

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
February 1, 2026

Pastor Joshua W. Rau

A warm welcome to all today!

May this time of worship strengthen your faith and desire to serve the Creator who loves us with everlasting love in Christ Jesus.

Children are welcome in this worship service, and encouraged to participate in any way they are able to. Teach the children sitting around you how to use their bulletins, and sing & speak loudly! We value the noise made by our children! We have a nursery available in our education building with a video feed of our service.

Visitors, we are glad you are here! Please sign our Guest Register and feel free to fill out a “welcome slip” in the pews.

Please come again!!

† SERVING IN WORSHIP †

Organist: *Christy Shinn*

Choir Director: *Kelly Crawford*

Reader: *Ann Fields*



Greeting You Today

*Joy Kessler
Brenda Pender*



Given By:

Karrie Zschille

We Keep in Prayer

Please keep in your prayers those who are in need of healing and our shut-ins and home-bound members. May God's grace surround them with comfort and care.

Mary Lou Abernathy, Pat Abernathy, LaDonia Beggs, June Borgfield, Larry Brockmire, Jeffrey Kies, Alice Koeppel, Robert Loos, Junior Peetz, Marvin Peetz, Helen Poston, Alice Quigley, Cindy Smith

Pastor: Cell: 715-294-0157 ~ **Email:** pastorjoshuarau@gmail.com

Office: 573-243-3323 ~ **Email:** office@euccjackson.org

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9am-3pm

Website: www.euccjackson.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/euccjackson ~ **Instagram:** @euccjackson

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

***Indicates congregation please stand if able**
Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

RINGING OF THE BELL ~ WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Hymns are in the Advent and Christmas Hymns booklet found in the pews.

PRELUDE

***TRINITY CHIMES** *(at the sound of the chimes, please stand)*

***INTROIT** *“In Christ Alone”*

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand-

My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
We come longing for God’s kingdom among us.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.
God, fill us with your justice and mercy.

Blessed are the merciful, the pure in heart, and the peacemakers.
Shape our lives by your grace and love.

Come, let us worship the God who blesses, restores, and calls us to new life.
We come with open hearts to meet the living God.

***GATHERING HYMN** *“Immortal, Invisible”*

#1

***GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

Let us pray,

Holy God, you bless the humble, the merciful, and the seekers of justice. Open our hearts to receive your kingdom, and shape our lives by the way of Christ, that we may reflect your compassion and peace in the world you love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Jesus blesses the humble, the merciful, and those who seek justice and peace. Yet we know how easily we cling to pride instead of humility, comfort instead of compassion, and self-protection instead of mercy. God invites us not into shame, but into honesty and renewal. Trusting that God meets us with grace and forgiveness, let us come before God and confess our sin.

Silence for reflection

Merciful God, you call us to live with humility, compassion, and courage, yet we confess that we often cling to pride, comfort, and fear. We hunger for security more than righteousness, and we seek our own blessing rather than the good of others. Forgive us when we fail to trust your promises and when we resist the transforming work of your Spirit. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and lead us in the way of Christ. Amen.

Hear the good news: God's grace meets us in our weakness and lifts us into new life. In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven, your burdens are lifted, and your future is renewed. Live now in the freedom and peace of God's mercy.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***GLORIA PATRI**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Marcie Brown

MESSAGE IN MUSIC *"How Beautiful"*

FIRST READING

Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “wearied” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.

¹Hear now what the Lord says:

“Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
And let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, O you mountains, the Lord’s complaint,
And you strong foundations of the earth;
For the Lord has a complaint against His people,
And He will contend with Israel.

³“O My people, what have I done to you?
And how have I wearied you?
Testify against Me.

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
I redeemed you from the house of bondage;
And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O My people, remember now
What Balak king of Moab counseled,
And what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,
From Acacia Grove to Gilgal,
That you may know the righteousness of the Lord.”

⁶With what shall I come before the Lord,
And bow myself before the High God?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
With calves a year old?

⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
Ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

⁸He has shown you, O man, what is good;
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”

²⁰ Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. ²² For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶ For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. ²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, ²⁹ that no flesh should glory in His presence. ³⁰ But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—³¹ that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

¹ And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. ² Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

For they shall be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,

For they shall obtain mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,

For they shall see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,

For they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Epiphany at the Cross"

***SERMON HYMN** *"Be Now My Vision"*

#451

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

#780

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT (served in the pews)

We celebrate an open communion table, meaning that all who believe in Jesus Christ are invited to receive the real presence of Christ and share in the community of God's people, regardless of denomination. We offer both wine and grape juice, grape juice is in the center of the tray. Please hold the piece of bread or cup until all have been served.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***SENDING HYMN** "*Standing On the Promises*" words on next page

***BLESSING**

***CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION** "*Give Thanks*" words on next page

***POSTLUDE**

****Giving Statements for 2025 are available for pickup in the vestibule.**

STANDING ON THE PROMISES

1 Standing on the promises of Christ my king,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

2 Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

3 Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

4 Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

GIVE THANKS

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks, because he's given
Jesus Christ, his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks, because he's given
Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say 'I am strong',
let the poor say 'I am rich',
because of what the Lord has done for us;
and now let the weak say 'I am strong',
let the poor say 'I am rich',
because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks



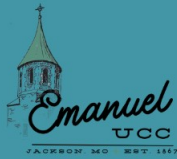
Annual Meeting

**February 22, 2026
After Worship**

Congregational Meeting Agenda

February 22, 2026

Call to Order
Opening Prayer
Minutes —2025 Congregational Meetings
Financial Report
Annual Report
 Pastor's Report
 Council President's Report
Conference Delegate's Report
Buildings and Grounds
Rental Property
Business from the Floor
Adjourn



Clothing Closet

Emanuel UCC is pleased to offer free clothing to anyone in need through our Clothing Closet Ministry

2nd Saturday of each month

9:00 am-11:00 am

~~~~~

320A East Adams St.

Jackson, MO 63755

(white house on the corner of E Adams & Georgia St)

\* ACCEPTING GENTLY USED WINTER CLOTHING \*

[www.euccjackson.org](http://www.euccjackson.org)

573-243-3323



## FOOD PANTRY

For the month of February, the food pantry is in need of:

- CANNED CHICKEN
- CANNED POTATOES
- CANNED SOUPS
- CANNED FRUIT



**DONATIONS NEEDED!**

# THIS WEEK

## Wed., February 4

*Meditations from Emanuel* on Facebook and YouTube

Choir Practice 6:00 pm

## Thurs., February 5

2:00 pm-Bethany Circle Meeting in Church Parlor

## Sat., February 7

9-11 am-Clothing Closet Open

5:30 pm-Ignite Worship

## Sun., February 8

8:00 am-Church Council Meeting

9:00 am-Faith and Fellowship

10:10 am-Traditional Worship  
\*\*Women's Fellowship Meeting after worship

Please be advised that our services are livestreamed to YouTube and Facebook. Your participation in the service serves as your consent to the broadcast of your image and voice and to the broadcast of the image and voice of your participating minor children.

Music and other worship elements used with permission:

\*One License #A-732170 and CCLI License #3250129, 20328488

\*New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



Visitor Info



Via Venmo  
(no statement available)



Via Website  
(giving statement available)

Ways to Give