

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
January 26, 2025, 9:30 a.m.
Third Sunday after Epiphany

God's glory is revealed in
People stand at attention.
prostrate themselves in
church is another
Most gloriously, the
fulfilled in the person of
round. Listen up. Glimpse



the reading of scripture.
People weep. People
prayer. The unity of the
reflection of God's glory.
promises of God are
Jesus Christ. Gather
the glory of God.

+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Fugue in G Minor

J.S. Bach

CONFSSION 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, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In ☩ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN Arise, Your Light Has Come! ELW 314

KYRIE (vs. 1,2) All sing

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev'-ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for
 hun - gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam - i - ly; for
 wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+WORD+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

First Reading

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

A reading from Nehemiah, chapter 8.

All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel.² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month.³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to

the L_OR_D your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.

¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19

¹ The heavens declare the glo-ry of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork. ⁷ The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-vives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸ The statutes of the LORD are just and re-joice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean and en-dures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

¹¹ By them also is your ser-vant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.

¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

Second Reading

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

A reading from 1st Corinthians, chapter 12.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 18-31a

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*all sing*)

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

Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to bring good news¹ to the poor, and to proclaim release¹ to the captives. Alleluia. (Luke 4:18)*

Gospel

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

The holy Gospel according to Luke, chapter 4. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Luke 4:14-21

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Please have an adult accompany children 3 yrs. old and younger.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY One Bread, One Body ELW 496

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us profess our faith using the words of the 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.

L: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our healer, we continue to pray for those on our prayer list. In addition we lift up to your care these loved ones and concerns that we name aloud or in our hearts before you now...(*time is allowed for additions*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

SHARE THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

L: OFFERING PRAYER

For all that we have received from God let us pray for what we return.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

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.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God...
now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

At Faith all are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle to fill in along the rail from the center to the sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive bread (or gluten-free wafers upon request) and wine (or white grape juice) in pre-filled glasses. Empty glasses can be placed in baskets provided as you return by the side aisles to your seat for silent meditation. If you need communion brought to you, please notify the usher.

COMMUNION HYMN 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.

(if you are giving a reminder at the end of the service, please move toward to the lectern as the altar is cleared after communion distribution)

L: POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen**.

+SENDING+

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

REMINDERS

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God [☩] bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN The Spirit Sends Us Forth To Serve

ELW 551

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE**Toccata****J. Rutter**

All are welcome to refreshments and fellowship in the Social Hall following service.

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, January 26, 2025

Presiding Minister: Pastor Chris Dion

Minister of Music: Deacon Gwynne Hopko

Guest Organist: John Parsons

Assisting Minister: Valerie Holcomb

Lector: Connor Pratt

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Denise Martin, Alan Rindfleisch, Donald Zurell

Altar Guild: Susan and Ashley Provenzano

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, January 26, 2025 Third Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

10:30 a.m. Annual Meeting

Monday, January 27, 2025

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

6:00 p.m. Worship Meeting

Thursday, January 30, 2025

6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (YOUTH Room)

Sunday, February 2, 2025

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

3:00 p.m. Pastor Installation

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

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Presiding Pastor Chris Dion, phone: 860.989.3507

Deacon Gwynne Hopko, Minister of Music