

St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Sunday, January 25, 2026
Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

Welcome & Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,

God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.
Amen.

***Hymn**

Jesus Calls U, O'er the Tumult

ELW 696

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***Kyrie**

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***Glory be to God**

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***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.**

Please be seated.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ 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.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: 27:1, 4-9

- ¹ Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.
- ² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**
- ³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.
- ⁴ **The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.**
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;
- ⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**
- ⁷ The voice | of the LORD
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.
- ⁸ **The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.**
- ⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**
- ¹¹ O LORD, give strength | to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

***Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)**

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***Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4th chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

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

¹⁸ 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 fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ 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. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

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

P: The gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Katie Bills

Sermon

Scott Otto

***Hymn**

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798

*** Prayers of Intercession**

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

***Peace** *(Feel free to share a handshake or hug)*

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Offering: *Please consider giving an offering for the mission and ministry of St. Olaf. We can continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ with your support and generosity. God bless you. Also, please pass the attendance sheets down your row and fill out your info.*

***Offering prayer**

God of majesty,

no eye has seen, no ear has heard

what you have prepared for those who love you,

reveal the wideness of your mercy.

Use what we have gathered

to feed us with the reign of God come near,

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***Lord's Prayer**

***Blessing**

May the triune God,

who has put a new song in your mouth

and tuned your heart for praise

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***Hymn**

On Our Way Rejoicing

ELW 537

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

Assisting in Worship

Presider: Pastor Jim McColley

Organist: Jason Swedlund

Reader: Nancy Hamilton

Ushers: Craig Hamilton, Viv Nore, Karla Berg, Terry Hansen

Tech: Bob Younie