

## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026 – 10:30 a.m.

Lutheran Service Book, Holy Communion, Setting 2



ST. JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Prayer before worship

*Everlasting God, fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all through Him who is the true Light and the bright Morning Star, Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless this time of worship, drawing our hearts and minds to you. Amen.*

### Welcome

### Pre-Service Music

"Peace on Earth" (Joel Raney)  
(Handbell Choir)

### Ringling of the Bells

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## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**Opening Hymn**

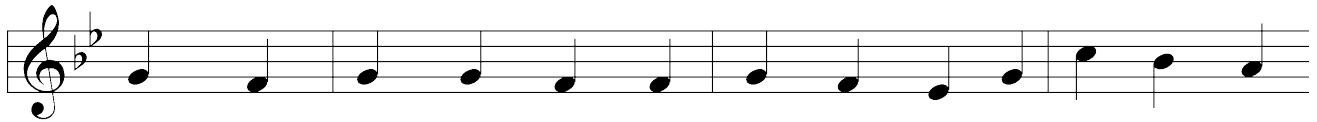
"O God of God, O Light of Light" (LSB 810)



1 O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and  
 2 For deep in proph-ets' sa-cred page, And grand in po-ets'  
 3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death so steeped in  
 4 Then raise to Christ a might-y song, And shout His name, His



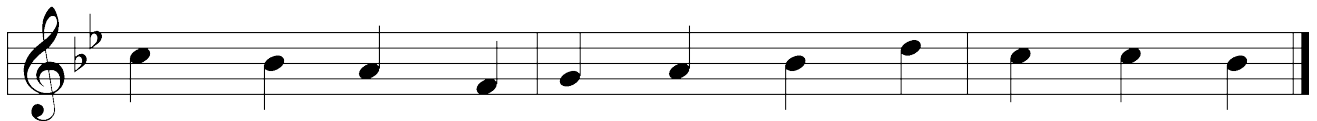
King of kings: To You in heav-en's glo-ry bright The song of  
 wing-ed word, Slow-ly in type, from age to age The na-tions  
 hate and scorn— These all are past, and now a-bove He reigns, our  
 mer-cies tell! Sing, heav'n-ly host, your praise pro-long, And all on



praise for-ev-er rings. To Him who sits up-on the throne,  
 saw their com-ing Lord; Till through the deep Ju-de-an night  
 King once crowned with thorn. Lift up your heads, O might-y gates!  
 earth, your an-them swell! All hail, O Lamb for sin-ners slain!



The Lamb once slain but raised a-gain, Be all the glo-ry  
 Rang out the song, "Good-will to men!" Sung once by first-born  
 So sang that host be-yond our ken. Lift up your heads, your  
 For-ev-er let the song as-cend! Wor-thy the Lamb, en-



He has won, All thanks and praise! A-men, a-men.  
 sons of light, It ech-oes now, "Good-will!" A-men.  
 King a-waits. We lift them up. A-men, a-men.  
 throned to reign, All glo-ry, pow'r! A-men, a-men.

Text: John Julian, 1839–1913, alt., Tune: Johann Störli . . . Schlag- Gesang- Und Noten-Buch, 1744, Stuttgart, Text and tune: Public domain

## Greeting

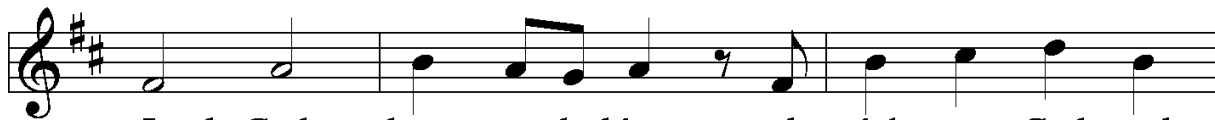
**P** The grace of God in Christ Jesus, poured out in every gift of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

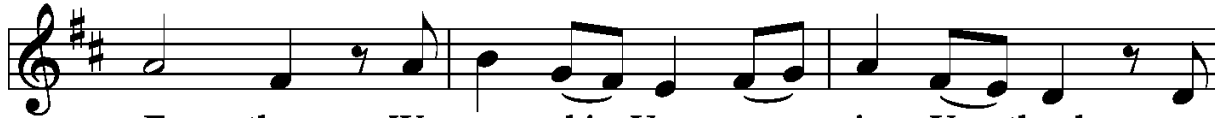
## Gloria in Excelsis



**A** Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.



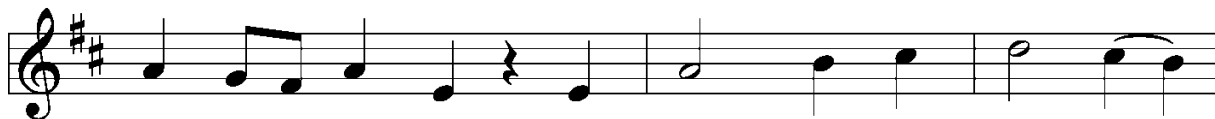
**C** Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we



praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You



take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa-ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a-lone are the



Ho - ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a-

lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,  
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And al - so with you.

