



February 1st, 2026
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship)
We grow in the Word (education)
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wisconsin Synod
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Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Join us after the service for coffee. Join us for Sunday School at 10:45 and our Voters Meeting at 11:00 am.

HOLY COMMUNION

Our worship service is open to all. The forgiveness received in the Lord's Supper is proclaimed to all throughout the service. However, the Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper is to be received by those who have been instructed about its meaning and the unity it expresses.

*For this reason, we ask that guests speak with the Pastor
before partaking of the Holy Supper.*

IDENTITY REVEALED

“Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “reveal.” It is the season when you see Jesus begin his public ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. During Epiphany, you will come to understand that when the true identity of Jesus is revealed, you realize your own true identity as well.

JESUS IS THE LIGHT

The prophet Isaiah vividly described humanity as “people walking in darkness.” Then he foretold that a light would shine on them. Enveloped by sin, suffering, and death, we find our minds and hearts clouded. But Jesus is revealed as the promised light. He shines his light by preaching repentance and the good news of the kingdom. Our Savior is the Light of the world, and we reflect his light onto everyone around us.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION

CW 155

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Tune: EWING



1 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;



for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!
ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.



Al - mighty - y God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;
With God the Ho - ly Spir - it, at God the Fa - ther's throne,



we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

Tune: Alexander C. Ewing
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THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be Seated

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 8:19—9:4

The prophet foretold that people walking in darkness would see a great light.

¹⁹When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? ²⁰Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. ²¹Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. ²²Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness.

¹Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

²The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

³You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.

⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27B O LORD, You Are My Light

**1 O LORD, you are my light
and my salvation near;**

**then who will cause me fright
or fill my heart with fear?**

**While God my strength, my life sustains,
secure from fear my soul remains,
secure from fear my soul remains.**

**2 My one request has been
and still this prayer I raise,
that I may live within
God's house for all my days,
God's glorious beauty to admire,
and in his temple to inquire,
and in his temple to inquire.**

**3 When troubles round me swell,
when fears and dangers throng,
securely I will dwell
in his pavilion strong.
Within the shelter of God's tent
he hides me till the storm is spent,
he hides me till the storm is spent.**

**4 Uplifted on a rock
above my foes around,
amid the battle shock
my song shall still resound.
Then joyful off'rings I will bring;
the LORD God's praise my heart shall sing,
the LORD God's praise my heart shall sing.**

Text (st. 1): Psalter, 1887, alt.; (sts. 2–4): Psalter, 1912, alt.

Text: Public domain

SECOND READING

1 JOHN 2:3–11

God's children walk in the light of Christ by living in love for God and for one another.

³We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

⁷Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. ⁸Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

⁹Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. ¹⁰Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. ¹¹But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 4:12–23

Jesus preached the light of the gospel to a world in the darkness of unbelief.

¹²When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— ¹⁴to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—
¹⁶the people living in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ²⁰At once they left their nets and followed him.

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

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN: O CHRIST, OUR TRUE AND ONLY LIGHT

904

SERMON on ISAIAH 8:19—9:4

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Offering

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

♪ **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** ♪

CW 167

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts:

heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

♪ **O Christ, Lamb of God** ♪

CW 169

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Amen.

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN: SOUL ADORN YOURSELF WITH GLADNESS

663

Stand

HYMN: LORD, BID YOUR SERVANT GO IN PEACE

950

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN: DAWNING LIGHT OF OUR SALVATION

311

792 O Trinity, Most Blessed Light

- 1 O Trinity, most blessed light,
O Unity of sov'reign might,
as now the fiery sun departs,
come shed your light within our hearts.

- 2 To you our morning song of praise,
to you our evening prayer we raise;
our humble joy shall ever be
to praise your name eternally.

- 3 To God the Father, heav'nly light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night,
to God the Spirit let us raise
one heart and voice in ceaseless praise.

