
❖ FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY ❖

ORDER OF WORSHIP • FEBRUARY 1, 2026 • 9:00 AM

† *Indicates the congregation should stand as able.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

† GATHERING HYMN

LOOK WHO GATHERS AT CHRIST'S TABLE

Look who gathers at Christ's table!
Hear the stories that they bring.
Some are weeping; some are laughing;
some have songs they want to sing.
Others ask why they're invited,
burdened by the wrong they've done.
Christ insists they all are welcome.
There is room for ev'ryone.

Clouds of light surround the table;
ancient followers appear,
saints confessing how they wrestled
with their guilt, their doubt and fear.
Peter tells of his denying
Christ was ever in his sight;
Paul relates his fruitless efforts
to obliterate the light.

Their sad stories are repeated
in a thousand diff'rent ways,
but they share one thing in common:
they all end in thanks and praise
for the host who has invited
north and south and east and west
to converge around this table,
where all life is fed and blest.

Bring your joy and bring your sadness,
and prepare to be surprised
by the host whose hands are wounded,
who will open wide your eyes
when he blesses bread and breaks it—
truth and manna from above!—
and then passes wine that wakens
in your heart the taste of love.

☩ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

WL: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Creator of all that is, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

All: **Amen.**

WL: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence for reflection

WL: Mighty God, lover of justice,

All: **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.**

WL: 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.

All: **Amen!**

☩ PRAYER OF THE DAY

WL: Let us pray.

WL: Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly. Give us hearts of compassion, and such a hunger and thirst for justice and peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

MICAH 6:1-8

R: The First lesson for this Fourth Sunday after Epiphany is from the sixth chapter of the prophet Micah.

Listen to what the Lord says:

"Stand up, plead my case before the mountains;
let the hills hear what you have to say.

"Hear, you mountains, the Lord's accusation;
listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.

For the Lord has a case against his people;
he is lodging a charge against Israel.

"My people, what have I done to you?
How have I burdened you? Answer me.

I brought you up out of Egypt
and redeemed you from the land of slavery.

I sent Moses to lead you,
also Aaron and Miriam.

My people, remember
what Balak king of Moab plotted
and what Balaam son of Beor answered.

Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord."

With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow down before the exalted God?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?

Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

R: The Epistle is from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, the first chapter.

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. For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

† VERSE

ALLELUIA, LORD TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?
LBW SETTING 1, PAGE 62



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

† HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 5:1-12

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

All: **Glory to your, O Lord!**

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

He said:

“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 be shown 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 because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

TODAY'S MESSAGE

† MESSAGE HYMN

LEAD ME, LORD, I WILL FOLLOW

The cantor will sing the verses. All join on the refrain:

Lead me, Lord. I will follow.

Lead me, Lord. I will go.

You have called me. I will answer.

Lead me, Lord. I will go.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

† PREFACE

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WL: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

WL: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

† THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

† THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: As Jesus taught His disciples to pray, so we pray today:

All: **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

WL: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION HYMN

BLEST ARE THEY

*The choir sings the verses.
All join in singing the refrain:*

**Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.**

† THE DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

All: **Amen.**

† CLOSING PRAYER

WL: 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.

All: **Amen.**

† BLESSING

WL: May the love of God uphold you; the light of Christ guide you; and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit fill you with joy, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

† SENDING HYMN

RISE UP, O SAINTS OF GOD
LBW #383

† SENDING

WL: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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LEAD ME, LORD

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BLEST ARE THEY

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SOLI DEO GLORIA
TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY



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