



Second Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 18, 2026

9:00 am

Welcome to the Lutheran Church of the Covenant!

Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the God of new life!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns. An asterisk * indicates when you are invited to stand, as you are comfortable.

All are welcome to come forward for communion. The ushers will guide you. Juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please let your server know if you need either of these.

A basket for offerings is at the rear of the sanctuary.

A children’s table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you’ll find some books and activites to help children feel more at home in worship.

Serving in Worship Today

Presiding Minister	Rev. Andrea McDonough
Organist	Gerry Mass
Assisting Minister	Harry Werner
Lector	Steve Dobush
Crucifer	Adrian Bernardo
Parish Administrator	Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vince Besednjak

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Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

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. **Amen.**

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

Mighty God, lover of justice, **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.**

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. **Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn: Arise, Your Light Has Come ELW # 314**



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893
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***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.**

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:
Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Vince Besesdnjak, Joan Clarke, Chuck Dickey, Bill Flick, Barbara Fossa, Alan Fugo and family, Donna Franz, Risa Gabor, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan King, Karen Kipfsthul, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Barbara Mingee, Phyllis Nemeth, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Ginny Robinson, Steve Senderak, Arlene Stoltz, Barb Toth, Maud Wright, Charlotte Zaranka, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

Last Week

General Fund receipts for week ending 1/11/2025:\$ 1067.00

*Sending Hymn: We Are Marching in the Light ELW#866

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the

nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:
We are dancing ...
We are praying ...
We are singing ...

*Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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 mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

***Hymn of Praise: Glory to God**

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace

to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace

to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -

way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

***Post Communion Prayer**

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***Blessing**

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

***Communion Prayer**

***The Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Christ taught us
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.
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.

Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymn (next page)

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:
have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right
hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
Refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -
lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
Final refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est.
A - men, a - men.

*Prayer of the Day

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. **Amen.**

Children's Moment

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

- ¹ Listen to me, O coastlands;
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born;
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
- ² He 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.
- ³ And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
- ⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD
and my reward with my God."
- ⁵ And now the LORD says,
who formed me in 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 sight of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—

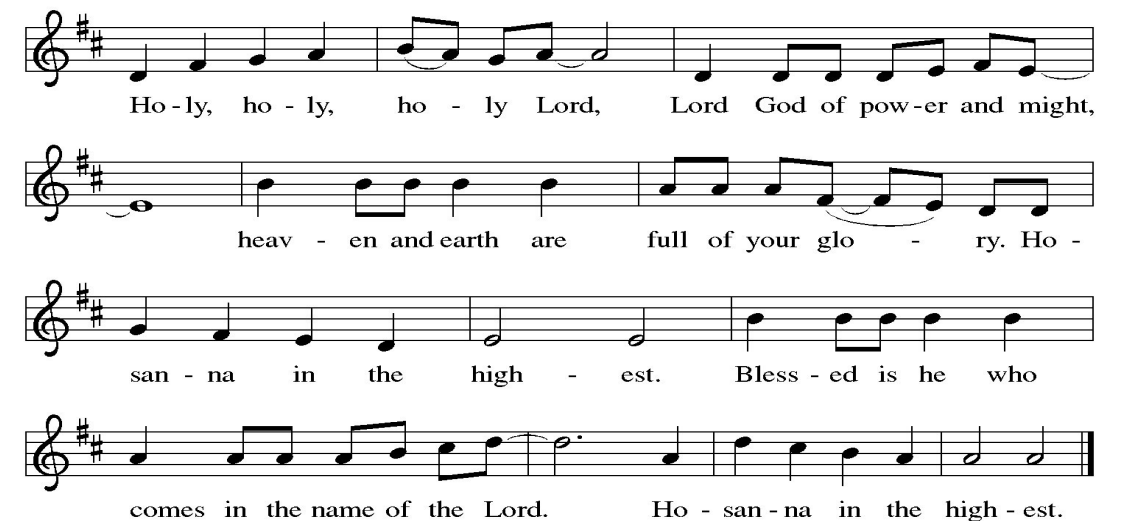
*Great Thanksgiving

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.**

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:

*Sanctus



***Offertory Hymn: Voices Raised to You ELW# 845**

(please stand as the offering is brought forward)



1

Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for

2

All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your

5

How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the



songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute

works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,

thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—



for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!

we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!

gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!

Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

***Offertory Payer**

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wide-ness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

⁶ he says,
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

⁷ Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
“Kings shall see and stand up;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 40:1-11

¹ I waited patiently up-^l on the LORD,
who stooped to me and^l heard my cry.
² **The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the^l miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my^l footing sure.**
³ The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise^l to our
God;
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust^l in the LORD.
⁴ **Happy are they who trust^l in the LORD!**
They do not turn to enemies or to those who^l follow lies.
⁵ Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your
plans for us, none can be com-^l pared with you!

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than ¹ I can count.

⁶ **Sacrifice and offering you do ¹ not desire;
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you
have ¹ not required. R**

⁷ And so I said, "Here I ¹ am; I come.

In the scroll of the book it is writ- ¹ ten of me:

⁸ **'I love to do your will, ¹ O my God;
your law is ¹ deep within me.'**"

⁹ I proclaimed righteousness in the ¹ great assembly;
I have not restrained my lips, O ¹ LORD, you know.

¹⁰ **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken
of your faithfulness and ¹ your deliverance;**

**I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the ¹
great assembly.**

¹¹ You are the LORD; do not withhold your compas- ¹ sion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth continually ¹ keep me
safe.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

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

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

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

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of
God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you
have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶

Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild plac-
es, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of
those affected by natural disasters. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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, **receive our
prayer.**

Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, op-
pression, or illness. Bring an end to social injustice and inequities of
every kind, so that all people may have abundant life. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful
of our mission and guide our ministries in this community. Kindle in us
a desire to help one another. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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, **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.**

***Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*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 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 the People

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.

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 remem-
ber this week. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷ so
that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our
Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you
may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faith-
ful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*Gospel Acclamation



***Gospel: John 1:29-42**

The holy gospel according to John. **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).

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ**
Sermon

***Hymn of the Day: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright**

ELW # 308



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,

God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!

Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with
Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here

you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your
and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -

ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness, may per - plex us and
mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life

in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!