

# THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

## JANUARY 25, 2026

### *849 PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS*

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955

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***(The sign of the cross may be made by all in  
remembrance of their Baptism.)***

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
  
- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father,

beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)**

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son,**

**Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to  
me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**590 BAPTIZED INTO YOUR NAME MOST HOLY**

1 Baptized into Your name most holy,  
    O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,  
    Among Your saints, Your chosen host.  
Buried with Christ and dead to sin,  
Your Spirit now shall live within.

2 My loving Father, here You take me  
    To be henceforth Your child and heir.  
My faithful Savior, here You make me

The fruit of all Your sorrows share.  
O Holy Spirit, comfort me  
When threat'ning clouds around I see.

3 My faithful God, You fail me never;  
Your promise surely will endure.  
O cast me not away forever  
If words and deeds become impure.  
Have mercy when I come defiled;  
Forgive, lift up, restore Your child.

4 All that I am and love most dearly—  
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.  
Let me confess my faith sincerely;  
Help me Your faithful child to be!  
Let nothing that I am or own  
Serve any will but Yours alone.

Text: Johann Jacob Rambach, 1693–1735, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
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## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*OLD TESTAMENT READING*

Isaiah 9:1–4

**A** The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 9.

<sup>1</sup> There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made 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 dwelt in a land of deep darkness,

on them has light shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*EPISTLE*

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

**A** The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 1.

<sup>10</sup>I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. <sup>11</sup>For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is

quarreling among you, my brothers. <sup>12</sup>What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.” <sup>13</sup>Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup>so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup>(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup>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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**(Stand)**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>12</sup>When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. <sup>13</sup>And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup>“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

<sup>16</sup>the people dwelling in darkness

have seen a great light,

and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,

on them a light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

<sup>18</sup>While walking 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 fishermen. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup>Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup>And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. <sup>24</sup>So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. <sup>25</sup>And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## SERMON

### 839 O CHRIST, OUR TRUE AND ONLY LIGHT

- 1 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.
- 2 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 blinds.
- 3 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.
- 4 Shine on the darkened and the cold;  
Recall the wand'lers to Your fold.  
Unite all those who walk apart;  
Confirm the weak and doubting heart,

5 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.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

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## *PRAAYER OF THE CHURCH*

### *PREFACE*

LSB 216

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have

had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## *LORD'S PRAYER*

**C 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.**

¶ In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**LSB 217**

¶ Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and

said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\ddagger$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\ddagger$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### *PAX DOMINI*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

### *878 ABIDE WITH ME*

- 1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
  
- 2 I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?

Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

- 3 Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,  
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;  
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.  
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.
- 4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
- 5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!
- 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the  
skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain

shadows flee;

In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt.

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## 412 *THE PEOPLE THAT IN DARKNESS SAT*

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

5 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.

△ 6 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.

Text: John Morison, 1749–98, alt.

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## 617 O LORD, WE PRAISE THEE

- 1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,  
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.  
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish  
Our weak souls that they may flourish:  
    O Lord, have mercy!  
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,  
That our sins and sorrows did carry,  
And Thy blood for us plead  
In all trial, fear, and need:  
    O Lord, have mercy!
- 2 Thy holy body into death was given,  
Life to win for us in heaven.  
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;  
May this feast thereof remind us!  
    O Lord, have mercy!  
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee  
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.  
All our debt Thou hast paid;

Peace with God once more is made:  
O Lord, have mercy!

3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor  
That we follow Christ our Savior  
And live together here in love and union  
Nor despise this blest Communion!

O Lord, have mercy!  
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;  
Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;  
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see  
Days of peace and unity:  
O Lord, have mercy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (sts. 2–3): Martin Luther, 1483–1546  
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## *BENEDICTION*

**P** 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  $\text{☩}$  give you  
peace.

**C** **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 643 SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING

- 1 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.
- 2 With praise and thanksgiving  
    To God ever-living,  
The tasks of our ev'ryday 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.

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97, alt.

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