

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,  
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
JANUARY 25, 2026  
10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
901 EAST STROOP ROAD  
KETTERING, OHIO 45429-4688  
(937) 298-0136

## INTRODUCTION

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

## A NEW WAY TO FOLLOW

Nations wage war, gangs battle each other, families quarrel, communities of faith divide. We hear others say and even hear ourselves saying, “There is no other way.”

In Jesus, the light of God’s kingdom draws near and a new way shines for us to follow.

In today’s gospel, Jesus first withdraws (Matt. 4:12). The word *anachoreo* (to withdraw) is used ten times in Matthew’s gospel—each time as Jesus’ response to violence or conflict. John the Baptist has been arrested, and tension is beginning to build. The way of God and the way of the world’s rulers are beginning to collide.

In Jesus, a new kingdom has drawn near, a kingdom of nonviolence and non-retaliation. Jesus’ withdrawal is not simply passivity but points to a vision of an alternate way of reigning as king. Jesus rules not with violence, abusive power, or through division but through voluntarily emptying himself of power, identifying with the oppressed and burdened, and healing that which is broken. Into this new reign, Jesus calls the disciples to follow him, a way that appears foolish and weak to those who cannot discern it. To those God calls, it is the wisdom and strength, the light and power of God.

To follow in the way of Jesus places one’s life at risk, for it eventually leads to the cross. To follow, though, implies someone is leading. The way God calls us to follow has already been filled with the loving kindness and mercy of Jesus who has gone before us and who leads us to the foot of the cross. There, in the shadow of the cross, God makes a way for unity in the midst of division, for healing in the midst of brokenness, for peace in the midst of violence, for forgiveness in the midst of betrayal. Around the table, the kingdom of God draws near; Jesus’ broken body announces forgiveness, healing, peace, and unity. Many bodies are nourished and formed into the one body of Christ, called and sent to follow in the way of Jesus, to be broken and shed for the sake of the world.

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*\*\* indicates to stand as you are able.*

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Pastor Mallory Morris*

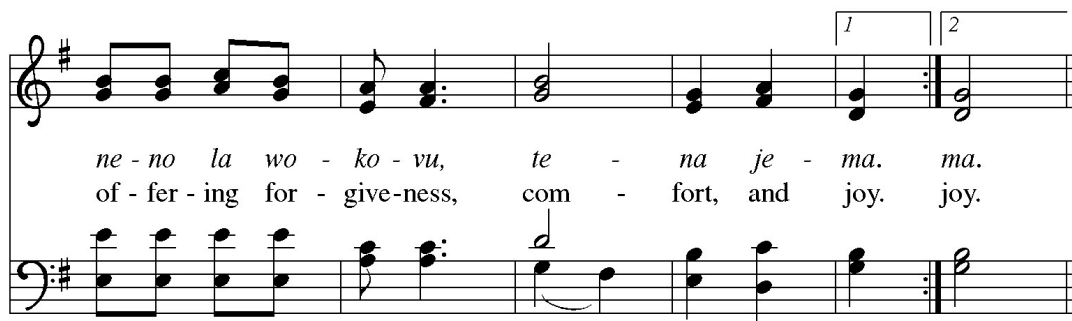
## CALL TO WORSHIP

*"Listen, God Is Calling"*

Refrain  
Leader All

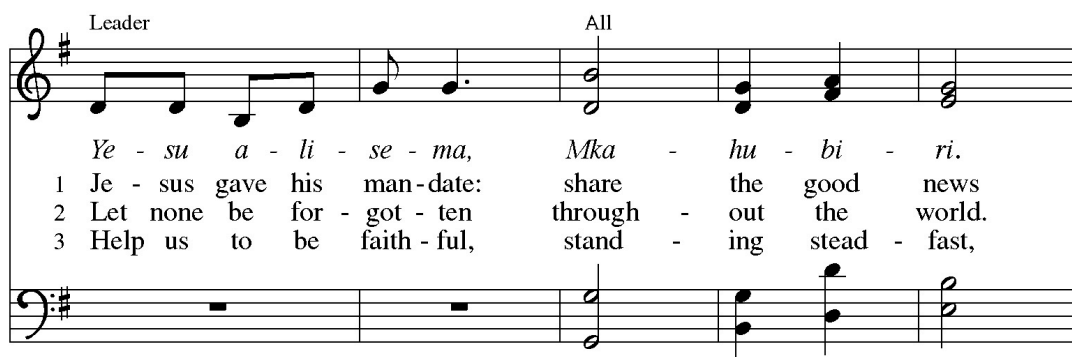


Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,  
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,



