

Epiphany 3

January 25, 2026

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Jesus calls his disciples to follow him on his way. They have no idea what they are in for, but they drop their nets, leave everything behind, and follow. Discipleship is not merely a statement of belief, as in "I am a Christian." It is a radical turning to Jesus in passionate obedience to his holy will in our lives. St. Paul reminds the Corinthians that this includes putting aside all divisions and strife.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

Isaiah 9:1-4

Those in Darkness Will See a Great Light

The prophet spoke of the northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali, which have been in gloom and anguish living under the oppression of the Assyrian military. Isaiah proclaimed to them God's promise to bring to them the light of his salvation. No longer would God's people suffer in darkness and pain; God would send a deliverer.

Psalm 27:1-9 (10-14)

The Lord of Light

The psalmist boldly declared the blessings of fearless living because the Lord is his light and salvation. There is nothing to fear when God is on our side. Adversaries and foes will fall at the hand of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

The Cross is the Power of God

Paul, having greeted the Corinthian church with prayer and thanksgiving, urged them to put aside all division and enmity. Paul made a bold and profound confession of faith: "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."

Matthew 4:12-25

Follow Me

Jesus began his public ministry declaring to those who gathered that, using the words of the prophet Isaiah, the kingdom of God had come near. Jesus then began to call others — James and John, two ordinary fisherman — into his mission of proclaiming the coming of the kingdom.

Liturgical Color: Green

During the Season of Epiphany:

- Use the Kyrie OR the Hymn of Praise.
- Use the Apostles' Creed for this Sunday in Epiphany.
- Consider teaching children (or, if you already know it, singing) the song, "I Will Make You Fishers of Men."
- We live in a world that prizes leaders. Followers get a bad rap, and yet Christ calls us to follow him. He is our leader. What does it mean to be a follower of the Light of the World?
- There is a pattern for a Chinese lantern on the Epiphany Seasonal page of SOWeR that can be used as a craft for today.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Leave Your Nets	---	---	---	---	---	web
Rise, Shine, You People!	393	---	825	665	---	---
You Servants of God	252	---	---	825	---	---
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	---	649	411	815	---	---
All Praise to You, O Lord	78	---	---	---	---	web
Salvation Unto Us Has Come	297	---	555	590	---	---
You, Have Come Down to the Lakeshore	---	784	---	817	239	239
Christ, the Life of All the Living	97	---	420	339	218	218
My Faith Looks Up to Thee	479	---	702	759	243	243
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	---	731	739	773	206	206

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW=Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV=With One Voice, ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB=The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC=The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

How Great is Our God
(CCLI# 4348399)
Open the Eyes of My Heart
(CCLI# 2298355)
I Could Sing of Your Love Forever
(CCLI# 1043199)
Marvelous Light
(CCLI# 4491002)
He is Faithful
(CCLI# 6087902)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.