

EPIPHANY

CHRIST OUR LIGHT

St. Matthews Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

January 26, 2025

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 26, 2025

(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude	<i>"Chorale Prelude on Ellers"</i>	H. Willan
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Hymn 314		<i>"Arise, Your Light Has Come!"</i>
*Greeting		
*This is the Feast		p. 122
*Prayer of the Day		
Children's Message		
Anthem	<i>"Standing on Holy Ground"</i>	M. Hafso

Word

First Reading		Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19 (see page 4)		
Second Reading		1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
*Gospel Acclamation	<i>"Alleluia"</i>	p. 124
*Gospel Reading		Luke 4:14-21
Sermon		
*Hymn 710		<i>"Let Streams of Living Justice"</i>
*Prayers of Intercession		A: hear our prayer
*Peace		

Meal

*Offering Hymn 307		<i>"Light Shone in Darkness"</i>
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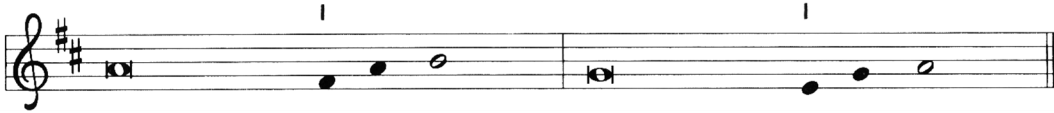
*Offering Prayer		
*Great Thanksgiving		p. 129
*Holy, Holy, Holy		p. 130
*Thanksgiving at the Table		
*Lord's Prayer (<i>Our Father, who art in heaven...</i>)		p. 134
Lamb of God		p. 135
Communion Hymn 496		<i>"One Bread, One Body"</i>
*Table Blessing		
*Prayer after Communion		
Sending		
General Announcements		
*Blessing		
*Hymn 843		<i>"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"</i>
*Dismissal		
Postlude	<i>"Tuba Tune in D"</i>	C.S. Lang

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God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

Psalm 19

Tone 1



¹The heavens declare the glo-¹ry of God,
and the sky proclaims its¹ maker's handiwork.

²One day tells its tale¹ to another,
and one night imparts knowledge¹ to another.

³Although they have no¹ words or language,
and their voices¹ are not heard,

⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends¹ of the world,
where God has pitched a tent¹ for the sun.

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out¹ of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to¹ run its course.

⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of¹ it again;
nothing is hidden from its¹ burning heat.

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-¹vives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom¹ to the simple.

⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and re-¹joice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light¹ to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en-¹dures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous¹ altogether.

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

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

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

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

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

Leading Worship Today

Minister: Pastor Carey Meadows-Helmer

Assisting Minister: Linda McLellan

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Communion Server: Lynda Karn

Choral Scholars: Nicole Hamilton, Hannah Swiderski, Sarah Hu-A-Kam, Dylan Siebert,
Drew Aarssen

Broadcast: Jason Smolak

Building Monitor: Dennis Diebolt (519-571-4525)

Worship Notes

In our prayers George, Anneke, Judy, Clare, Yvonne, Jeanette, Meaghan, Henry, Grace, Maureen and John.

Important Information for today's worship

- **Offering:** Please place your offering in one of the offering plates in the Narthex (entranceway) upon entering. The offering plates will be presented at the High Altar during the service.
- **The Peace:** We support people's choices for passing of the peace.
- **Exiting:** At the end of the service, please remain in place until the end of the postlude.
- **Please join us for Fellowship Time** after worship in the Community Hall. Use any of the staircases (Narthex, west stair tower, parking lot tower) to go down.
- **Downstairs Washrooms** can be accessed via any of the staircases. There is one wheelchair accessible washroom, and the rest are all-gender washrooms. A further all-gender washroom is also available via the west stair tower door (front left of the Sanctuary) on the same level. Turn right at the hallway.

General Announcements

The 2025 Tithing Task Force is seeking a few more congregational member volunteers to become engaged in this year's selection process. They would be recommending donations to worthy community charitable and not-for-profit organizations from the proceeds of the property sale a few years back. If you have an interest to serve in this capacity please contact Pastor Sebastian, Jim Treusch or Tim Schaner.

Why do we use the term "Assembly" rather than "Congregation" in our Guides to Worship? "Assembly" is the term used in our red worship book: "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" (2006). The word "church" is derived from the greek "ekklesia", which can be translated as: the gathering, the assembly, or the congregation. What we do as Christians is better described as "we assemble on a Sunday morning", rather than "we con-

gregate on a Sunday morning”.

The Augsburg Confession, a foundational document of Lutheranism states (7:1) “the church...it is the assembly of all believers...” The term “assembly” also goes back to early Biblical descriptions like Deuteronomy 18:16 (the worship day being “the day of assembly”) and Nehemiah 8:2 (Ezra the priest bringing together “the assembly” for teaching about the Law of Moses).

We’ve used this term since about 2018 in our Guides to Worship.

Contact Information

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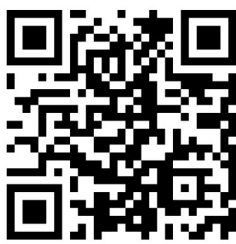
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Church Fire Plan For everyone’s awareness, a copy of the Church Fire Plan for safe exit from the Sanctuary appears in the back of the worship books. Please take a moment to review for your own safety. The AED and a first aid kit are in the hallway by the office.



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

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