

January 18, 2026

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY, YEAR A
LAY-LED WORSHIP



Ringin' of Bell

PRELUDE *First Lutheran Bell Choir*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ *Please stand*

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

L: Let us turn in confession to the one who
knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Mighty God, lover of justice,

**C: you call us to life in community, but we
have served our own interests at the
expense of our neighbors. We have sown
deceit where honesty was needed. We say
the right words, but our hearts are far from
you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us
together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy, and
walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

L: The former things have passed away, and
new things God now declares: Like a spring
of water that never fails, God covers you in the
righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin
in ☩ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you
strength to live for others, and bless you with
the gift of peace.

C: Amen.

◆ **GATHERING HYMN** vs. 1-4 ELW 308

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

1 **O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You
shine with God's own truth and light, aglow with
grace and mercy! Of Jacob's line, King David's**

**son, our Lord and Savior, 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!**

2 **Come, precious diamond, 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.**

3 **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! Oh, draw near us! For you teach us God's
own love through you has reached us.**

4 **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!**

◆ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by
your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace
we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow
you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

Please be seated

A READING FROM ISAIAH 49:1-7 By Wilda C.

Gafney, A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church

¹ Listen you coastlands to me, and pay heed, you
peoples from afar! THE CREATOR OF ALL called me
from the womb, from my mother's belly God made
my name known. ² GOD made my mouth like a
sharpened sword, and in the shadow of GOD's own
hand, hid me; God made me like a polished arrow,
in GOD's own quiver, hid me. ³ And GOD said to me,
"You are my slave, Israel, in you I am glorified."

⁴ But I, I said, "In vain have I labored, I have spent
my strength for nothingness and vanity; surely my
judgment is with the FAITHFUL ONE, and my wages
with my GOD."

⁵ And now says the AUTHOR OF LIFE, who formed
me in the womb to be GOD's slave, to return Jacob
back to GOD, and that Israel might be gathered to
GOD; I am honored in the sight of the HOLY ONE OF
OLD, and my GOD is my strength.

⁶ GOD says, "It is too light a thing that you should
be my slave to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to
restore the survivors of Israel. I will give you as a
light to the nations, for it will be that my salvation
reaches to the end of the earth."

⁷ Thus says the FAITHFUL ONE, the Redeemer of Israel, GOD's holy one, to one despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers: "Queens and kings shall see and arise, princes and princesses, and they too shall prostrate themselves, on account of the FIRE OF SINAI, who is faithful, The HOLY ONE of Israel, who has chosen you."

L: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 40:1-11 *We read responsively*

L: I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

C: He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

L: He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.

C: Happy are those who make the LORD their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.

L: You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you.

C: Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted. Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear.

L: Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, "Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

C: I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart." I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;

L: See, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD. I have not hidden your saving help within my heart;

C: I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

L: Do not, O LORD, withhold your mercy from me; let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.

Children are invited to come forward for this next reading out of the Spark Story Bible.

READING: "Escape to Egypt,"

Spark Story Bible, p. 224-225

CHILDREN'S SONG *Joy to the World*, v.1 ELW 267

CONG. SINGS ALONG

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

A READING FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9

The Message (MSG)

¹⁻² I, Paul, have been called and sent by Jesus, the Messiah, according to God's plan, along with my friend Sosthenes. I send this letter to you in God's church at Corinth, believers cleaned up by Jesus and set apart for a God-filled life. I include in my greeting all who call out to Jesus, wherever they live. He's their Master as well as ours! ³ May all the gifts and benefits that come from God our Father, and the Master, Jesus Christ, be yours. ⁴⁻⁶ Every time I think of you—and I think of you often!—I thank God for your lives of free and open access to God, given by Jesus. There's no end to what has happened in you—it's beyond speech, beyond knowledge. The evidence of Christ has been clearly verified in your lives. ⁷⁻⁹ Just think—you don't need a thing, you've got it all! All God's gifts are right in front of you as you wait expectantly for our Master Jesus to arrive on the scene for the Finale. And not only that, but God himself is right alongside to keep you steady and on track until things are all wrapped up by Jesus. God, who got you started in this spiritual adventure, shares with us the life of his Son and our Master Jesus. He will never give up on you. Never forget that.

L: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

ELW 310

Songs of Thankfulness & Praise

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise; manifested by the star to the sages from afar, branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem: anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.

2 Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme; and at Cana wedding guest in thy Godhead manifest; manifest in pow'r divine, changing water into wine; anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.

3 Manifest in making whole palsied limbs and fainting soul; manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might; manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill: anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.

4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy word; grace to imitate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou; that we might become like thee at thy great epiphany, and may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.

◆ *Please Stand*

GOSPEL: JOHN 1:29-42

L: The Holy Gospel, according to John 1:29-42.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

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

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon, son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

L: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

Please be seated for the Hymn

HYMN: *Making Their Way* ACS 979 >INSERT<

◆ *Please stand for the Creed*

APOSTLES' CREED

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 power of 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

L: 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.

A brief silence.

L: Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disasters. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Just God, you desire respect and equality for everyone. Raise up prophets who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, oppression, or illness *especially, Jennifer, Lavon, Jim, Dax, Larry, Renee, Tim and Anne;* and all those we name aloud or in our hearts. *(pause)* Bring an end to social injustice and inequities of every kind, so that all people may have abundant life. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in the Kenyon-area. Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Faithful God, you promise to be with us always. We remember with gratitude the faithful departed who now rest in you. Strengthen us to the end, that we may see you face to face. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: 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.

ALL: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

L: The Peace of Christ be with you always!

C: And also with you!

Please be seated

OFFERING—BELL CHOIR—GLOBE OFFERING

Children are invited to bring an offering to the globe at the front of the church

OFFERING PRAYER

L: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you; yet you never fail to reveal the wideness of your mercy.

C: Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (Modern version)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Children are invited to come forward to join in the blessing and to grab an instrument for the sending song.

BENEDICTION

L: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

◆ *Please Stand*

SENDING SONG: ELW 539
Abide, O dearest Jesus

1 Abide, O dearest Jesus, among us with your grace, that evil may not harm us nor we to sin give place.

2 Abide, O dear Redeemer, among us with your word and thus now and hereafter true peace and joy afford.

3 Abide with heav'nly brightness among us, precious Light; your truth direct and keep us from error's gloomy night.

4 Abide with richest blessings among us, bounteous Lord; let us in grace and wisdom grow daily through your word.

5 Abide, O faithful Savior, among us with your love; grant steadfastness and help us to reach our home above.

Ring of Bell

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Do Justice. Love Mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *BELL CHOIR*

PARTICIPANTS

LAY LEADERS—Erica Aronson, Harris Haugen

ORGAN/PIANO—Tammy Hanson

ACOLYTE—Boe Aronson

GREETER(S)—

COFFEE—Paul & Sharon Rechtzigel

TECH CREW—Heidi Haugen, Steve Johnson,

Holly Aldorfer, Jack Aronson, Luke Cordes

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OL/SKU#88850 *Making Their Way* ACS 979

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Jennifer Lurfald, Lavon Underdahl, Jim Fountaine, Dax Eggert, Larry Walker, Renee Spidahl-Carmichael, Tim Emerson, & Anne Laue.

CALENDAR

Su Jan 18 9 AM Worship – LAY-LED
10 AM Sunday School-Class
10 AM Coffee

We Jan 21 7 pm Council

Su Jan 25 9 AM HOLY COMMUNION WORSHIP w/Pr. D.J.
10 AM Sunday School-Class
10 AM Coffee
Annual Meeting

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