

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 25, 2026



PRELUDE

“Come To Me”

Aaron Shust

We arrive from many places as music gathers us into one shared moment in the Spirit.

Chorus

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me
For I am gentle and humble in heart
And you will find rest for your souls

Verse 1

Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened
And I will give you rest

Verse 2

For My yoke is easy
And My burden is light

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WELCOME STATEMENT

Everyone is invited into God's story and the life of this community.

PROCESSIONAL

“Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)”

Bergthold, Cash, et al.

We journey together as a people called into God's story, walking in the way of Jesus.

Verse 1

Light of the World Treasure of Heaven
Brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky
Joy of the Father reach through the darkness
Shine across the earth send the shadows to flight

Chorus

Sing hallelujah Sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done
Come and adore Him
Bow down before Him
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World

Verse 2

Light of the World from the beginning
The tragedies of time were no match for Your love
From great heights of glory You saw my story
God You entered in and became one of us

Verse 3

Light of the world crown in a manger
Born for the cross to suffer to save
High King of Heaven death is the poorer
We are the richer by the price that He paid

Verse 4

Light of the World soon will be coming
With fire in His eyes He will ransom His own
Through clouds He will lead us straight into glory
And there He shall reign forevermore forevermore

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GREETING

God names us as beloved and draws us into community.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We tell the truth about our lives and hear again that grace comes first.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice, you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares:

Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We ask the Spirit to prepare our hearts for hearing God's word.

Let us pray.

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.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

God speaks across time and tradition: in promise, struggle, praise, and the life of Jesus.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

A reading from Isaiah.

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.

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.
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.
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.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

We give voice to God's faithfulness, participating in the living story of God's mercy and love by echoing the ancient prayers of God's people.

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?

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.

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.

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.

Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call:

have mercy on me and answer me.

My heart speaks your message – “Seek my face.”

Your face, O Lord, I will seek.

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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.

A reading from First Corinthians.

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel – and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolish to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Holy Wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

(The Assembly stands for the gospel.)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

The gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—
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.”

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

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. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 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. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Phillip Potaczek

We hear God's promise proclaimed to us, and the Spirit works in our hearts to make it real.

(The Assembly stands.)

*We respond to the promises of God in song.***Intro**

Ooh ooh ooh
Ooh ooh ooh

Verse 1

From heaven to earth our Savior came
For us on a cross he bled and died
And from the cross to an empty grave
He rose to life He rose to life

Chorus

He lives reigning in power
He lives name above all names
Hallelujah now forever
Hallelujah Christ is risen
(He is risen)

Verse 2

All glory to Him upon the throne
Forever exalted and seated high
The Lamb of god He has overcome
He is alive He is alive

Bridge

And on that day with Him I'll rise
For Christ He lives in me
This life I live no longer mine
For Christ He lives in me (oh)
(Repeat)

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

ELW pg 105

We join the wider church in naming the story that holds us.

**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*We entrust all into God's care.**After each prayer petition, please respond:* Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.
Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We offer signs of Christ's peace, joining God's work of reconciliation.

May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We have seen the light of Christ!

Thanks be to God! We offer what we have and who we are, that God's light may be shared with the world.

OFFERING/ OFFERING MUSIC

"All Things New"

Leonard, Weaver

We return our gifts to God, offering ourselves for the life of the world.

Verse 1

I've heard You can take what's broken
And make it whole again
Well here's the pieces of my heart
What can You do with them
'Cause I can't hold them all together anymore
So I let them fall surrendered to the floor

Verse 2

Only You can bring such beauty
From the depths of all my pain
Only You can take this shattered heart
And make it beat again
Oh You hold us all together in Your hands
I surrender all I have and all I am

Chorus

You make all things new
You make all things new
God of mercy and love
Do what only You can do
And make all things (new)

Bridge

From the ashes from the dust
I will rise up rise up
Out of the darkness into the light
I will rise up rise up

Tag

All things
You make all things new

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OFFERING PRAYER

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

We lift our hearts and give thanks for God's life-giving work.

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

We remember God's faithfulness and join heaven and earth in praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We recall the story of Jesus and ask the Spirit to make us one.

Holy God, you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star.....we proclaim with all creation the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Modern Version

We pray as Jesus taught, trusting God for what we need.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as our Savior taught us:

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 HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to God's table of grace, receiving Christ's presence as nourishment for the journey.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who wish to know the love of God in Jesus Christ are invited to Holy Communion. Inform a communion assistant if you need a gluten-free host. Grape juice is located in the center ring of the tray. If you are not receiving the sacrament today, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Here I Am To Worship”

Tim Hughes

Singing in response to God's gift, we enter more deeply into the presence of Christ.

Verse 1

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Verse 2

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

Chorus

So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Bridge

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We ask for strength to live what we have received.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We share news and opportunities to live God's love together as a community.

