

**TRINITY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

5:00 PM

JANUARY 24,
2026

Jeffery Gramza
Senior Pastor

Tim Jordan
Intern Pastor

**Jonathan
Lonsway**
Dir. of Music

Trinity Lutheran Church - Third Sunday after Epiphany
3701 Jefferson Ave Midland, MI 48640
January 24, 2026, 5:00 pm

PRELUDE

Charly Sly, piano

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Amen.

When darkness presses in and the way feels uncertain, a great light shines.

The light of Christ comes near.

Jesus calls out across ordinary shores and familiar paths,

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Turn us, O God—turn our hearts toward you.

Leaving what holds us, releasing what binds us,
we are invited into new life and holy purpose.

We come, ready to follow.

Come, then—leave your nets, your fears, your certainties.

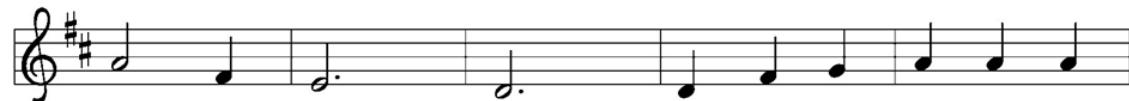
Come and see what God is doing among us.

We turn. We listen. We worship.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see... the brightness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for... the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

BENEDICTION

Go with the blessing of the God of new tomorrows:
the Creator, who turns you toward what is new;
the Son, who calls you out of familiar waters and into living light;
and the Holy Spirit, who gives you courage to follow and grace to begin again.

You are forgiven, you are called, you are sent—
to walk in the light of the kingdom that has come near.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
See next page

ELW #815

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #582

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling



1 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er dwell-ing in the ho-liest realms of light;
2 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er liv-ing as the church's ver-y life;
3 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er work-ing through the church's min-is-try;



Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er brood-ing o'er a world of gloom and night;
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er striv-ing through us in a cease-less strife;
quick-ning, strength-ning, and ab-solv-ing, set-ting cap-tive sin-ners free;



Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er rais-ing those of earth to thrones on high;
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er form-ing in the church the mind of Christ;
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er bind-ing age to age and soul to soul



liv-ing, life-im-part-ing Spir-it, you we praise and mag-ni-fy.
you we praise with end-less wor-ship for your gifts and fruits un-priced.
in com-mu-nion nev-er end-ing, you we wor-ship and ex-tol.

Text: Timothy Rees, 1874-1939, alt.
Music: IN BABILON, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of new life, you call us from familiar ways into the light of your kingdom. When we cling to what is safe and known, speak again your word: Repent, for your kingdom has come near. As you once called fishermen from their nets, call us from whatever keeps us from fully following you. Give us courage to let go, faith to step forward, and grace to follow where Christ leads, so our lives may bear witness to your renewing love. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4

Page 494

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.

The reading is concluded:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 27:1, 4-9

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

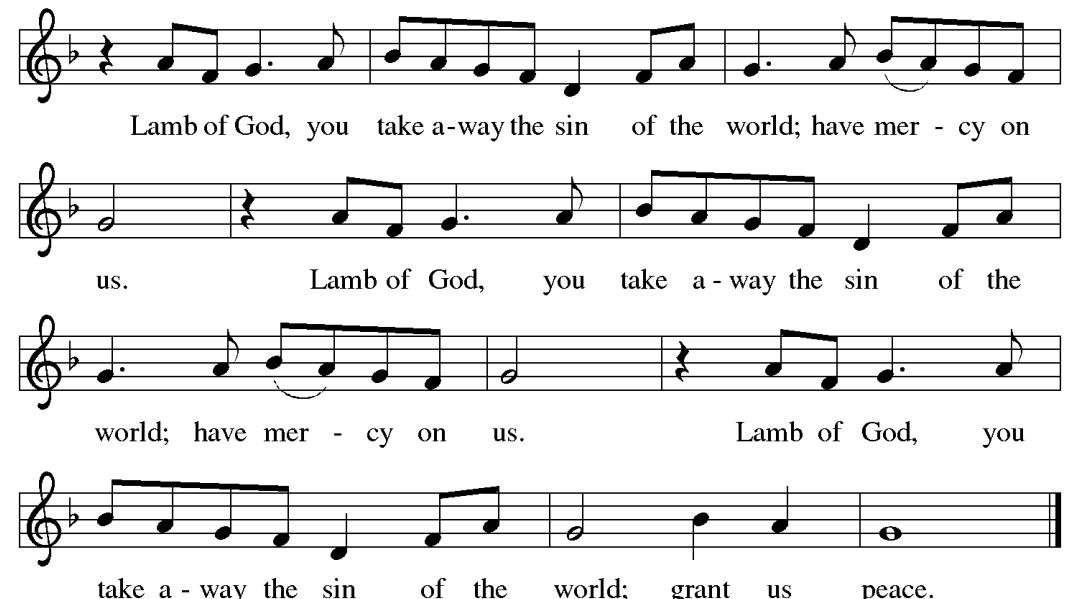
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;**
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to
gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.**
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of
rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be distributed by coming forward and receiving the bread and wine. The center cups (white) are non-alcoholic grape juice. Upon receiving, please put empty cups in baskets provided. If you prefer gluten free, please ask Pastor who is distributing. Please proceed up the center aisle returning to your seat via the side aisles.

COMMUNION HYMN

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW #798

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, as you call us to turn our lives toward you, receive these gifts as signs of our repentance and trust. Use what we offer—and who we are—to share your light, your healing, and your hope in the world, through Jesus Christ, who calls us to follow. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message—“Seek my face.”**
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

SECOND READING: I Corinthians 1:10-18

Page 127

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.

The reading is concluded:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

Page 3

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Jeff Gramza

HYMN OF THE DAY

Faith Begins By Letting Go



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem'ry's roots a - live
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch-ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press-ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
shar-ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
till we find the com-mon-place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

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APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

Offer a sign of peace with those around you

GATHERING OF GIFTS FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

OFFERTORY