

January 25 2026

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Messiah Lutheran

Amherst, NH



# Mass of Steady Light

liturgical musical setting by Jon Abrams

Dedicated with gratitude to those who  
gather, sing, and trust the work of worship.

## **PRELUDE**

Jon Abrams

## **WORDS OF WELCOME**

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water is poured into the font*

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.  
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Refrain*  
Leader All



Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,  
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

1 2



ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.  
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All



Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - hu - bi - ri.  
1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news  
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.  
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All *Refrain*



Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.  
that he came to save us and set us free.  
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.  
walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: NENO LAKE MUNGU, Tanzanian tune

Text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

*Joel Myers*

Voice

Ky - ri — e — e — lei — son — ky - ri — e — e —

le - i - son — Chri — ste — e — lei — son — Chri —

ste — e — lei — son — ky - ri — e — e — lei — son —

e — le — i — son —

*Joel Myers*

Voice

Glory to God — in the high — est and peace to His peo - ple, the

peo - ple on earth — Glory to God in the high — est and

peace to His peo - ple on earth — Lord, God heaven - ly King al -

migh - ty God and Father we wor - ship You — we give You thanks — we

praise You for Your glo — ry

Glory to God — in the high —



—est and peace to His peo - ple on earth— Lord Je—sus Chirst on—ly



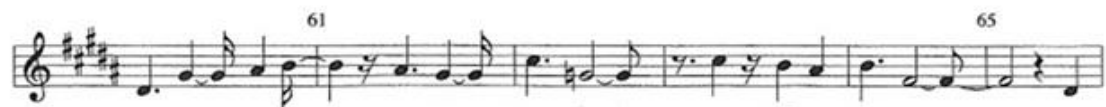
Son of the Fa—ther Lord God—Lamb of God— You take a - way



— the sin of the world— have mercy — on us — Glory to



God— in the high— est and peace to His people on earth—



seated are you — at the right hand of God the Father — re-



- ceive our prayer For you a-lone are the ho-ly one You a-lone are the Lord



You a-lone are most high Jesus Christ — with the spi-rit most ho— ly the



Glo - ry of God. Glory to God in the high— est and peace to His



peo - ple His peo - ple His peo - ple peace to His peo— ple His peo —



— ple on earth A — men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

## FIRST READING

A reading from the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah:

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

Word of God, word of life.      **Thanks be to God**

**PSALMODY 27:1, 4-9** (sung responsively)

MLC Psalm Tone I

MLC Psalm tones by J. Abrams 2024



- <sup>1</sup> 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?
- <sup>4</sup> **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.**
- <sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- | on a rock.
- <sup>6</sup> **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.**
- <sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O Lord, | when I call;  
have mercy on me and | answer me.
- <sup>8</sup> **My heart speaks your message— | “Seek my face.”**  
**Your face, O Lord, | I will seek.**
- <sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.  
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of | my  
salvation.

## SECOND READING

A reading from the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of Corinthians:

<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> 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." <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been 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 can 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 proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

The image shows a musical score for a voice part. It consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts on a whole note, followed by a half note, and then a series of quarter notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with a half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The lyrics 'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a' are written below the second staff. The score is signed 'J. O. O.' in the top right corner.

1  
Voice  
Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Your word is a lamp to my feet and a

5  
light to my path Al - le - lu ——— ia



## GOSPEL READING

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—  
<sup>16</sup> 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.”

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SERMON



1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -  
 1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing  
 2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther  
 3 You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing  
 4 You who have fished oth - er wa - ters; you, the



ca - do ni a sa - bios ni a ri - cos; tan só - lo  
 nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly  
 trea - sure nor wea - pons for con - quest, just these my  
 love for the rest of the wea - ry — a love that's  
 long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing: O lov - ing



quie - res que yo te si - ga.  
 ask - ing for me to fol - low.  
 fish nets and will for work - ing.  
 will - ing to go on lov - ing.  
 Friend, you have come to call me.



Refrain / Estribillo  
 Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos; son - ri - en - do,  
 Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind - ly smil - ing,



has di - cho mi nom - bre. En la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi  
 you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a - ban - doned my



bar - ca; jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.  
 small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

2 Tú sabes bien lo que tengo:  
 en mi barca no hay oro no espadas;  
 tan sólo redes y mi trabajo.  
 Estribillo

3 Tú necesitas mis manos,  
 mi cansancio que a otros descanse,  
 amor que quiera seguir amando.  
 Estribillo

4 Tú, Pescador de otros mares;  
 ansia eterna de almas que esperan.  
 Amigo bueno, que así me llamas.  
 Estribillo

Text: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1936–1991; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

Music: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES, Cesáreo Gabaráin

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## APOSTLES' CREED

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

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*A brief silence.*

Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide the newly baptized and deepen the faith of all who follow Christ.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth's resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority (*local and national officials may be named*).

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick (*especially*) Claudette Briere, Ed Costa, Norm and Polly Cote, Deloris Jay, Carol Clark, Elia Herlinda Soteldo Cuica, Kayann Laughlin, Timothy Alexander, The Wurst Family, Rev Bob Kocher, Shelly Stama, Eric Ball, Connor McCaffrey, Marc Bouchard, Jeffery Lindenberg, Jim Bellig, Diane Hazel, Linnea Micciulla, Phil Stinnett, Susan Poutre, Krista Seckinger, Carly King, Christine Covell, the Demello family, John and Wilma Minnick, Karma, Barbara Scholz. We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters (*individuals or situations may be named*). Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place such as ELCA World Hunger and our local food pantries including Share, bless the efforts of AMMPARO, the ELCA congregations of the New Hampshire conference, Habitat for Humanity, Lutheran Disaster Response, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire, Border Servant Corps, His mansion.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Holy Savior, you free us from the power of death. Lead and guide us until we come at last into the communion of all your saints in light.

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.**

**PEACE**

**OFFERING**

# Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

## *Offering Song*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;

in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;

and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

1 5

Voice

Ho - ly ho-ly ho-ly Lord God of pow'r and might hea-ven and earth are

9

full of your glo-ry Ho-san-na Ho-san-na Ho-san-na in the high-est Blessed is he who

13 17

comes in the of the Lord Ho-san-na Ho-san-na Ho-san-na in the highest Ho-san-na  
name

21

Ho - san - na Ho - san - na in the high - est

*John Coltrane*

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

✠ **Christ has died.**

✠ **Christ is risen.**

✠ **Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

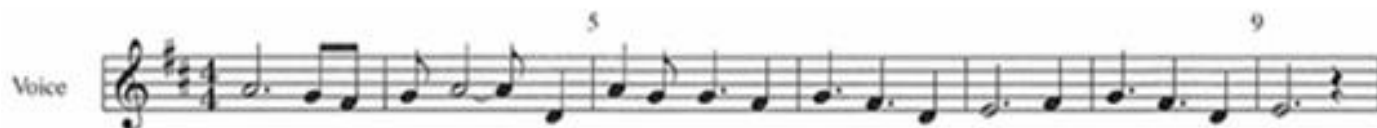
### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.  
**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.**



## COMMUNION

*John Olney*



Lamb of — God — You take a-way the sin of the world have mercy on us —



Lamb of — God — you take a-way the sin of the world have mercy on us —



Lamb of — God — you take a-way the sin of the world Grant us — peace



**Refrain**

Bread of Life, Bread of Life, come and feed our souls.

*3rd time to Bridge  
Last time Fine*

Bread of Life, Bread of Life, come and make us whole.

**Verse**

We are hun-gry for your mer - cy, hun-gry for your peace.  
We are hun-gry for your pres - ence, man-na from a - bove.

*to Refrain*

We are hun-gry for all your jus - tice, hun-gry to be free.  
Bread of Life for all cre - a - tion fill us with your love.

**Bridge**

Liv - ing Bread from heav - en, source of all we need.

*to Refrain*

Liv - ing Bread from heav - en, help us to be - lieve.

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## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

- The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**
- The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
- The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

SENDING

Go and let your light so shine before others... **That God might be glorified. Amen.**

POSTLUDE Jon Abrams



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| WORSHIP ASSISTANTS  | January 25 <sup>th</sup><br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany | February 1 <sup>st</sup><br>4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany | February 8 <sup>th</sup><br>5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany |
|---------------------|--|--|--|
| Preacher & Presider | K. Hester  | K. Hester  | K. Hester  |
| Liturgist           | Doreen Rinas   | T. Costa   | B. Mitchell  |
| Musician            | J. Abrams  | J. Abrams  | J. Abrams  |
| Reader              | G. De Noble  | L. Schur   | J. Reitter   |
| Greeters/Ushers     | G. De Noble  | Drakes   | Schurs   |
| Altar               | R. Ede   | T. Drake   | R. Meldrum   |
| Bread               | Schurs   | T. Costa   | D. Cordts  |
| Tech                | David Rinas  | R. Neukam  | R. Meldrum   |
| Snacks              | Schurs   | R. Meldrum & Doreen Rinas                                      | K. Hester  |
| Lead Counter        | D. Schur   | L. Rosse   | B. Mitchell  |