

Immanuel Lutheran Church



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Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany February 1, 2026



As We Gather Blessed Indeed

Many of the words that we use on a regular basis in our worship have a rich and meaningful history that is often not well known. The word *blessed* or *blessing* used in the liturgy and hymns of the church is derived from the Old English word *bloedsian*, “to make something sacred.” This word, traced further back to an ancient Germanic dialect, originally meant “to make sacred in marking with blood.” That meaningful linkage is well reflected in the eighteenth-century hymn text by English clergyman Joseph Humphreys, which begins: “Blest the children of our God, They are bought with Christ’s own blood; They are ransomed from the grave, Life eternal they will have”. In his poetic text, Humphreys echoes 1 John, where we read: “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin”. We are blessed though the blood of Jesus to be the children of God! As we pray with hymnwriter Humphreys: “With them numbered may we be here and in eternity!”

PRELUDE "Be Thou My Vision," arranged by Lloyd Larson
WELCOME & BIRTHDAY BLESSING 1/16 Beverly Ford

♪Thanks for our friends who celebrate
And God's rich blessings contemplate.
Praise for another year on earth.
Praise to the Lord who gives us birth. Amen.

HYMN "O Bless the Lord, My Soul" #814

Please stand as you are able.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 89:1–2, 5, 8, 52; Isaiah 2:5b

Pastor: I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;

People: **with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.**

Pastor: For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens You will establish Your faithfulness."

People: **Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O Lord, Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!**

Pastor: O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty as You are, O Lord, with Your faithfulness all around You?

People: **Blessed be the Lord forever! Amen and Amen. Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

CONFESSON AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious heavenly Father.

People: **Eternal God, we confess that by nature we are sinful people. We are given to sinful thoughts, sinful words, and sinful deeds. We have transgressed Your law in many ways, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have often been heedless of our calling to follow in Your ways. Because of our sins and our sinfulness, we deserve Your punishment now and for eternity. Gracious God, in Your mercy, forgive our sin and restore us to a full and joyful relationship with You through the merits of Jesus, our Lord. Direct our days by Your Holy Spirit that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments as Your redeemed people, bringing the brightness of Your light to the darkened world.**

Pastor: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Be at peace.

People: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

✖ WORD ✎

INTROIT

♪ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

KYRIE

♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

♪ Glory be to God on high; and on earth peace good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heavenly King. God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only are holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: ♪ And with thy spirit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: ♫ A--men.

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Micah 6:1-8

(God's people are to come before Him in humility.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 *(Christ is the wisdom and the power of God.)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

ALLELUIA

♫ Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 5:1-12 *(Jesus teaches about blessed living.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th chapter.

People: ♫ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

The Gospel is read.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: ♫ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED *(found on the last page of the pew hymnal)*

Please be seated.

HYMN "Son of God, Eternal Savior" #842

SERMON Pr. Mark Croucher

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. A-men.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus," arranged by Richard A. Williamson

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *In Holy Conversation #772*

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:
We pray for the church, the Bride of Christ, that through her the message of salvation be proclaimed and the gifts of God be shared. We pray this day for all nations of the world, that there be an end to hostilities and that times of peacefulness prevail everywhere.

HYMN "In Holy Conversation" #772 v1

Pastor: We pray for our families and our neighbors. Move us to reach out in every direction with the joyful news of the Gospel, that people may become part of the kingdom of God now and forever. We pray for all people in various conditions, especially for the hospitalized and those who are homebound during this season especially Liz, Myron, Betty, Karla, Dan, Ian and Luetta. We pray for the unemployed, those who are downcast or grieving, and for all those for whom our petitions are desired.

HYMN "In Holy Conversation" #772 v2

Pastor: We remember those who have shared the faith with us and now have departed this life in joyful hope. Confidently, we await the time when we shall rejoice together with them eternally along with saints and angels and all the company of heaven. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

HYMN "In Holy Conversation" #772 v3

✖ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✖

pew hymnal page 194

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **♪ And with thy spirit.**
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: **♪ We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Pastor: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.
People: **♪ It is meet and right so to do.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have had mercy on us and have sent Your only-begotten Son to be our Savior. Grant that we may have a right sense of the joy of His presence in all the seasons of our lives. Grant that we receive the body and blood of our Lord as the guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

SANCTUS

♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, who in giving Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to accomplish our salvation, has manifested Your grace and Your glory. We thank You for the sacrifice made by our blessed Lord for our salvation and for the blessed Meal set before us. Gather us now at Your Holy Table as Your invited and beloved guests. Joined together in the name of our Lord and in the communion of saints, we pray You to send Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: 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.

People: ♫ For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: ♫ A---men.

AGNUS DEI

♫ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us, O Christ Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A---men.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

"Just as I Am," arranged by Victor C. Johnson

Please stand as you are able.

NUNC DIMITTIS

♫ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou has prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.

People: ♫ And His mercy endureth forever.

Pastor: Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for You have once again fed and nourished us at Your Table through the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. As Your pilgrim people, strengthen and support us so that we may continue to proclaim Your love to all the world. In this Epiphany season, keep before us the vision of the brightness of Your glory, and bring us at last to Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: ♪ A--men.

SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: ♫ And with thy spirit.

Pastor: Bless we the Lord.

People: ♫ **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: 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.

People: ♫ Amen, amen, a-men.

HYMN "Christ the Eternal Lord" #829

POSTLUDE "*Praise Him with the Sound of the Trumpet.*" arranged by Robert Lau

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THE MESSENGER

February 1, 2026

WELCOME! Dear guest, we pray that your worship with us is as spiritually enriching for you as your presence is encouraging to us. We invite you to sign our guest book in the foyer and leave your email address if you would like periodic updates from Immanuel. Most importantly, come back and worship with us again next Sunday.

SERVING US TODAY: Rev. Mark Croucher
Linda Rayburn, Organist

IN OUR PRAYERS: Liz Kraft, Myron Kimber, Betty Peuster, Karla Kass, Dan and Ian Henqeler, and Luetta Buchholz

THE LUTHERAN HOUR theme for next Sunday, February 8th is "Type C" Lutheran Hour (Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler) In the Bible, the Holy Spirit meets us, gives us the mind of Christ, and leads us back into the world as children of God. 1 Corinthians 2:12. Listen online at <https://www.lutheranhour.org>.