



Risen Christ Lutheran Church

3rd Sunday in Epiphany

January 25, 2026

9:30am

REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER HIS SANCTURARY, PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, PRAY, AND READ THROUGH THIS WORSHIP FOLDER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP



***Risen Christ Lutheran Church
46250 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170
734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info***

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe that the Lord’s Supper is not symbolic. We believe what Jesus Himself said: that His body and blood are truly present in this, His meal that He instituted for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above and you are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and you have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to the Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Grape Juice is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world through your here! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR MEMBERS AND GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Everyone please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. For Guests, Pastor will send you a welcome card and please indicate that you "desire" a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

As We Gather – When Jesus appeared on the scene of human history, His coming was like the light of a new day. Isaiah had prophesied a day would come filled with joy as at the harvest or when victors divide spoils. But daylight also reveals problems covered by darkness, like the divisions at the Church in Corinth, as Paul writes. Jesus’ light not only reveals, but it also forgives, heals, and enlivens. People brought the sick and demon-possessed to our Lord, and the first four disciples jumped at the opportunity to follow Him. What ills shall we bring to worship today for resolution? Sins requiring forgiveness, gloom needing joy, divisions seeking reconciliation? Jesus came into human history to die and rise for us; today He comes through Word and Sacrament in grace and mercy to meet our deepest needs. Let us rejoice in the light of God’s forgiveness, mercy, and love.

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation and Opening Sentences *1 Corinthians 1:18; Psalm 27:14*

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

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

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

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

C **wait for the LORD!**

Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King

Come Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above,
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love.

I was lost in utter darkness 'til You came and rescued me.
I was bound by all my sin when Your love came and set me free.
Now my soul can sing a new song, now my heart has found a home,
Now Your grace is always with me, and I'll never be alone.

***CHORUS: Come Thou Fount, come Thou King,
Come Thou precious Prince of Peace;
Hear Your bride, to You we sing;
Come Thou Fount of our blessing;***

O, to grace, how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be.
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above. ***CHORUS***

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Introit

Psalm 22:27–31; antiphon: v. 22

C I will tell of Your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You.

! *All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You.*

@ *For kingship belongs to the Lord, and He rules over the nations.*

C All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before Him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.

! *Posterity shall serve Him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;*

@ *they shall come and proclaim His righteousness to a people yet unborn, that He has done it.*

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

I will tell of Your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, You sent Your Son, the Word made flesh, to call us to Yourself. In response to His call, those He summoned as His disciples followed Him. By the working of the Holy Spirit, help us to hear His call, to believe in Him, and to follow where He leads, through the same 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

¹ But 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.

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 27:1–9

C **The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?**

! *The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

@ *When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.*

C **Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.**

! *One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: 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 inquire in His temple.*

@ *For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble; He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock.*

C **And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

! *Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! You have said, "Seek My face." My heart says to You, "Your face, Lord, do I seek."*

@ *Hide not Your face from me. Turn not Your servant away in anger, O You who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!*

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

¹⁰I 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. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."
¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For 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.

¹⁸For 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Here I Am to Worship

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.

***CHORUS: Here I am to worship,
here I am to bow down,***

***Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.***

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***

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. ***CHORUS***

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Gradual

Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

P Praise the Lord, all nations!

C **Extol Him, all peoples!**

P For great is His steadfast love toward us,

C **and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.**

P Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name;

C **bring an offering, and come into His courts!**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:12–25

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

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

! Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth He went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

@ “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—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.”

! From that time Jesus began to preach, saying,

P “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

! 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. And He said to them,

P “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

! Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. 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. Immediately, they left the boat and their father and followed Him.

@ 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.

P 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. 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 – “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” OUTLINE

1. Jesus echoed His cousin John the Baptist’s message, “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”
2. The world doesn’t like to talk about or acknowledge sin.
 - a. God’s Law and Gospel sounds very strange to generations that have been told that they are perfect... That loving themselves is a virtue... that their heart is always right and that there’s nothing more important than being happy! The world is self-absorbed/self-centered, and Believers fall back into that...
 - b. So many people prefer going to a church that itches their ears, entertains, and keep the kids occupied... keeping people comfortable in their sins... gravitating to likable preachers who don’t preach God’s Pure Word of Law and Gospel, but give

pep talks and pop psychology, instead of proclaiming why God came to earth in flesh to die for sin... and the eternally deadly consequences of sin.