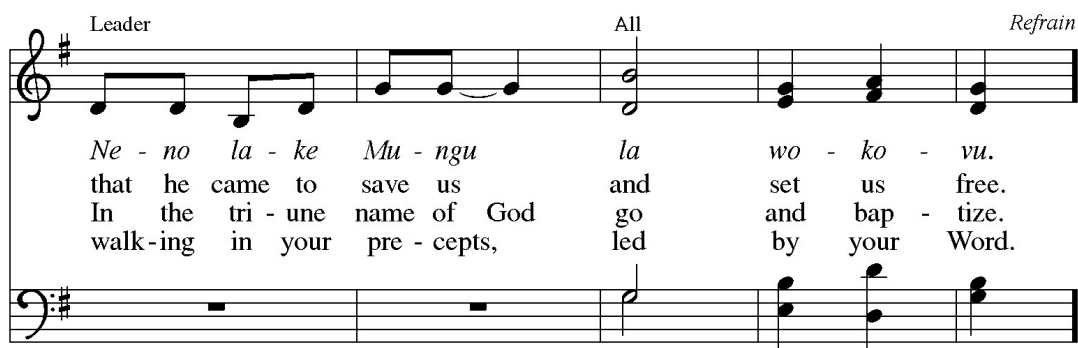
ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.  
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

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.

**\*\* OPENING LITANY**

Holy God,  
Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness,  
we hear your Word in the scriptures,  
proclaiming to us your wisdom  
and inviting us to follow your call.  
For speaking this Word, we thank you, O God.  
**We thank you, O God.**

Your Word came among us in Jesus, our brother,  
who preached your righteousness, healed the sick,  
and revived the brokenhearted.  
For giving us this Word, we worship you, O God.  
**We worship you, O God.**

By your Spirit, bless all who receive this Word,  
that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ,  
we may be light for the world,  
revealing the brilliance of your Son.  
For sustaining us with your Word, we praise you, O God.  
**We praise you, O God.**

**\*\* GATHERING SONGS.**

**"Here I Am To Worship"**

**(Verse 1 - All)**

**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 - All)**

**So 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.**

**(Verse 2 - All)**

**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 - All)**

**So 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.**

**(Music Ministers / All)**

**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 - All)**

**So 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.

"Step by Step"

D(no3) G G<sup>2</sup> G D/F# D C/E C/D  
 O God, you are my God, and I will ev - er praise

G D(no3) G G<sup>2</sup> D/F# D  
 you. O God, you are my God, and

C/E C/D G G<sup>2</sup> G Em C/E Em  
 I will ev - er praise you. I will seek you in the morn -

Dsus D Am/E Am/C Am  
 - ing, and I will learn to walk in your ways, and

G G<sup>2</sup> G D/F# D C/D Am/D D<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub>  
 step by step you'll lead me, and I will fol - low you all of my

<sup>1</sup> G D(no3) <sup>2</sup> G G<sup>2</sup> G Em  
 days. O days, and I will fol - low you all of my

Dsus D Am<sup>7</sup> F C D<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub>  
 days, and I will fol - low you all of my days, and

G<sup>2</sup>/D D C/D G  
 step by step you'll lead me, and I will fol - low you all of my days.

"You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"



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

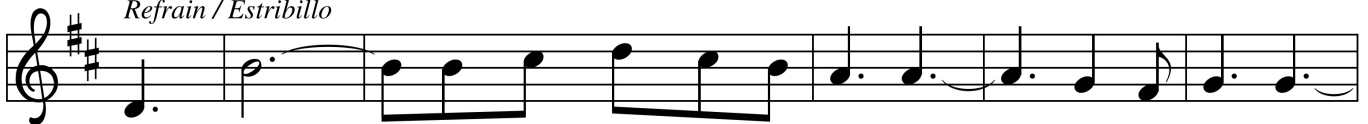


ca - do ni a sa - bios ni a ri - cos; tan só - lo  
nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly  
treasure nor weapons for conquest, just these my  
love for the rest of the weary— a love that's  
long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing: O lov - ing

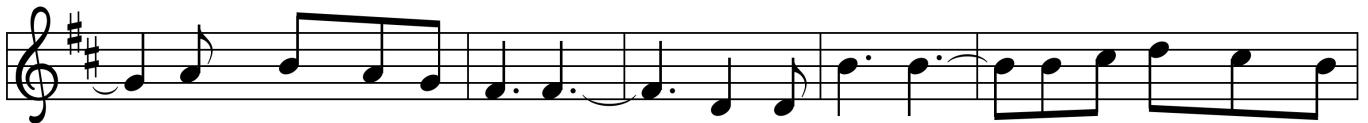


quie - res que yo te si - ga.  
ask - ing for me to fol - low.  
fish nets and will for work - ing.  
will - ing to go on lov - ing.  
Friend, you have come to call me.