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

## Children's Message

### Old Testament Reading

Micah 6:1–8

*Please join in reading aloud the **highlighted portion** of Scripture and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.*

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel. <sup>3</sup>"O my people, what have I done to you? How 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 what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the

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 man, 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?**

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm** (read responsively)

Psalm 15

**L** O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent?

Who shall dwell on your holy hill?

**C** **He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart;**

**L** who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend;

**C** **in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the LORD; who swears to his own hurt and does not change;**

**L** who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

## Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

<sup>18</sup>The word of the cross is folly 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 scribe? 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, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly 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, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Alleluia and Verse



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:1–12

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.



**G** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup>And he opened his mouth 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 shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup>"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

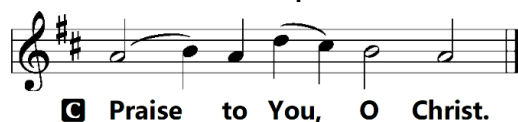
<sup>8</sup>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup>"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

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

<sup>11</sup>"Blessed are you when others 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 so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**G** Praise to You, O Christ.



*Refrain*

Re - jice and be glad!

Bless - ed are you,

ho - ly are you. Re - jice and be

glad! Yours is the king - dom of

God!

To stanzas | End

## Profession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, † and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

**P** Drawn to the light of Christ, made bold in the waters of Baptism, and filled with the Spirit, we lift up our prayers in confidence that God loves and listens to us.

*Special petitions are announced, followed by a brief silence. Each petition closes with the words*

*"Lord in Your mercy." Please respond by saying, "hear our prayer."*

*The prayers conclude with:*

**P** Good and gracious God, we ask all these things and whatever else you see that we need with a sure and certain hope in your goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C Amen.**

## **Announcements**

### **Offertory Prayer**

**L** Let us pray: Merciful God,

**C in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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### Preface



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al-so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.




**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

### Preface for Epiphany

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
glo - ry. 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.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

### **C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13*

- C 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.**

## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei



**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Please be seated*

## Distribution

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape

juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament. For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

**Music at the Distribution**

"Amazing Grace" (Dennis Robert)  
(Handbell Choir)

"Eternal Light" (Mark Schweizer)  
(Choir of St. John's)

*Eternal Light, shine into our hearts.*

*Eternal Power, be our support.*

*Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance.*

*Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us.*

*That with all our heart and mind and soul and strength*

*We may seek your face.*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

# "Seed, Scattered and Sown"

(W&P 121)

*Refrain*

Seed, scat-tered and sown; wheat, gath-ered and grown;

bread, bro-ken and shared as one, the Liv-ing Bread of God.

Vine, fruit of the land; wine, work of our hands; one cup that is

shared by all; the Liv-ing Cup, the Liv-ing Bread of God.

1 Is not the bread we break a  
 2 The seed which falls on rock will  
 3 As wheat up - on the hills was

shar - ing in our Lord? Is not the  
 with - er and will die. The seed with -  
 gath - ered and was grown, so may the

cup we bless the blood of Christ out -  
 in good ground the will flow - er and have life.  
 church of God be gath - ered in - to one.

*Refrain*

# "We Are Called"

(W&P 147)

G G/B C C/D D

1 Come! Live in the light!  
 2 Come! O - pen your heart!  
 3 Sing! Sing a new song!

G G/B C D D/F#

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are  
 Show your . . . mer - cy to all those in fear! We are  
 Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will

Em Em<sup>7</sup>/D C G/B

called to be light for the king - dom, to  
 called to be hope for the hope - less so all  
 reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as

Am<sup>7</sup> G/B C C/D D

live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.  
 ha - tred and blind - ness will be . . . no more.  
 sis - ters and broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

*Refrain*

Am<sup>9</sup> G/B C D D/F# C/G D/G G G/B C

We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to

D Em Em<sup>7</sup>/D G/B C D D/F#

love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -

C/G D/G G Am<sup>7</sup> G/B C D C/G D/G G

oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

## Dismissal

## Post-Communion Canticle

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what  
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -  
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-  
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Post-Communion Collect

**L** Let us pray:

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benediction

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

**Sending Hymn**

"We All Are One in Mission" (WOV 755)

**Postlude**

"Postludium Festiva" (David Lasky)



**Our Ministry Of Worship**

Guest Officiant/Preacher

Pastor Willy Ledezma

Welcome/Children's Message

Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship

Lay Assistant

Mark Guilfoil

Communion Lay Assistant

Jennifer Hills

Organist/Pianist

David Leahey, Director of Music

Acolyte

Luke Pflugradt

Crucifer

Evie Hasset

Ushers

Fred Esposito

Mike Waring

Altar Care

Karen Kemmet

AV Operators

Andrea Godwin

Greer Putnam

Welcome Host

Angela Schulze

Nursery

Charlotte Keppers



This weekend's **altar flowers**  
are given in donation  
of the flower fund.

SCAN HERE TO



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...AND MORE!

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**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**5952 Franconia Road**  
**Alexandria, VA 22310**



*A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*

### **St. John's Lutheran Church Staff**

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Director of Discipleship	Jennifer Hills, DCE
Director of Music	David Leahey
Office Administrator	Michelle May
Finance Administrator	Jennifer Smith

### **Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) Staff**

Director of ECEC	Amanda Parks
ECEC Administrator	Kari Wells

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