Text (Sts. 1-2): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt; (Sts. 1-2): Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; (St. 3): tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, alt.; (St. 3): Charles Coffin, 1676-1749
Text: Public domain

904 O Christ, Our True and Only Light



1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, en - light - en
2 Fill with the ra - diance of your grace the souls now
3 O gent - ly call those gone a - stray that they may
4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold, re - call the
5 That they with us may ev - er - more such grace with



those who sit in night; let those a - far now
lost in er - ror's maze; en - light - en those whose
find the sav - ing way; let ev - 'ry con - science
wan - d'ers to your fold; u - nite all those who
won - d'ring thanks a - dore and end - less praise to



hear your voice and in your fold with us re - joice.
in - most minds some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.
sore op - pressed in you find peace and heav'n - ly rest.
walk a - part, con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,
you be giv'n by all your Church in earth and heav'n.

663 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

- 1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness;
leave behind all gloom and sadness.
Come into the daylight's splendor;
there with joy your praises render
unto him whose grace unbounded
has this wondrous supper founded.
He, though reigning high and holy,
deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

- 2 Hasten as a bride to meet him,
and with loving rev'rence greet him,
for with words of life immortal
he is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before him,
saying, as you there adore him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive you,
that I nevermore will leave you.

- 3 He who craves a precious treasure
neither cost nor pain will measure,
but the priceless gifts of heaven
God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,
naught would buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven,
and his blood, for you once given.

- 4 Now I kneel before you lowly,
filled with joy most deep and holy,
as with trembling awe and wonder
on your mighty work I ponder,
by such mystery surrounded,
depths that no one ever sounded.
None may dare to pierce unbidden
secrets that with you are hidden.

- 5 Human reason, though it ponders,
cannot fathom these great wonders,
that Christ's body must be boundless
since the souls it feeds are countless,
and that he his blood is giving
with the wine we are receiving.
These great mysteries unsounded
are by God alone expounded.

- 6 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
you have left your throne in heaven
on the cross for me to languish
and to die in bitter anguish,
to forgo all joy and gladness
and to shed your blood in sadness.

By this blood redeemed and living,
 Lord, I praise you with thanksgiving.

7 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
 Jesus, friend of friends most tender,
 Jesus, joy of my desiring,
 fount of life, my soul inspiring:
 at your feet I cry, my maker,
 let me be a fit partaker
 of this blessed food from heaven
 for our good, your glory, given.

8 Jesus, Lord of life in heaven,
 help me when this meal is given
 to receive it for my blessing
 as I come, my sins confessing.
 In this supper let me measure,
 Lord, how deep is your love's treasure,
 that, as I on earth have eaten,
 I may be your guest in heaven.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-1677, alt.; (sts. 1-2, 4, 7); tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; (sts. 3, 5-6); tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 8); tr. Peter M. Prange, b. 1972
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950 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace



1 Lord, bid your ser - vant go in peace, your
 2 This is the Sav - ior of the world, the
 3 With saints of old, with saints to come, to



word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
 Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
 you we lift our voice; to Fa - ther, Son, and



va - tion's dawn, this child so long fore - told.
 in our midst, the joy of Is - ra - el.
 Spir - it blest be hon - or, love, and praise.

Text (sts. 1-2): James Quinn, SJ, 1919-2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, b. 1948

Tune: American

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Tune: Public domain

311 Dawning Light of Our Salvation



1 Long in dark - ness Is - rael wan - dered; long in mor - tal
2 He shall raise a might - y Sav - ior; born of Da - vid's
3 Je - sus, Lord, and might - y Sav - ior, Da - vid's son and



shad - ows we walked in bond - age and self - pit - y, trod in
lin - eage, he comes in cov - 'nant love to claim us, from our
yet his King, dawn - ing light of our sal - va - tion, of your



paths of sin and grief. In the proph - ets' words he told us,
sins to set us free. Light to those who dwell in dark - ness,
sav - ing pow'r we sing! Stand, O lame, and dance, ye bro - ken;



long the God of Is - rael spoke; he a - lone in strength would
life to those from death who flee, joy un - to the earth, and
know the Sav - ior's heal - ing grace. Come, O deaf, and hear him



save us from the hands of all our foes.
glad - ness, to your path - ways dawn - ing peace!
sing - ing; turn, O blind, be - hold his face!

Refrain



Ev - 'ry val - ley be ex - alt - ed! Ev - 'ry moun - tain



be made plane! Crook - ed ways re - pent and straight - en;



all cre - a - tion bend in praise!