

During Communion *The Lord is My Light*



The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:

in God I trust, in God I trust

Communauté de Taizé

Sending Hymn CP 435

Take My Life, and Let It Be

Tune: MOZART

Postlude: *Sonate no. 37 in D major -*

Domenico Scarlatti

God's Call

It's worth thinking about that Jesus doesn't say to the first disciples, "Believe in this way of thinking, and follow me" or "Sign on to this cause, and follow me." He simply says, "Follow me." The sheer minimalism of the call is striking. It may signal that while beliefs and behavior do play a role in discipleship, they're not really the heart of the matter; rather, walking alongside Jesus is the heart of the matter: listening, reflecting, learning, and listening again. For the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the most remarkable thing about Jesus' call is that it's "void of all content." There's no program here, no platform, no set of opinions or list of rules. Only a call to companionship, to closeness, to living together as we walk toward heaven's reign. *Follow me.*

God's call manifests in a thousand different ways, and we respond in a thousand more, from courage to reluctance to hopping on the next ship out of town. But there's at least one golden thread running through it all: God's calling is frequently surprising and unpredictable, spilling over the edges of conventional wisdom in ways that are more than a little bit wild. Who is called? Not the supposedly elite, but those among the supposedly lowest on the social ladder (Simon, Andrew, James, and John). And to what end? For the sake of justice, kindness, and humility in our lives and our communities. For the sake of a world one day turned upside down in a magnificent Jubilee, "on earth as it is in heaven." And indeed for the sake of the following itself, the companionship itself, the love and togetherness of walking humbly with God along the Way. *Follow me.*

<https://www.saltproject.org/progressive-christian-media-resources-blog>

The Third Sunday after Epiphany



'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.'

January 25, 2026

Instrumental Prelude: *Changes* - Alexina Louie

Welcome & Territorial Acknowledgement

Opening Hymn: CP 330 *O Praise ye the Lord*
Tune: LAUDATE DOMINUM

Children's Message



Collect:

God of all people,
you sent your Son into our shadowed world.
May his dawning light
give hope to the broken, the persecuted,
the alien and the excluded,
so that we might feel the kingdom drawing near
and turn to follow him;
through Jesus Christ, the morning star. Amen.
Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.

The Proclamation of the Word

Reader: Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scripture.

All: Our hearts and minds are open.

Reader A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (9:1-4)

But there will be no gloom for those who were 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 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 the nation,
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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27:1, 5-13



The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then / shall I fear?*
The Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I / be afraid?

One thing I have asked of the Lord; one / thing I seek;*
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days / of my life;
to behold the fair beauty / of the Lord*
and to seek him / in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe / in his shelter;*
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high up-/on a rock.

Even now he lifts / up my head*
above my enemies / round about me.

Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds / of great gladness;*
I will sing and make music / to the Lord.

Hearken to my voice, O Lord, / when I call;*
have mercy on me and / answer me.

You speak in my heart and say, / "Seek my face,"*
your face, Lord, / will I seek.

Hide not your / face from me,*
nor turn away your servant / in displeasure.

You have been my helper; cast me / not away;
do not forsake me, O God of / my salvation.

Gospel Chant *Arise shine for your light has come
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you*



All stand, as able, for the Gospel.

Deacon The Lord be with you

People And also with you.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Matthew (4:12-23)

People Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, 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 lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for 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 Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,

The Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Preparation Hymn CP 430

Will You Come and Follow Me?

Tune: KELVINGROVE



*The wine, hosts, and bulletin today
are in Loving Memory of Ellen &
David Ryding from their daughter
Helen*