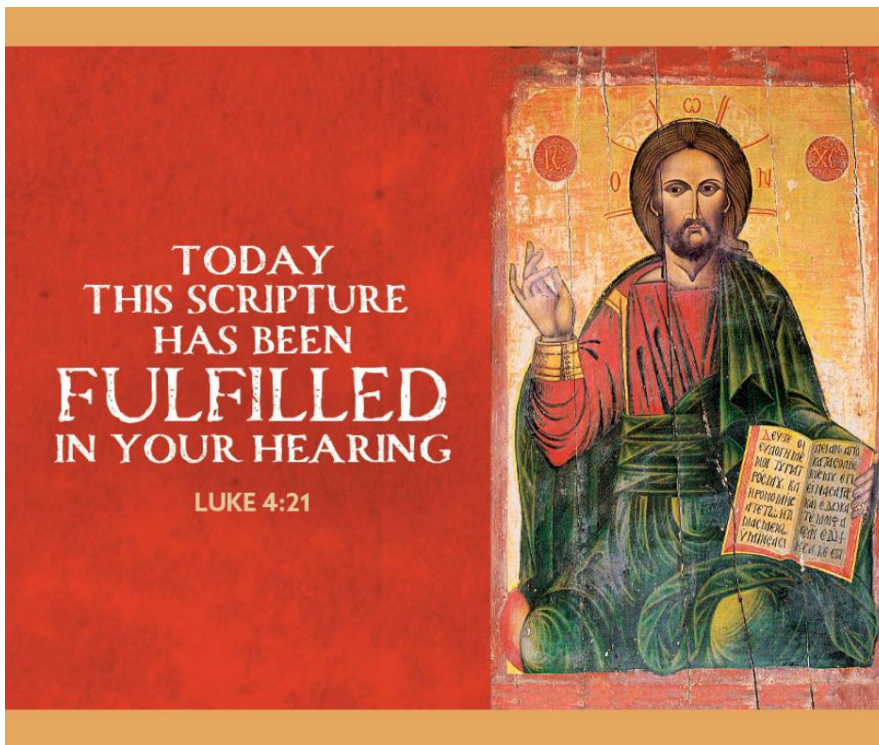


# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

*Today Is January 26, 2025*

+ + +

*Third Sunday after Epiphany*



**ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

12351 All Saints Place

Woodbridge, Virginia 22192

## GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*Christ is the World's True Light*

J. Bert Carlson

*The assembly stands.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**C: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*kneel or sit*

P: Most merciful God.

**C: Have mercy on us. We confess to you that 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 trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.**

P: With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

GATHERING HYMN

*Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

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## APOSTOLIC GREETING

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 –

P: In Peace, in peace,

**Refrain**

*Presider:* *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

*to Verses*

P: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all... (to Refrain)

P: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word... (to Refrain)

*Presider:*

Help, save and de - fend us, O God. A - men.

*Congregation:*



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

*Refrain*



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

*Refrain*



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

*Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. 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.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

FIRST READING

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

L: A reading from Nehemiah.

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. 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. 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. 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. 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. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. 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 Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. 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."

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm Tone*

The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,  
and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.  
One day tells its tale | to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge | to another.  
Although they have no | words or language, and their voices | are not heard,  
their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends | of  
the world,  
where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.  
It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.  
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.  
The fear of the Lord is clean and en- | dures forever;  
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous | altogether.  
More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.

L: A reading from First Corinthians.

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. 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.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would 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. And if the ear would 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. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. 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.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 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; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 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. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Congregation:*

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Optional Repeat*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 4:14-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

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

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

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, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“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, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

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. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly is seated.*



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Stephen Bohannon

*The assembly stands.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

***Christ, Be Our Light***

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APOSTLES' CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C: 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 INTERCESSION

*The pastor invites the assembly into prayer.*

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

*(A brief silence is kept; each petition ends with the response.)*

L: God of grace; **C: hear our prayer.**

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

**C: Amen.**

PEACE

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

*You are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say,  
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

OFFERING

*Siyahamba*  
Choir

Robinson

*The assembly stands.*

OFFERTORY

*As the Grains of Wheat*

*ELW 465*

*Refrain*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.  
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when  
may we share the pres-ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

*Refrain*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. 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.

**C: Amen.**

# MEAL

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Presider:* *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

*Presider:* *Congregation:*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Presider:* *Congregation:*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

## PROPER PREFACE

*Pastor begins, "It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise..." Here the pastor continues with the preface for the day, "...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Congregation:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

The musical score is written on five staves. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, beams, and a repeat sign at the end.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive  
those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and  
deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P:** The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness. The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD

*Congregation:*                      *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God,                      you take a - way the sin of                      the

*Congregation:*

world:                      have mer - cy on us,                      mer - cy on us,

*Congregation or Assistant:*

mer - cy                      on                      us.                      Lamb of God,                      you

*Congregation:*

take a - way the sins of                      the world:                      grant us peace,

grant                      us peace,                      grant                      us                      peace.

*All who believe Jesus is present in this sacrament are invited to receive the bread and wine. Communion will be distributed at the altar rail; when invited by an usher, please come forward and kneel at the altar to receive the bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Know that if you only take the bread that you have fully communed. Whether you are receiving communion at in-person worship or if you are receiving communion at home, we extend to you:  
The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

***One Bread, One Body  
Come to the Table***

page 18  
page 19

*The assembly stands.*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. 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,

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

***The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve***

page 20

### DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### POSTLUDE

*Psalm 19*

Benedetto Marcello

## **Introduction to the day:**

*The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God's glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at Jesus' baptism—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.*

## **Ministers: ALL the People of St. Matthew's**

Pastor: Stephen Bohannon	sbohannon@stmatthewsva.org
Director of Music: Kathy Lundgren	klundgren@stmatthewsva.org
Organist: Melvin Goodwyn	organist@stmatthewsva.org
Administrative Assistant: Patti Hinson	stmatthews@stmatthewsva.org
Congregation Council President: Dave Strand	councilpresident@stmatthewsva.org
Lector: Pat Victorson	
Tech Volunteers: Dave Strand, Finn Riley, Joyce Forbes	
Ushers: Dave Carr, Mike Fink, Mark Victorson	

The altar flowers for today are given by the Bortner Families,  
*In celebration of the January birthdays of Ellie Claire Bortner  
and also her mom, Andrea, and dad, Jerry...*

The Eternal Candle for the month of January is sponsored by Betty Johnston,  
*In loving memory of my grandson, Maxwell Vanderzyl...*

## Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing, ELW 886



- 1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re - deem - er's praise,
- 2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
- 3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.  
sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.



- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heav'n.



## Christ, Be Our Light, ELW 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

COMMUNION HYMNS

*One Bread, One Body, ELW 496*



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bles-sing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



- |   |            |             |              |            |
|---|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | Gen - tile | or Jew,     | ser - vant   | or free,   |
| 2 | Man - y    | the gifts,  | man - y      | the works, |
| 3 | Grain for  | the fields, | scat - tered | and grown, |



wom - an	or man,	no	more.
one in	the Lord	of	all.
gath - ered	to one	for	all.

## *Come to the Table, ELW 481*



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.



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## *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve, ELW 551*

1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel

Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
 joy like seed and, all our days, to  
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -

to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
 share a dream and help the blind to see.  
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

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