BLESSING

God's promise goes with us into whatever comes next.

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL

“Stand”

Glover, Sojka, Tait

With hearts lifted, we turn toward the world as Christ's people.

Verse 1

Who will I be when trouble comes calling for me
Will I live the way I believe
When I'm backed up against the wall
What kind of heart do I have in my chest
Does it beat for my Savior or just for my flesh
What will I do in the moment that everything fails

Chorus 1

I'm gonna stand in a world that's breaking
Stand for a truth unchanging
I'm not ashamed I've considered the cost
I'll stay right here at the foot of the cross
And stand

Verse 2

They can call me a fool
Or stubborn for following You
For trusting without any proof
But I've seen You here through it all
So what kind of person do I want to be
Am I committed to You or committed to me
What will I choose the second that everything fails

Chorus 2

(Jesus help me) Stand
I'm not ashamed I've considered the cost
I'll stay right here at the foot of Your cross
And (stand)

Bridge

Stand up for the one who gave everything
Stand up because You deserve all of me
I won't give up I won't give in
And if it takes all I am

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SENDING

We are sent to love, serve, and live the story we have shared.

Our Eucharist has ended. **Now it must be lived.**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

As worship concludes, music strengthens and inspires us for the journey ahead.

*****Trinity at a Glance*****

- **Mission/Outreach sincerely thanks our congregation** for their **generous** response to our annual Mitten Tree collection. Because of Trinity's kindness and generosity we were able to make a delivery to YSB of 17 pairs of gloves, 9 hats, 6 scarves, and 62 pairs of socks. Youth Service Bureau and the gift recipients are very appreciative!
- **First Communion Class Registration starts January 26th.** To register please contact the office at 815-434-0596 or by emailing Pastor Phil at pastorphil@trinitylutheranottawa.com. Individuals who have not yet received the Sacrament of Holy Communion who are aged 7 or older are invited!
- **We have a couple of 2026 calendars left (\$20). Profits go to the Growing Project.** Please contact the office during regular business hours if you would like one. Marj Nelson 815-973-1286 and Kate Reed 815-830-2061 also have copies available.
- This year's **Annual Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for after Holy Communion at **11 am on Sunday, February 1st, 2026.** A quorum of 50 congregation members is needed. Please plan to attend. Thank you!
- **The next Blood Drive will be on Wednesday, February 11, 2026.** Contact Carol Wahlstrom if interested in helping or donating.
- **First Communion Classes** are scheduled for **9am-9:50am on Sunday, March 15th & March 29th, 2026.** We meet in Fellowship Hall, beneath the Sanctuary. **First Communion Sunday is Sunday, April 12th, 2026.**
- There is a **Lost and Found** bin by the coat rack in the Sanctuary. There is also a ring found and held in the office. If items are not claimed, they will be donated to the garage sale. If the ring is yours, please call the office 815-434-0596.
- **PRAYER REQUESTS:**
Please pray for Marj Nelson and Sally Mathis. Please also continue to pray for Donetta Spohr.

● **CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- Dec Income = 19,284.48 (Income YTD = \$234,353.29)
- Dec Expense = \$18,099.46 (Expense YTD = \$40,134.30)
- Income Less Expense = \$1,185.02 (Income Less Expense YTD = -\$5,781.01)
- Loan Payment = \$2,943.30
- Principal Payment = \$1,000.00
- Left On Loan = \$406.68

● **THIS WEEK @ TRINITY:**

- **Monday (1/26):** *First Communion Class Registration Begins Today*
 10a Drum Fit (Community Room)
 10a Staff Meeting (Office)
- **Tuesday (1/27):** 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
- **Wednesday (1/28)** 1p Bible Study (Community Room)
No Choir Rehearsal Today
- **Thursday (1/29):** 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
- **Friday (1/30):** 7a Sunrise Rotary (Fellowship Hall)
- **Saturday (1/31):** *International Zebra Day!* 
 2p Youth Pop-Up Event: Card Making with Emily Walker
- **Sunday (2/1)** 9a Sunday Session
 9a Affirmation Class
 10a Holy Communion
 11a Annual Meeting

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE -

Please sign up using the binder at the back of the aisle.

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Crucifer/Acolyte:
 Ushers:
 Lector: *Ellen Gross*
 Communion Assistants: *Anne Lauterjung, Jane Goetz, Ellen Gross*
 Altar Guild: *Anne Lauterjung, Annette Bruce*
 Video Tech:
 Music Directors: *Matt Makeever & Mary Heider*
 Altar Flowers:

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Crucifer/Acolyte:
 Ushers:
 Lector: *Anne Lauterjung*
 Communion Assistants: *Anne Lauterjung*
 Altar Guild: *Becky Glaser, Ann Enke*
 Video Tech:
 Music Directors: *Matt Makeever & Mary Heider*
 Altar Flowers: