

EDEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Worship Service

JANUARY 31 &  
FEBRUARY 1, 2026  
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER  
EPHIPHANY

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**Office Hours:** Wednesday and Friday - 9am - 1pm



## ***Introduction***

*Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.*

## ***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 Song - #522: As We Gather At Your Table***

#### ***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.**

#### ***Prayer of the Day***

Let us pray.

**Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and**

perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## Word

### 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.*

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup> “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

<sup>6</sup> “With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup> Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm: Psalm 15

#### R: Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

<sup>1</sup> Lord, who may dwell in your <sup>1</sup> tabernacle?  
Who may abide upon your <sup>1</sup> holy hill?

<sup>2</sup> **Those who lead a blameless life and do <sup>1</sup> what is right,  
who speak the truth <sup>1</sup> from their heart; R**

<sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil <sup>1</sup> to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit up- <sup>1</sup> on a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup> In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who <sup>1</sup> fear the Lord. They have sworn upon their health and do not take <sup>1</sup> back their word.

<sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- <sup>1</sup> gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be <sup>1</sup> overthrown. **R**

## **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.*

<sup>18</sup> The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

*The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of The Lord. ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

## **Sermon**

### ***Hymn of the Day - #818: O Master Let Me Walk With You***

#### **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 into hell.**

**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***

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..

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. 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 Peace***

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

### ***Offering***

#### ***Offering Prayer***

Let us pray.

**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.**

### ***Words Of Institution***

## ***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, we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. or thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## ***Invitation to Communion***

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

*All who desire communion on this day are welcome to commune with us and partake in the promise of eternal life by Jesus Christ himself. In solidarity with our siblings in recovery, we use non-alcoholic wine. Please indicate if you would like a gluten free communion wafer. If you do not wish to take communion, you are still invited to come to the table for a blessing. Traditionally, those who commune are baptized into the Christian faith. If you are not baptized and would like to learn more about what it means to be baptized and share in the meal at the Lord's Supper Table, please talk with Vicar Elaine.*

## ***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.**

## ***Sending***

### ***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.**

## ***Sending Song - #551: The Spirit Sends Us Forth To Serve***

### ***Dismissal***

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

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***Please remember the following people in your prayers:***

**Anne Balko, Tara Henry, Larry Tweedale, Margi Beauchaine Kirby,  
Sharon Seaberg, Dottie Hermanson & Larry**

**Nursing Home & Assisted Living:**

Norma Seacrest, Pepper VanLandschoot (Jacobetti), Pauline Elavsky  
(Harbour View), and Jane Guyott

**In Service:**

Craig Oas, Zac Culter, Mike Knickerbocker, Peter Peterson, Mathew Moilanen, and our veterans who have returned to their communities.

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** Elaine Robbins

**ASSISTING MINISTER**

**Saturday** – George Balko

**Sunday** – Joanie Hinsa

**USHERS:**

**Saturday** – Volunteer

**Sunday** – Volunteer

**ALTAR GUILD:** Brenda St. Martin/Karen Derwin

**FELLOWSHIP HOST:** Norma Dick