**3rd Sunday after the Epiphany**

“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, ‘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.” *Matthew 4:18-22*

**AS WE GATHER**

The land where the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali settled was repeatedly overrun by the armies of other nations. It was the invasion route into the Promised Land, the route for conquerors God allowed to punish errant Israel. But another “alien” would come one day on another mission: Isaiah used the land as a metaphor for our Lord’s coming to begin a new rule in our hearts. He would be as light in the darkness and joy in the harvest. His coming to save us by going to the cross was so different that it seemed to be folly. Yet, to those who came to know our Lord personally, like the disciples in today’s Gospel, there was no question but that they would follow this man. Today’s worship is an opportunity to rejoice over the light, joy, and salvation Christ brought from heaven to this dark, sad, and fallen world.

**+ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting One, pg. 151)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“O God of God, O Light of Light”* (*LSB* 810)

**KYRIE** (*LSB*, pg. 152-153)

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *“This Is the Feast”*(*LSB*, pg. 155)

**SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY** (*LSB*, pg. 156)

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 9:1-4 *(bulletin insert)*

**INTROIT** *(bulletin insert)*

**EPISTLE** 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 *(bulletin insert)*

**ALLELUIA and VERSE** (*LSB*, pg. 156)

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 4:12-25 *(bulletin insert)*

**HYMN** *“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”* (*LSB* 849)

**SERMON *“Light”***

**NICENE CREED** (*LSB*, pg. 158)

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

**OFFERTORY** *“What Shall I Render to the Lord”*(*LSB*, pg. 159)

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**COMMUNION LITURGY** (*LSB*, pg. 160-163)

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“O Christ, Our True and Only Light”* (*LSB* 839)

*“O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee”* (*LSB* 632)

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** *“Thank the Lord”*(*LSB*, pg. 164)

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT** (*LSB*, pg. 166)

### BENEDICTION (LSB, pg. 166)

**HYMN** *“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”* (*LSB* 411)

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**