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.

**\*\* CONFESSION**

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.**

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.**

**\*\* FORGIVENESS**

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**

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.**

**\*\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**



# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

## FIRST 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalms 27:1, 4-9

*The Lord is my light and my salvation. (Ps. 27:1)*

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.

## **SECOND 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 1 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 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.**

## 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 holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. 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, O Christ.**

## YOUTH MESSAGE

### MESSAGE

*Pastor Mallory Morris*

**\*\* 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 power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.**

**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**

*Assisting Minister*

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.*

*Each petition concludes:*

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.**

**GATHERING OF THE GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

*Assisting Minister*

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **\*\* GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

## **\*\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Holy and faithful God, we have come through Advent filled with hope and fear; with peace and worry; with joy and sorrow; with love and loss. Like the saints before, we have wondered and waited for your coming. We have looked and longed for all you've promised. Now we come to this table, just as we are, and we see that our journey leads us to your promised answer: a place of rest for our souls, a meal where we are filled, and a God who is, indeed, with us.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples 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."

Bless this bread and wine, O God, and bless us as we eat and drink. As you abide with us, transform us to see your Son alive and at work in our midst.

## **\*\* 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.**

## **\*\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.

***For those communing at home or in the pew:***

**COMMUNION** — *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence*

The body of Christ given for you.

The blood of Christ shed for you.

*Each person may respond: **Amen.***

**Communion Statement** ~ If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request. For those choosing to remain in the pews, there are communion all-in-one cups containing grape juice available in the Narthex.

## **REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION**

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ and ponder the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work in us and through us each and every day.

## **\*\* TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

## **\*\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Assisting Minister*

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **\*\* SENDING OF COMMUNION**

*Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.*

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **\*\* BLESSING**

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.**

## **\*\* SENDING HYMN**

### **"I Will Follow"**

(Music Ministers)

Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay;  
Where you move, I'll move. I will follow.

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

All your ways are good, all your ways are sure;  
I will trust in you alone.  
Higher than my sight, high above my life;  
I will trust in you alone.

(Refrain - All)

**Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay;  
Where you move, I'll move. I will follow you.  
Whom you love, I'll love. How you serve, I'll serve.  
If this life I lose, I will follow you, yeah.  
I will follow you, yeah.**

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

Light into the world, Light into my life,  
I will live for you alone.  
You're the One I seek, knowing I will find,  
All I need in you alone.

(Refrain - All)

**Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay;  
Where you move, I'll move. I will follow you.  
Whom you love, I'll love. How you serve, I'll serve.  
If this life I lose, I will follow you, yeah.  
I will follow you, yeah.**

(Music Ministers)  
In you, there's life everlasting.  
In you, there's freedom for my soul.  
In you, there's joy, unending joy,  
And I will follow!

(All)  
**Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay;  
Where you move, I'll move. I will follow.  
Whom you love, I'll love. How you serve, I'll serve.  
If this life I lose, I will follow you, yeah.  
I will follow you, yeah.  
I will follow you, yeah.  
I will follow you, yeah.**

**\*\* DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.  
**Created, saved and gifted by God,  
we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

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**“W + 2” = WORSHIP PLUS TWO**

**MAKE A COMMITMENT NOT ONLY TO WORSHIP EACH WEEK,  
BUT ALSO TRY TO FIND A WAY TO SERVE IN THE CONGREGATION  
AND SEEK OUT A WAY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.**

**YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD**

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# Upcoming Commemorations

## **Conversion of Paul**

Sunday, January 25, 2026

The week of prayer begun by the remembrance of Peter's confession now comes to an end as we recall the pivotal moment in the life of the other pillar of the early church, the apostle Paul. His encounter with the risen Christ turned him from persecutor of the followers of Christ to one of their leaders.

## **Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries**

Monday, January 26, 2026

These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.

## **Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith**

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae.

## **Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274**

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter.