

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 2026; 9 a.m.



St John's
Lutheran Church

(An usher rings the church bell at 8:55 a.m.)

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

(Acolytes light the candles)

Linda Ranney

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. *(Pause)*

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word, you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life; for the Eau Claire, Chippewa and Red Cedar rivers; for Wissota, Hallie, Altoona and Half Moon lakes, for all the creeks and ponds that nourish our lands.

Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.
Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.
You are the fountain of resurrection.

Above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

ELW #314; *Arise, Your Light Has Come*

- 1 Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.
- 2 Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.
- 3 Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.
- 4 Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's pow'r will make us strong.

Apostolic 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.

Kyrie

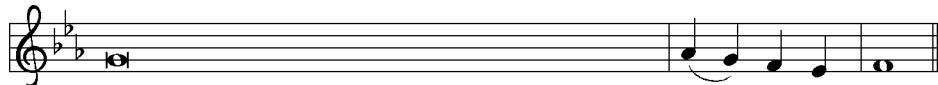
From ELW Setting 1



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



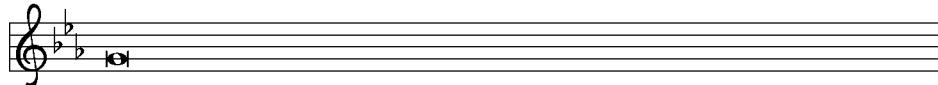
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



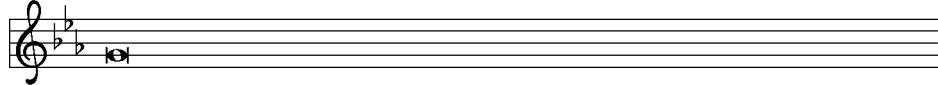
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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, amen.

Canticle of Praise

Gloria From ELW Setting 6; vs. 1, 3

Refrain

Glor-y to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

Glor-y to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 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.

Refrain

Glor-y to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-people on earth.

Glor-y to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-people on earth.

3 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.
Final refrain
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est.
 A - men, a - men.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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.

Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7 (please sit)

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."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Reading: Psalm 40:1-11 (*read responsively*)

¹ I waited patiently upon the Lord,
 who stooped to me and heard my cry.

² **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.**

³ 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.

⁴ **Happy are they who trust in the Lord!**

They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.

⁵ 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.

6 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire; you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.

7 And so I said, "Here I am; I come.

In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

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

9 I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;

I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, you know.

10 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.

11 You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me;

may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

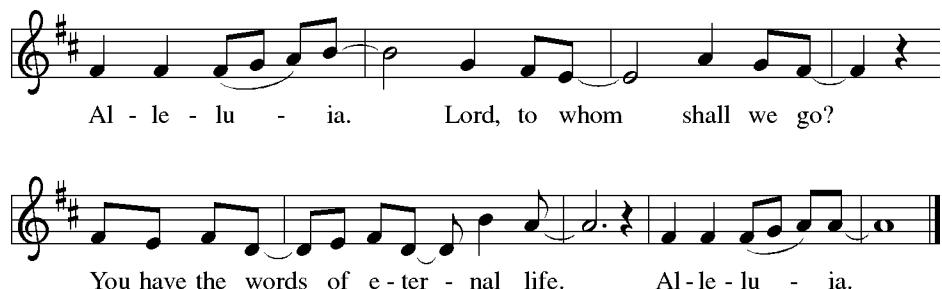
Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Time

Gospel Acclamation (*please stand*)

From ELW Setting 6



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

Gospel: John 1:29-42

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st Chapter.

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 (please sit)

“The Selfie Revolt (and how to be like John the Baptist)”

Pastor Christine Emerson

Hymn of the Day (please stand)

ACS #979; *Making Their Way*

- 1 Making their way down through the ages,
sinners and saints have heard God's call:
wealthy and poor, powerful, lowly,
Jesus' disciples, one and all.
Gathered for worship, offering thanks,
the greatest with the least

have come to share this feast.

- 2 Making their way all the world over,
Christians assemble on this day,
hearing the Word, sharing the Banquet,
learning to walk in Jesus' way.
Members of Christ, united in love,
they seek our God to know,
and so together grow.

- 3 Making our way season by season,
pilgrims, we journey till life's end,
traveling light, sharing the riches,
caring for stranger as for friend,
till in the joy of longing fulfilled,
together we will come
to our eternal home.

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 the People

Petition: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always!
And also with you.

Offering

(Ushers take up the collection)

The Only Son from Heaven arr. John Behnke
St. John's Choir

Offertory (please stand)

(Ushers bring collection forward for acolytes to receive)

ELW #445; *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters* vs. 1, 3



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh-ters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.

2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.

3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

Offertory 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.

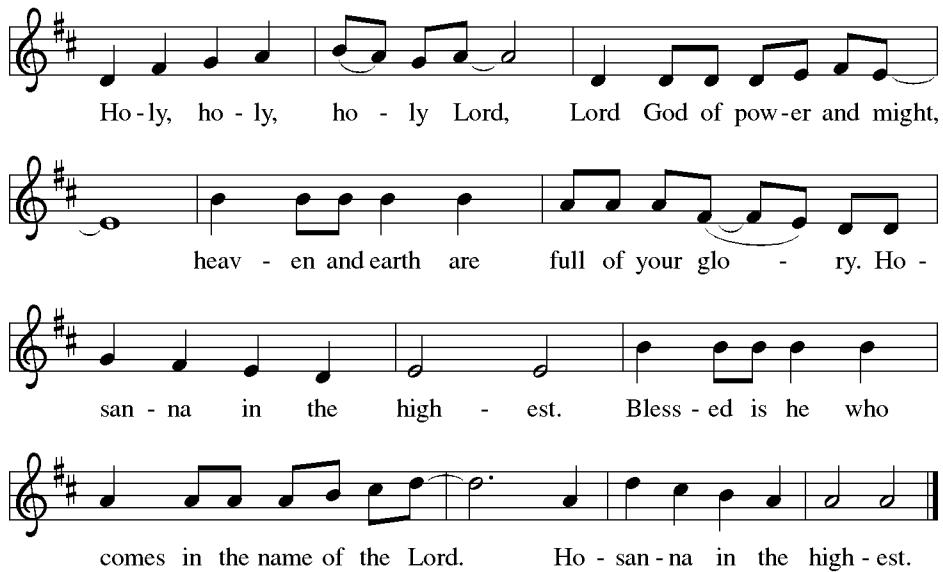
Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

From ELW Setting 6



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav-en 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.

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Invitation to the Table

(Acolytes prepare for communion distribution; ushers come forward to invite assembly by pew. Greeters will guide those wishing to receive at the altar: stop at credence table for a cup, then walk up side steps into the chancel)

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.

Lamb of God

From ACS Setting 12



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.

Communion Hymn

ACS #954; *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd*

- 1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd.
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You, peacemaker and sword-bringer
of the way you took and gave.
You, the everlasting instant;
you, whom we both scorn and crave.
- 2 Clothed in light upon the mountain,
stripped of might upon the cross,
shining in eternal glory,
beggared by a soldier's toss,
you, the everlasting instant;
you, who are both gift and cost.
- 3 You, who walk each day beside us,
sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach a way that's narrow,

have a love that reaches wide.
You, the everlasting instant;
you, who are our pilgrim guide.

4 Worthy is our earthly Jesus!
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and vict'ry;
worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant;
you, who are our death and life.

Post-Communion Blessing & Prayer (*please stand*)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray. 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.

Benediction

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 Hymn

(Acolytes extinguish the candles)

ELW #336; *Lamb of God/Your Only Son*

Sending

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Linda Ranney

Altar Flowers

In Memory of Martin Luther King Jr. By Eric Nielson

Chancel Flowers

In Memory of Dad, Charles Sedlander and Uncle, Doug Niesen by Bryan & Ramona Sedlander

Serving at Worship Today

Presider	Pastor Christine Emerson
Assistant	Cora Klawiter
Lector	Kathy Freitag
Acolytes	Norah Kelly, Sydney Davis
Ushers	Jeff Putnam, Larry Krause
Greeters	Norb Kirk, Mike Torud
Communion Servers	Cheryl Mattison, Cheryl Stage, Mark Sontag, Patti Sontag
Media & Streaming	Lydia Elko
Screen Operator	Lois Mai
Musicians	Linda Ranney, piano/organ; Mark Lundin, Director of Music; St. John's Choir

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