

**Cross of Christ Lutheran Church**  
**204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN**  
**507-896-3102**

**Third Sunday after Epiphany with Holy Communion/FB**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**January 25, 2026**



**Monday:**

**Tuesday:**

**Wednesday:**

**Thursday:**

**Friday:** Pastor's Day Off

**Saturday:**

**Sunday:** 9:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion/Baptisms/Noisy Offering/FB  
10:30 a.m. Coffee hr./Sunday School, Club 56 & Confirmation

*Cross of Christ Mission Statement: As a fellowship of believers, it is our mission to joyfully proclaim the gospel of Christ in word and deed; inviting people to worship together, nurturing them in the Christian faith, loving one another and serving a world in need.*

## Prelude

## Ringling of the Church Bell

## Announcements

## Confession and Forgiveness

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

**Amen**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

## Gathering Song: ELW #638 “Blessed Assurance”

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

(Refrain)

**This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior, all the day long:  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.**

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **R**

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness,  
lost in his love. **R**

### 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.

### Choir

#### Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

#### Psalm 27:1, 4-9

<sup>1</sup> 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?

<sup>4</sup> **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.**

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> **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.**

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup> **My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”**

**Your face, O Lord, I will seek.**

<sup>9</sup> 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.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## **Gospel: Matthew 4:12-25**

P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

<sup>15</sup> “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,

on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

<sup>16</sup> 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.”

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

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

<sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, people possessed by demons or having epilepsy or afflicted with paralysis, and he cured them. <sup>25</sup> And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the

Jordan. P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

## Hymn of the Day ELW #798 “Will You Come and Follow Me” vs 1,2&5

1 "Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?

2 "Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare,  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray'r  
in you and you in me?

5 Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

## Apostle's Creed

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

## **Prayers of Intercession:**

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

## **Offering Collection**

## **Offertory Hymn #186 “Create in Me a Clean Heart”**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,

and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

## **Words of Institution**

### **The 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## **Invitation to Communion**

*Congregation Response:* **All are welcome.**

**The Distribution (*Please sign the pew pad.*)**

**Communion Hymns: 677, 697, 779**

## **Sending Song: ELW #733 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”**

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

(Refrain)

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!**  
**Morning by morning new mercies I see;**  
**all I have needed thy hand hath provided;**  
**great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **R**

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **R**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

---

**Annual Meeting Begins.**

**Thank You for helping with the service today:**

Organist: Gayle Smith

Choir Director: Jake Olson

Acolytes: Anika Carrier, Savannah  
Kildahl

Reader: Krin Abraham

Communion: Jessica Boettger, Krin  
Abraham,

Usher: Easton Kildahl, Tatum Bartsch,  
Duane Hegland

**Announcements**

**Sunday February 1st** Noisy Offering Collection.

**Saturday February 7<sup>th</sup> Cross of Christ WELCA Valentine Brunch 10:00 a.m.**

\*\*\*Tickets sold by WELCA after church on Sundays\*\*\*

**Sunday February 18<sup>th</sup>** Caring Collection we will be collecting pasta sauce, pasta, cereal  
(No Cheerios).