

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

*Gathering at St. John's Episcopal Church
1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater, FL 33764*

Sunday, January 18, 2026

Second Sunday after Epiphany / Lectionary 2, Year A



Introduction

Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

Welcome:

Prelude: Soliloquy – Broughton

Many Will Come

1* 2

Man - y will come from east and west, and from
OR Man - y will come from east and west, and from

north and south, and will eat in the king - dom, the
north and south, to be washed in the wa - ters, the

king-dom of God. Blest are they, oh, blest are
wa - ters of life. Blest are they, oh, blest are

they who eat bread in the king-dom, the king-dom of God.
they who are washed in the wa - ters, the wa - ters of life.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has two measures, labeled 1* and 2. The second staff has two measures. The third staff has two measures. The fourth staff has two measures. The lyrics are written below the staves, with some words in italics. The first staff has two lines of lyrics. The second staff has two lines of lyrics. The third staff has two lines of lyrics. The fourth staff has two lines of lyrics. The lyrics are: Man - y will come from east and west, and from OR Man - y will come from east and west, and from north and south, and will eat in the king - dom, the north and south, to be washed in the wa - ters, the king-dom of God. Blest are they, oh, blest are wa - ters of life. Blest are they, oh, blest are they who eat bread in the king-dom, the king-dom of God. they who are washed in the wa - ters, the wa - ters of life.

** May be sung in canon*

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

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.

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

The introductory commentary is **not** read out loud.

Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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—

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: Psalm 40:1-11 - *I love to do your will, O my God. (Ps. 40:8)*

Reader: I waited patiently upon the LORD,
who stooped to me and I heard my cry.

**ALL: The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit,
out of the miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

Reader: The LORD put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe,
and put their trust in the LORD.

**ALL: Happy are they who trust in the LORD!
They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.**

Reader: Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God!
In your plans for us, none can be compared with you!
Oh, that I could make them known and tell them!
But they are more than I can count.

**ALL: Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;
you have opened my ears:
burnt-offering and sin-offering you have^l not required.**

Reader: And so I said, "Here I am; I come.
In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

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

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

**ALL: I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth
from the great assembly.**

Reader: You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth
continually keep me safe.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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 sanctified 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 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 faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Verse 1 and 2 are sung

1* 2

Man - y will come from east and west, and from
OR Man - y will come from east and west, and from

north and south, and will eat in the king - dom, the
north and south, to be washed in the wa - ters, the

king-dom of God. Blest are they, oh, blest are
wa - ters of life. Blest are they, oh, blest are

they who eat bread in the king-dom, the king-dom of God.
they who are washed in the wa - ters, the wa - ters of life.

* May be sung in canon

Gospel: John 1:29-42

John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.

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: Pr. Anne Harman

Come and See

What are you look - ing for? Come,

see, come and see. What are you

look - ing for? Come and see. Come and see.

Text: Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962, from John 1:38-39

Music: COME AND SEE, Robert A. Hobby

Text and music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

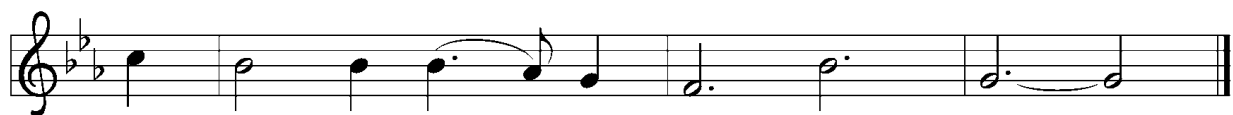
Hymn of the Day: Just As I Am – ELW 592



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

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 Intercession

Please respond to each invocation: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A Sign of Peace and Reconciliation

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please be seated.

OFFERING

All that we have, physically and spiritually comes from God.
Our offering, of time, talent and treasure is a response to our awareness
that God is the creator of all things and that we are redeemed
through life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Your support of this ministry and the faith life of this community is appreciated.

Hymn: Come to the Table – ELW 481



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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Offering Prayer

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 wideness 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.**

DIALOGUE

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.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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

We currently receive communion with real bread and wine. If you need to receive a gluten free host, please ask the communion minister when you come forward. They are on a separate dish. For those who prefer to receive grape juice rather than wine you will find white grape juice in the center of the trays as communion is given. If you have a question, please ask the minister as you receive. The bread and wine should be consumed here in the church before you return to your seat. If for some reason, you are unable to consume either the bread or wine please bring what was not consumed to the ushers or the pastor as soon as the service is completed.

LAMB OF GOD – ELW Setting 9

Lamm Gottes, du nimm hinweg die Sünde der Welt; hab Erbarmen mit uns. Lamm Gottes, du nimm hinweg die Sünde der Welt; hab Erbarmen mit uns. Lamm Gottes, du nimm hinweg die Sünde der Welt; gib uns Frieden, gib uns Frieden.

