



Second Sunday after Epiphany Jan 18, 2026 8:15 service setting IV

As We Gather

In today's gospel, Jesus calls his disciples and he asks them, what are you seeking? He asks us the same thing. Today we examine this question.

What are we looking for as we follow Jesus?

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

Hymn of Invocation "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" LSB 395 vs 1-4

O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God's own truth and light,
 Aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's race, King David's son,
Our Lord and master, You have won
 Our hearts to serve You only!
 Lowly, holy!
 Great and glorious,
 All victorious,
 Rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!

Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,
And deep within our hearts now shine;
 There light a flame undying!
In Your one body let us be
As living branches of a tree,
 Your life our lives supplying.
 Now, though daily
 Earth's deep sadness
 May perplex us
 And distress us,
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.

Lord, when You look on us in love,
At once there falls from God above
 A ray of purest pleasure.
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood
Refresh our souls with heav'nly food.
 You are our dearest treasure!
 Let Your mercy
 Warm and cheer us!
 O draw near us!
 For You teach us
God's own love through You has reached us.

Almighty Father, in Your Son
You loved us when not yet begun
 Was this old earth's foundation!
Your Son has ransomed us in love
To live in Him here and above:
 This is Your great salvation.
 Alleluia!
 Christ the living,
 To us giving
 Life forever,
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608
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P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

A Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

A Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 89:1, 5, 15–16; antiphon: Psalm 119:46

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]
and shall not be put to shame.

**I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all
generations.**

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

**Blessèd are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face,**

who exult in your name all the day
and in your righteousness are exalted.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;**

as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]
and shall not be put to shame.**

Kyrie

**☩ Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria in Excelsis (sing)

**☩ To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!**

**We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.**

**Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—**

**For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;**

**You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

A The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

A Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You revealed to the apostle Peter the blessed truth that Your Son Jesus is the Christ. Strengthen us by the proclamation of this truth that we too may joyfully confess that there is salvation in no one else; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 49:1–7

¹Listen to me, O coastlands,
and give attention, you peoples from afar.
The LORD called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he named my name.
²He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.
³And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my right is with the LORD,

and my recompense with my God.”
⁵And now the LORD says,
 he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
 to bring Jacob back to him;
 and that Israel might be gathered to him—
 for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD,
 and my God has become my strength—
⁶he says:
 “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
 to raise up the tribes of Jacob
 and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
 I will make you as a light for the nations,
 that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”
⁷Thus says the LORD,
 the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
 to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation,
 the servant of rulers:
 “Kings shall see and arise;
 princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;
 because of the LORD, who is faithful,
 the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

2 Corinthians 4:5a, 13c; 1 Peter 4:11b; Psalm 113:3

What we proclaim is not ourselves,

but Jesus Christ as Lord.

We also believe, and so we also speak,

as one who speaks oracles of God.

From the rising of the sun to its setting,

the name of the LORD is to be praised!

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:1–9

¹Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**These things are written
that you may believe
that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

John 1:29–42a

A The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁹The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

³⁵The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). ⁴²He brought him to Jesus.

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day "God Loved the World So That He Gave" LSB 571

God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood,
Your Baptism grants the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August
Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Text: Public domain

Sermon "What Do You Want From Jesus" John 1:38

Prayer of the Church

A Dear heavenly Father, You promise to seek the lost. We pray for all those who have wandered away from Your Church. We pray that You would strengthen us to reach out to them, to receive them with open arms and open hearts when they return home. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C **Give ear to our cry.**

A Lord, You promise to strengthen the weak. Send Your strength and courage to all those who need it, to the aging, the lonely, the tired, and the vulnerable. Protect and defend them from the wolves of this world. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C Give ear to our cry.

A Lord, You promise to feed Your sheep with good pasture. Raise up faithful servants and shepherds to share the nourishment of Your Word and Sacraments with all Your sheep. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C Give ear to our cry.

A Send down upon Your church the grace of Your Holy Spirit that we may be united in faith and in confession of Your name. Unite us together to accomplish Your purpose at SPLC. Give strength, wisdom, and understanding to those who serve on our Call Committee and staff. Grant grace and patience to all in our congregation as we faithfully seek the pastor You appointed to shepherd us. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C Give ear to our cry.

