

## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Alien Invaders

January 21 & 22, 2023

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### AS WE GATHER

The land where the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali settled was repeatedly overrun by the armies of other nations. It was the invasion route into the Promised Land, the route for conquerors God allowed to punish errant Israel. But another “alien” would come one day on another mission: Isaiah used the land as a metaphor for our Lord’s coming to begin a new rule in our hearts. He would be as light in the darkness and joy in the harvest. His coming to save us by going to the cross was so different that it seemed to be folly. Yet, to those who came to know our Lord personally, like the disciples in today’s Gospel, there was no question but that they would follow this man. Today’s worship is an opportunity to rejoice over the light, joy, and salvation Christ brought from heaven to this dark, sad, and fallen world.

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

### WELCOME

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples,  
which are not written in this book;  
but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.  
John 20:30-31

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

### OPENING HYMN #412 “The People That in Darkness Sat”

The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen;  
The light has shined on them who long In shades of death have been,  
In shades of death have been.

To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness, The gath’ring nations come;  
They joy as when the reapers bear Their harvest treasures home,  
Their harvest treasures home.

To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is giv’n,  
And on His shoulder ever rests All pow’r in earth and heav’n,  
All pow’r in earth and heav’n.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor, The God by all adored,  
The God by all adored.

His righteous government and pow’r Shall over all extend;  
On judgment and on justice based, His reign shall have no end.  
His reign shall have no end.

(Rise)

Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone,  
Who with the Father ever art And Holy Spirit, one,  
And Holy Spirit, one.

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,

**People: but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

Pastor: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;

**People: wait for the LORD!**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: St. Matthew writes that Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Let us respond by confessing our sins and asking our Lord’s forgiveness.

**People: Heavenly Father, we confess our sins to you. We are too much a part of this fallen world. Because our citizenship is in heaven, invade our thoughts, words, and deeds by your gracious power. Help us to live each day as pilgrims heading to the eternal promised land. Turn us from our sinful direction to follow our Savior’s gracious lead, walking in ways pleasing to you for Jesus’ sake. Amen.**

Pastor: “For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” Be assured that through Jesus’ blood-bought rescue, you are already citizens in the Kingdom of heaven. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN #849 “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”**

Praise the One who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;  
Praise the One who frees’ the pris’ners, Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing ev’ry dread disease,  
Calming storms, and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.  
Praise the One who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle, word;  
Praise the One who drove out demons With the piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water To the desert’s burning sand;  
From this Well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev’ry land.

Let us praise the Word Incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done;  
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one.

**SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God,

**People: mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of your majesty to heal and defend us;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

**STUDENT SONG “Let Us Sing For Joy”**

**✠ WORD ✠**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 6:1-9***

“Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, <sup>2</sup>that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. <sup>3</sup>Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>4</sup>“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup>You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup>And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 12:14-31***

<sup>14</sup>For the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. <sup>21</sup>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.” <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, <sup>24</sup>which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is

honored, all rejoice together. <sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup>And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup>But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 28: 16-20*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty eighth chapter.

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

<sup>16</sup>Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Be seated)

### **CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

#### **"God is So Good"**

God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, He's so good to me.

He cares for me, He cares for me, He cares for me, He's so good to me.

I'll do His will, I'll do His will, I'll do His will, He's so good to me.

He loves me so, He loves me so, He loves me so, He's so good to me.

### **SERMON HYMN #839 "O Christ, Our True and Only Light"**

O Christ, our true and only light, Enlighten those who sit in night;  
Let those afar now hear your voice and in your fold with us rejoice.

Fill with the radiance of your grace The souls now lost in error's maze;  
Enlighten those whose inmost minds Some dark delusion haunts and binds.

O gently call those gone astray That they may find the saving way!  
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed In you find peace and heav'nly rest.

Shine on the darkened and the cold; Recall the wand'ers to your fold.  
Unite all those who walk apart; Confirm the weak and doubting heart.

That they with us may evermore Such grace with wond'ring thanks adore  
And endless praise to you be giv'n By all your church in earth and heav'n.