Communion Hymn: Christ Be Our Light – ELW 715



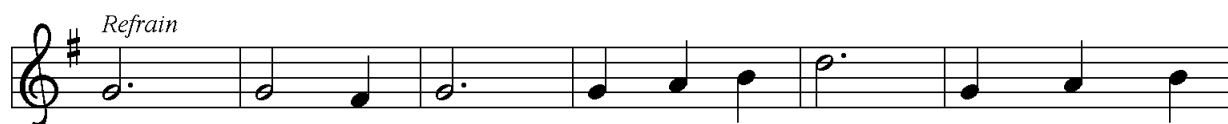
1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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Come and See

What are you look - ing for? Come,

see, come and see. What are you

look - ing for? Come and see. Come and see.

Text: Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962, from John 1:38-39
Music: COME AND SEE, Robert A. Hobby
Text and music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

Prayer after Communion

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.

Announcements:

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.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer – ELW 618



1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem-er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might-y arm, shield me with your might-y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

Announcements:

Sign up at the CCC table: Silver Foxes, and Book Study



Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 18, 2026
Immediately following worship

There will be a potluck lunch
in the hall after the meeting.
Please bring a dish to share.

Quilting – January 22 and 29

Next Sunday, January 25 – Blessing of Quilts!

WELCA Women of the ELCA **Bible Study**

Wednesday, January 21
11:00 AM - in the conference room

Our Bible Study is from the December, January, February
issue of Gather Magazine entitled
"Now Let Us Pray: Praying with our bodies".
A magazine is not required to attend or participate.

Please bring your bible, preferably NRSV, and an offering.
We will join Silver Foxes for lunch after our meeting.
All women are welcome.



Please reach out to
Phyllis Berlage
727-698-2728
for more information.

St. Paul's
Silver Foxes Luncheon

Wednesday
January 21
1:00 PM



Santa Fe Grill
800 Clearwater Largo Road, Largo

Invite a friend. All are welcome.
Please sign up by January 18
A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.



St. Paul's Spirituality Center

an outreach ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Service of Healing & Holy Communion

Wednesday, January 28 - 7:15 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
gathering at St. John's Episcopal Church
1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater

We all have a need for healing.

What keeps you from asking God for healing?
What would healing look like? Feel like?

During our service we will have a time for
anointing and individual prayer for healing.



Four Chaplains Day

St. John's Episcopal Church

1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater, FL 33764

Four Chaplains Day Service

February 3, 2026

7:00 PM



**Join us as we honor the service, sacrifice,
and witness to interfaith unity of the
Four Chaplains of the U.S.A.T. Dorchester
and the service of chaplains in our own community today.**

To learn about the Four Chaplains of the U.S.A.T Dorchester:
<https://fourchaplains.org/the-four-chaplains/>



Sponsored by Belcher Road Interfaith Collective

St. Paul's Lutheran, Temple B'nai Israel, Hope Presbyterian, St. John's Episcopal,
Unity Church of Clearwater, Trinity Presbyterian Clearwater, Congregation Beth Shalom,
Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater, St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

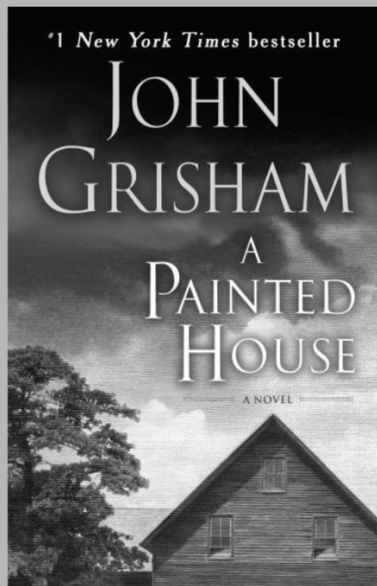
ST. JOHN'S & ST. PAUL'S



Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Food will be served from

4:30 - 6:30 PM



St. Paul's Book Club

Our next meeting is

February 26, 2026 - 11:00

Join us for a discussion of the novel, *The Painted House*, by John Grisham. This is not his usual legal thriller. This is a story set in rural Arkansas in 1952, told from the perspective of 7 year old Luke Chandler. It includes faith, baseball, murder, a mysteriously painted house, and "picnic on the ground". Join us whether you read the book or not!

Location: Our Place Clearwater
1101 S. Missouri Ave., Clearwater, FL 33756

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Gathering at St. John's Episcopal 1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater, FL

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, a Reconciling in Christ congregation, embodies God's love, and promise of salvation through faith in Christ by extending inclusion and welcome to all.

We welcome the full, active participation of all who worship and minister with us. If you are interested in learning more about Jesus, God's life and action in the world and our lives, the Lutheran faith, or this congregation and how you can be more involved, please reach out to Pastor Anne.

Phone Number: 727- 446-7718

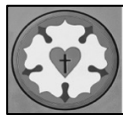
Email: office@stpaulsclearwater.org

Website: <https://www.stpaulsclearwater.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/st.paulslutheranchurch.clearwater.fl>



To reach Pastor Anne
pastoranneharman@gmail.com



St. Paul's Spirituality Center

an outreach ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church



Florida-Bahamas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



From sundaysandseasons.com.

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This Week at St. Paul's

Wednesday, January 21 – WELCA Bible Study & Silver Foxes

Thursday, January 22 – Quilting

Thursday, January 22 – Pop Up Food Ministry

Sunday, January 25 – Blessing of Quilts