A Lord, You promise to bind up the injured. Bring Your healing to all those who suffer now through injury, illness, and oppression, *Cindy Maxwell, Carol Danner, Armando Florez, Lee Quast, Ami Gray, Teo McDonald, Doug Ebersol, Kelsey Taylor, Mark Lasche, Tim Maher, Drake Williams, Joe Kuzma, Nilsa Colas, David Glass, (AT) Atinae Lealiiee, Jan Felzien, Melissa Ruhberg, Karen Manion, Jan Peterson, Cythina Estes, Joe Northcutt, Carla Weikert, Robert Wood, Eric Peterson, Kerstin Krueger, Mary Fodor, Joseph Davis, Tammy Tolbert.* Heal them according to Your good and gracious will. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C Give ear to our cry.

- A** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

Offering: Mary Miller "You are Mine"

Passing of the Peace

(Having received the Gospel's grace, let us joyfully share "Peace of Christ" with one another.)

Service of the Sacrament

Prepare our Hearts for Communion

1. Do I believe that I am sinful, without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
2. Do I harbor resentment for another or refuse to forgive another's sin?
3. Do I believe that Jesus is God's Son and my personal Savior?
4. Do I believe that He is personally present with His Body and Blood?
5. Do I desire by the Holy Spirit's power to live a Godly life?

If this is what you believe, we invite you to come forward to share Communion with us. If this is not what you understand or believe you are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply cross your arms for the Pastor to bless you.

Communion Instructions

(For those who are intolerant to alcohol, grape juice is available in the center of each communion tray marked by purple cups. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

A Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

A It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (sing)

C Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim
shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest,
sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes
in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- A** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

You once proclaimed Your saving promise through the prophets of Israel, and by the apostles and evangelists You published the good news of Your saving promise fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Grant that we, being instructed in the doctrine of the blessed apostles and evangelists, may faithfully eat His body and drink His blood and declare His salvation to all the world.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

- C** **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.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

A The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei Setting 4 (sing)

C **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Distribution Hymn "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" LSB 685

Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us
And to sin our spirits lure.

Onward in His footsteps treading,
Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where You guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus
And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness;
Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter,
We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe;
Help me there Your joy to know.

Let us gladly die with Jesus.
Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction,
Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion
That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die,
There to live with You on high.

Let us also live with Jesus.
He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken.
Jesus, You are now our head.

We are Your own living members;
Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly,
Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be,
Life eternal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

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Distribution Hymn "The Gifts Christ Freely Gives" LSB 602

The gifts Christ freely gives
He gives to you and me
To be His Church, His bride,
His chosen, saved and free!
Saints blest with these rich gifts
Are children who proclaim
That they were won by Christ
And cling to His strong name.

The gifts flow from the font
Where He calls us His own;
New life He gives that makes
Us His and His alone.
Here He forgives our sins
With water and His Word;
The triune God Himself
Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.

The gifts of grace and peace
From absolution flow;
The pastor's words are Christ's

For us to trust and know.
Forgiveness that we need
Is granted to us there;
The Lord of mercy sends
Us forth in His blest care.

The gifts are there each day
The holy Word is read;
God's children listen, hear,
Receive, and they are fed.
Christ fills them with Himself,
Blest words that give them life,
Restoring and refreshing
Them for this world's strife.

The gifts are in the feast,
Gifts far more than we see;
Beneath the bread and wine
Is food from Calvary.
The body and the blood
Remove our ev'ry sin;
We leave His presence in
His peace, renewed again.

All glory to the One
Who lavishes such love;
The triune God in love
Assures our life above.
His means of grace for us

Are gifts He loves to give;
All thanks and praise for His
Great love by which we live!

Text: Richard C. Resch, 1947

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Nunc Dimittis (sing)

C O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us
through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You
would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in

fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

C Amen.

Hymn to Depart "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" LSB 395 vs 5-6

O let the harps break forth in sound!

Our joy be all with music crowned,

Our voices gladly blending!

For Christ goes with us all the way—

Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!

His love is never ending!

Sing out! Ring out!

Jubilation!

Exultation!

Tell the story!

Great is He, the King of Glory!

What joy to know, when life is past,
The Lord we love is first and last,
 The end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place
 Beyond all tears and sinning!
 Amen! Amen!
 Come, Lord Jesus!
 Crown of gladness!
 We are yearning
For the day of Your returning!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

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Acknowledgments

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