### **SERMON**

(Rise)

#### **NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

(Be seated)

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** Lord of all nations, your Son became flesh to enlighten a world darkened by sin with His grace. Visit us with His gifts of forgiveness and life, that our way may be glorious with His salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Almighty Lord, your Son's cross and crucifixion is folly to the world, but it is the source of repentance and forgiveness for all His elect. Preserve the preaching of the cross in our midst, that from this life-giving tree we would continue to receive your faith-preserving gifts. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** O Lord, we thank you that you have blessed our School and so many other Lutheran and Christian schools in this world. We ask Lord that you continue to bless our Lutheran Schools, as they raise children to be your disciples. Let this National Lutheran School's Week be a time of praise and thanksgiving for all you have done to bless us. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Heavenly Father, you sent your Son as the Savior of the world, that all the families of the nations might worship before you. Bless the families of this congregation with your grace and protection, that they might remember you in both joy and trouble and worship before you forevermore. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** O Lord, all kingship belongs to you. Rule over the nations for the good of your people, that we might live in peace. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Holy God, your Son welcomed the sick, the afflicted and those oppressed by demons and healed them. Have mercy upon all whom we bring before you in prayer, especially Phil, Don, Audrey, Noah, Joyce, Kaden, Guy, Marga, Cheryl, Tim, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Tom, Jill, Paulette, Gloria, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Dorothy, Helga, Carol, Vern, Debbie, June, Jerry, Shirley, Sarah, and deliver them according to your gracious will. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Almighty God, your kingdom is at hand wherever Jesus, our King, dwells. Bless those who receive your Holy Supper today, that they may rejoice that the King draws near with His body and blood for their salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Almighty God, the fame of your Son spread everywhere as people witnessed His miracles and wonders. As He has wondrously saved us from sin and death, so open our mouths to speak of Him to all who will hear. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before you, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to you alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**People: 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.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

**HYMN #396 “Arise and Shine in Splendor”**

Arise and shine in splendor; Let night today surrender.  
Your light is drawing near. Above, the day is beaming,  
In matchless beauty gleaming; The glory of the Lord is here.

See earth in darkness lying, The heathen nations dying  
In hopeless gloom and night. To you the Lord of heaven –  
Your life, your hope – has given Great glory, honor, and delight.

The world’s remotest races, Upon whose weary faces  
The sun looks from the sky, Shall run with zeal untiring,  
With joy Your light desiring That breaks upon them from on high.

Lift up your eyes in wonder – See, nations gather yonder  
From sin to be set free. The world has heard Your story;  
Her sons come to Your glory; Her daughters haste Your light to see.

Your heart will leap for gladness When from the realms of sadness  
They come from near and far. Your eyes will wake from slumber  
As people without number Rejoice to see the Morning Star.

**HYMN #411 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”**

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.  
In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,  
And show me the way to the Father.  
In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart Lord Jesus.

I’m looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus.  
In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

**HYMN #694 “Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower”**

Thee will I love, my strength, my tower;  
Thee will I love, my hope, my joy.  
Thee will I love with all my power,  
With ardor time shall ne’er destroy.  
Thee will I love, O Light divine, So long as life is mine.

Thee will I love, my life, my Savior,  
Who art my best and truest friend.  
Thee will I love and praise forever,  
For never shall Thy kindness end.  
Thee will I love with all my heart Thou my Redeemer art!

I thank Thee, Jesus, Sun from heaven,  
Whose radiance hath brought light to me;  
I thank Thee, who hast richly given  
All that could make me glad and free;  
I thank Thee that my soul is healed By what Thy lips revealed.

O keep me watchful, then, and humble;  
Permit me never more to stray.  
Uphold me when my feet would stumble,  
And keep me on the narrow way.  
Fill all my nature with Thy light, O Radiance strong and bright!

Thee will I love, my crown of gladness;  
Thee will I love, my God and Lord,  
amid the darkest depths of sadness,  
And not for hope of high reward,  
For Thine own sake, O Light divine, So long as life is mine.

### COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness,  
who in loving-kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh,

**People: we thank you that for His sake you have given us pardon and peace in  
this Sacrament, and we ask you not to forsake your children but  
always to rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may  
be enabled constantly to serve you;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give  
you peace.

**People: Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### CLOSING HYMN #643 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.  
The Supper is ended. O now be extended  
The fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us,  
His love shall unite us To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving To God ever living,  
The tasks of our ev'ry day life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring, Embracing His children of each tribe  
and race. With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;  
Unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living  
With praise and thanksgiving Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Organist

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen  
Pastor Harold Bender  
Ben Balsman, Natalie Schulte, James Dittman, Josiah Hahn  
Jo Bender

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