

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
Sunday, February 1, 2026**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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.**

**CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)**

In the name of the Father,

and of the <sup>☩</sup> Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved. In the name of <sup>☩</sup> Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING (ELW p. 138)**

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

**GATHERING SONG**

**As We Gather at Your Table**

**(ELW 522)**

1 As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.

2 Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.

There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

### **KYRIE (ELW p. 138)**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 139)**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8**

*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “wearied” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.*

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. <sup>3</sup> “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

<sup>6</sup> “With what shall I come before the LORD and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” <sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 15**

<sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your <sup>1</sup> tabernacle?  
Who may abide upon your <sup>1</sup> holy hill?

<sup>2</sup> **Those who lead a blameless life and do <sup>1</sup> what is right,  
who speak the truth <sup>1</sup> from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil <sup>1</sup> to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit up- <sup>1</sup> on a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup> **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD.  
They have sworn upon their health and do not take <sup>1</sup> back their word.**

<sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- <sup>1</sup> gainst the innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be <sup>1</sup> overthrown.

### **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

*According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.*

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

### **O God of Mercy, God of Light**

**(ELW 714)**

1 O God of mercy, God of light, in love and  
mercy infinite, teach us, as ever  
in your sight, to live our lives in you.

2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost  
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we  
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.

3 Teach us the lesson Jesus taught: to feel for  
those his blood has bought, that ev'ry deed and  
word and thought may work a work for you.

4 For all are kindred, far and wide, since Jesus  
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and  
grace provide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,  
may we each other's burdens share;  
may we, where help is needed, there  
give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move  
all those who live to live in love,  
till you receive in heav'n above  
all those who live in you.

## **APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 105)**

**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 (ELW p. 143)**

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.

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries (*faith-based organizations may be named*). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way (*especially*). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. 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 (ELW p. 143)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **MEAL (ELW p. 144)**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

### **OFFERING**

### **Create in Me a Clean Heart**

**(ELW 186)**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING (ELW p. 144)**

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.**

## **PREFACE (ELW p. 144)**

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:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of pow'r and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 132)**

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.

## **LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 145)**

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 (ELW p. 134)**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen.**

## **COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 146)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.**

## **HYMNS DURING COMMUNION**

**Faith – Music Video Sidewalk Prophets  
Bethel – Margaret Ann**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)**

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING (ELW p. 137)**

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

## **BLESSING (ELW p. 137)**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG**

### **Rise Up, O Saints of God!**

**(ELW 669)**

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn;  
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with nobler zeal might burn.

2 Speak out, O saints of God! Despair engulfs earth's frame;  
as heirs of God's baptismal grace, the word of hope proclaim.

3 Rise up, O saints of God! The kingdom's task embrace;  
redress sin's cruel consequence; give justice larger place.

4 Give heed, O saints of God! Creation cries in pain;  
stretch forth your hand of healing now, with love the weak sustain.

5 Commit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;  
and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

## **DISMISSAL (ELW p. 137)**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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