

Sunday Worship Service – February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
With One Voice – Holy Communion – Light of Christ, Setting 4 (p.12-27)
 The liturgy & hymns are from WOV

Words of Welcome by Pastor

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement

Introduction to the Theme of the Bible Readings

Thanksgiving for Baptism ¹

Children of God, we claim again God's promises to us.
 We recommit ourselves to service in Christ.
 We place our hope and trust in God
 and pray for the work of God's Spirit in our midst.
 Baptism is a sign of God's faithful covenant promises,
 under which we live each day, as the Family of God.
 Let us remember now our baptism and be thankful.
 We thank you, O God, for our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection.
 In the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters,
 and you created everything that is—seen and unseen.

In the time of Noah you destroyed evil in the water of the flood,
 and by your saving ark you gave a new beginning.
 In the night of trouble you led Israel through the sea,
 out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.

In the water of the Jordan Jesus was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. In the baptism of Christ's death and resurrection, you have set us free from sin and death and opened up the way to eternal life.

**May Christ, who sank deep into death and was raised to new life,
 keep us and our loved ones safe in your loving embrace.
 May your Spirit mark us with a faith
 that shines brightly in the light of day and endures the dark of night.**

To you be all honor and glory, now and forever,

¹ Reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition*, © 2013, Faith Alive Christian Resources (adapted).

In the name of the + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

#310 (ELWB) Gathering Hymn “*Song of Thankfulness and Praise*” (v.1-2,4)

1. **Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
manifested by the star to the sages from afar,
branch of royal David’s stem in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**
2. **Manifest at Jordan’s stream, prophet, priest and king supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in pow’r divine, changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**
4. **Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy word;
grace to imitate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we might become like thee at thy great epiphany,
and may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.**

p.12 **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.**

p.12 **Kyrie**

In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

For the peace of the whole world, the well being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

Prayer of the Day

God our deliverer, **you walk with the meek and the poor, the
compassionate and those who mourn, and you call us to walk humbly with
you. When we are foolish, be our wisdom; when we are weak, be our
strength; that, as we learn to do justice and to love mercy, your rule may
come as blessing. Amen.**

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

In this reading from the prophet Micah, God brings a lawsuit against Israel, with the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury. 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.

A reading from Micah, the 6th chapter:

Hear what God is saying: Arise, lay out the lawsuit before the mountains; let the hills hear your voice! Hear, mountains, the lawsuit of God! Hear, eternal foundations of the earth!

God has a lawsuit against God’s people; with Israel God will argue.

“My people, what did I ever do to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! I brought you up out of the land of Egypt; I redeemed you from the house of slavery. I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam before you. My people, remember what Moab’s King Balak had planned, and how Balaam, Beor’s son, answered him! Remember everything from Shittim to Gilgal, that you might learn to recognize the righteous acts of God!”

With what should I approach God and bow down before God on high? Should I come before God with entirely burned offerings, with year-old calves? Will God be pleased with thousands of rams, with many torrents of oil? Should I give my oldest child for my crime; the fruit of my body for the sin of my spirit?

[God] has told you, human one, what is good and what God requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 15

Holy One, who may live in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy mountain?

Those who act with integrity, do always what is right and just, and speak truth from their hearts.

There is no deceit on their tongues.

They do their friends no wrong, nor bring shame to their neighbours.

They reject the contemptible, but honor those who revere the Holy One.

They keep their sworn word even when it hurts.

They lend money without interest, take no bribe against the innocent.
Whoever does these things shall never be overthrown.

p.17 **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
 You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

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

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day “Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit”²

(sung to ELW #807 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*)

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit; all God's realm is surely theirs.

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- Those in mourning will find comfort as an answer to their prayers.
 Meek ones whom this world despises will inherit everything.
 God, your kingdom still surprises; may we seek the reign you bring.
2. Blessed, too, are those who hunger and who thirst for what is right.
 They will not be prone to wander, for your will is their delight.
 Those who show God's care and mercy will receive that mercy too.
 God, in Christ you show us clearly of the joy we have in you.
 3. Those who share the peace God gives them
 will find blessings as God's own.
 Those oppressed for faithful living will call heaven's kingdom Home.
 When the world's ways seem distressing
 and we feel life's painful sting,
 God, remind us of the blessings of the wondrous life you bring.

Affirmation of Faith³

As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world—
 which some seek to control, and others view with despair—
 we declare with joy and trust: our world belongs to God!
 From the beginning, through all the crises of our times,
 until God's kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever.
 Our world belongs to God! Let the earth be glad!
 The Spirit is at work, renewing creation.
 We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness,
 and dedicate ourselves to holy living and loving.
 As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience,
 and set free for joyful praise,
 we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in God's world.
 And we are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness
 will fill the earth. Our world belongs to God.

Prayers of Intercession⁴

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.

³ Adapted from "Our World Belongs to God," articles 1, 2, 6. Posted on the [Calvin Institute for Christian Worship](http://www.calvin.edu/ChristianWorship/) website.

⁴ <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts>

Prayer petitions will end with “Merciful God’ and the congregation is invited to respond with **“receive our prayer.”**

A brief silence.

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, especially Canadian Lutheran World Relief. 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. 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 God be with you always! **And also with you!**

p.21 **Offertory**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are these offerings: offerings of peace and justice, offerings of love and compassion, offerings of kindness and mercy.

Blessed are the givers of these offerings: givers of peace and justice, givers of love and compassion, givers of kindness and mercy.

Blessed are we who are entrusted by God to share God's gifts with the world. Amen.

p.22 **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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Christ our Lord.

Sharing our life, Jesus lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to Jesus' own brilliant light.

And so with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

p.22 **Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer⁵

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the light and life of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus your light,

shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

⁵ *With One Voice: Leaders Edition*, Eucharistic Prayer C – The Season of Epiphany, p.67 (adapted for inclusive language). © 1995 Augsburg Fortress Minneapolis.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup,
 Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the covenant in my blood,
 Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering Christ's life and ministry,
 his preaching and healing, his dying and rising,
 and his promise to come again, we await that day
 when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.
 By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that,
 refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world,
 revealing the brilliance of Jesus Christ.
 This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

p.25 **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

Communion Distribution

p.25 ***Lamb of God***

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us,
 have mercy on us, have mercy.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us,
 have mercy on us, have mercy.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

#754 (WOV) Communion Hymn "*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*"

1. Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:

**bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
 Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
 pass the Word around: loaves abound! *(repeat refrain)***

- 2. Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,
 teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.
 Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
 pass the Word around: loaves abound! *(repeat refrain)***
- 3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
 gives us love to tell, bread to share. God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere!
 Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
 pass the Word around: loaves abound! *(repeat refrain)***

Communion Blessing

Prayer after communion

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

Announcements

Blessing

As you go forth to walk humbly before our God,
 May you seek justice and discover God's blessing
 As you go forth to follow the way of peace
 May you practice kindness and touch Christ's presence within.
 As you go forth in the footsteps of compassion
 May you share mercy and abide in the Holy Spirit
 In the name of the + God, our Creator, Jesus our Healer,
 and the Holy Spirit our Comforter. Amen.

#723 (WOV) Sending Hymn "The Spirt Sends Us Forth to Serve"

- 1. The Spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in Jesus' name
 to bring glad tidings to the poor, God's favor to proclaim.**
- 2. We go to comfort those who mourn and set the burdened free;
 where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.**

3. **We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter joy like seed and, all our days, to cherish life, to do the loving deed.**
4. **Then let us go to serve in peace, the gospel to proclaim. God's Spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus' name.**

Sending

Go in peace, to love and serve God through word and deed.

Thanks be to God!

Sources:

Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from Common English Bible (CEB) and have been adapted for inclusive language.