3. As Believers we just don't have saving faith – it is a repentant faith! Know what repentance really is and why we must live a life of repentance.
4. Repentance is more than just being aware of and acknowledging the reality of sin.
 - I admit my sin before God
 - I am truly fearful of the punishment I deserve.
 - I admit I cannot cope with my sin or fix it on my own.
 - I must go to the only cure in existence: God. I confess that I don't deserve His grace and mercy and I humbly plead that He would save me from sin and my deserved punishment.
 - In His free gift of saving, repentant faith, I do this trusting in His promise that He does not deal with me and my sin as I deserve. He deals with my deadly sin according to His mercy.
 - We repent, presenting our sins to God, trusting that He will forgive, renew, comfort our consciences, and deliver us from terror.
5. John and Jesus' call to repentance is that the call is reinforced by the fact that the "Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."
 - a. ἤγγικεν γὰρ ἡ **βασιλεία** τῶν οὐρανῶν (engiken gar hay **basileia** ton ouranon)
 - b. Kingdom isn't just a place, it is action... activity... It's the King's ruling. His ruling activity is near to us and the One who is the Ruler of Heaven Himself is near!
6. Who wants to be under the reign of a King with absolute power today?
7. The Kingdom of Heaven is completely different and separate from the kingdoms of this world because it isn't subject to sin... a Kingdom of Grace. The world's absolute rulers always fail, but the Absolute Ruler of everything has never and can never fail.
8. The Kingdom of Heaven includes:
 - All God's deeds accomplished in and through His only son Jesus, who lived a perfect life in our place.
 - Jesus' ministry of healing... of preaching... including His passive obedience when He suffered and died on a cross for us.
 - The promise of eternal life proven and guaranteed in and because of His resurrection.
 - It is God's real, immanent presence now with us as He promised in His Word and Sacraments.
 - It includes Jesus' last coming at the end of time as He will raise our bodies which will join with our souls to be with Him for eternity.
 - It is the fact that Jesus is here, just as He promised, with us now and into eternity
9. The light that Isaiah prophesied is the "Kingdom of Heaven", which is for all those dwelling the region and shadow of death.

10. This message is for all people and since it is, Jesus provided a way for all people to hear it then and until the end of time!

Confession and Absolution *Matthew 4:17; Philippians 3:20; 1 Corinthians 1:18*

P 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.

C **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.**

P "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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Nicene Creed

C **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 T of the world to come. Amen.**

Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at www.RisenChrist.info – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a Worship Card so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for the Church, that the light of the Gospel of salvation be proclaimed and the gifts of God be shared. Lord of the Church,

C **in mercy, hear our prayer.**

MEN – We pray this day for our nation and for all nations of the world, that there be an end to hostilities and that times of peacefulness everywhere prevail. Lord of all times and all people,

C **in mercy, hear our prayer.**

WOMEN – We pray for our families and our neighbors. Grant that we walk in the light of Christ and together praise our gracious God for all He has done for us. Lord of all generations,

C **in mercy, hear our prayer.**

ALL – We pray for all sorts and conditions of people, especially for the hospitalized and those who are shut in during this season. We pray for those whose lives are in transition, the unemployed, those who are downcast or grieving, and all those for whom our petitions are desired. Lord of care and grace,

C **in mercy, hear our prayer.**

MEN – As a community of the faithful, we remember those who have shared the faith with us and now have departed this earthly life in hope and joy. Direct our ways on earth that we complete our journey of life in faith and rejoice together with them eternally with saints and angels and all the company of heaven in life everlasting. Lord of eternity,

C **in mercy, hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

C **Amen.**

Preface

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

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

P Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have had mercy on us and sent Your only-begotten Son as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Grant us the gift of Your Spirit, that we receive Your blessings with thankfulness. Grant that we receive the body and blood of our Lord as the guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the

feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P 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 T 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 T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Communion

"I Am Not Alone" sung by Miss Esther Kaufmann

1. When I walk through deep waters
I know that You will be with me
When I'm standing in the fire
I will not be overcome
Through the valley of the shadow
I will not fear

***CHORUS: I am not alone
I am not alone
You will go before me***

You will never leave me

2. In the midst of deep sorrow
I see Your light is breaking through
The dark of night will not overtake me
I am pressing into You
Lord You fight my ev'ry battle
And I will not fear **CHORUS**

BRIDGE: You amaze me redeem me
You call me as Your own
You amaze me redeem me
You call me as Your own
(REPEAT)

You're my strength You're my defender
You're my refuge in the storm
Through these trials You've always been faithful
You bring healing to my soul **CHORUS**

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There Is a Redeemer

1. There is a Redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.

2. Jesus, my Redeemer,
Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Hope for sinners slain. **CHORUS**

CHORUS: *Thank You, O my Father,
for giving us Your Son;
And leaving Your Spirit 'til
the work on earth is done.*

3. When I stand in glory
I will see His face,
And there I'll serve my King forever,
In that holy place. **CHORUS**

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Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

Blessed are You, almighty God, for by You we have been fed and nourished with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant that we rejoice in the epiphany of our Lord and see in Him the fullness

of Your divine presence. Grant us Your abiding peace each day of our lives as we await Your eternal kingdom. In the name of Jesus, our hope and comfort, we pray.

C **Amen.**

The Church's One Foundation



1 The Church's one foun-da-tion Is Je-sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E-lect from ev-'ry na-tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn-ful won-der The world sees her op-pressed,
4 Through toil and trib-u-la-tion And tu-mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth has u-nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre-a-tion By wa-ter and the Word.
Her char-ter of sal-va-tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a-sun-der, By her-e-sies dis-tressed,
She waits the con-sum-ma-tion Of peace for-ev-er-more
And mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho-ly bride;
One ho-ly name she bless-es, Par-takes one ho-ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep-ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
Till with the vi-sion glo-rious Her long-ing eyes are blest,
O bless-ed heav'n-ly cho-rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press-es With ev-'ry grace en-dued.
And soon the night of weep-ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic-to-rious Shall be the Church at rest.
That we, like saints be-fore us, May see You face to face.

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 T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

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