels.net. There is so much to discover about our ministries and God's blessings through the WELS. It will be worth your while.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presider	Rev. Shaun Arndt
Sermon	Rev. Luke C. Werre
Keyboard	Mrs. Lynn Proeber
Projection Slides	Amy Larson

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 8 & 9

¹⁹When they tell you, "Consult the mediums and the spiritists, who whisper and mutter," shouldn't a people consult their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living? ²⁰To the law and to the testimony! If people do not speak according to this word, there will be no dawn for them. ²¹They will pass through the land, distressed and starving, but when this takes place and they are starving, they will be frustrated, and they will curse their king and their God. They will turn their faces upward, ²²and then they will look down to the ground, but I tell you, they will see only distress, darkness, and the gloom that brings anguish. They will be banished into thick darkness.

¹Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for the land that was in anguish. In former times, he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will cause it to be glorious, along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles.

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.

³You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.

They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time,
like the celebration when people divide the plunder.

⁴For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them.

You have broken the bar on their shoulders and the rod of their oppressor,
as you did in the day of Midian.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 27

SECOND LESSON

1 John 2

³This is how we know that we have known him: if we keep his commands. ⁴The one who says, "I know him," but does not keep his commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵If anyone keeps God's word, the love of God is truly made complete in him. This is how we know that we are in him: ⁶The one who says he remains in him should walk as Jesus walked.

⁷Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one that you have had since the beginning. The old command is the message you heard. ⁸At the same time, the command I am writing is new—it is true in Jesus and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. ⁹The one who says he is in the light and yet hates his brother is still

in the darkness.¹⁰ The one who loves his brother remains in the light, and nothing causes him to stumble. ¹¹ The one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isaiah 9:2

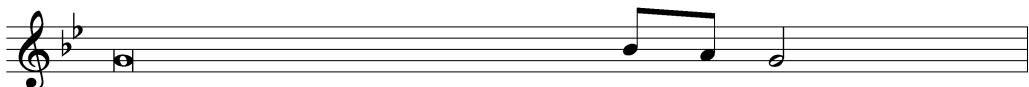


Refrain

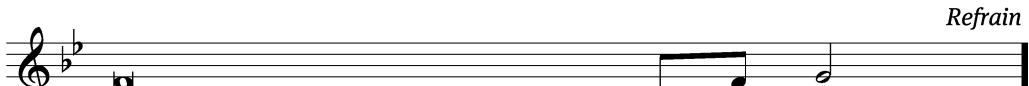


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;



on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

Refrain

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GOSPEL

Matthew 4

¹²When Jesus heard that John was put in prison, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴He did this to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles,

¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light,

and on those dwelling in the region and the shadow of death a light has dawned.

¹⁷From that time, Jesus began to preach: “Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near.”

¹⁸As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen. ¹⁹He said to them, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

²⁰They immediately left their nets and followed him. ²¹Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. Jesus called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

The People Who Walked in Darkness | CW 382

WORSHIP NOTES

- 1) The Hymn of the Day is #382 “The People Who Walked in Darkness.” This hymn was written by Mary Louise Bringle (born in 1953) and the music for it was composed by Sally Ann Morris (born in 1952). Both ladies are still alive. Bringle is Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Brevard College in Brevard, NC – a private college affiliated with the United Methodist Church. She is an award-winning hymn writer whose original texts and translations appear in the hymnals of numerous denominations in North America and Scotland. She has served as President of The Hymn Society in the US and Canada (did you know there was such a thing?) and as chair of the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song, responsible for creating the hymnal Glory to God.
- 2) Why do we sing the liturgical song, “Holy, Holy Holy” in connection with the Lord’s Supper? (See page 184). This song alludes to two Bible events. One is the vision of Isaiah in chapter 6. Isaiah is standing before the throne of Almighty God and the angels of heaven are calling back and forth, “Holy, holy, holy!” The other event is Palm Sunday. As Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey the people were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” We sing these words because we believe in the **Real Presence** of Christ’s body and blood in the Lord’s Supper. Jesus comes to us in the Sacrament in a tangible way. The Sacrament brings us into the very presence of God. We sing, “Hosanna!” to welcome him as they did on Palm Sunday. (Hosanna means, “Come and save us now!”) We sing, “Holy, holy, holy!” like the angels in Isaiah’s vision, recognizing that we are meeting Jesus face to face in this Sacrament.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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