



THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 18, 2026 | 8:00 AND 10:30 AM
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

The Epiphany season begins and ends with two festivals that announce who Jesus is: the Baptism of Our Lord and the Transfiguration of Our Lord. At both of these events, God the Father's voice is heard, announcing that Jesus is God's beloved Son. During the weeks of Epiphany, as we see who Jesus is, we see the kind of people Jesus makes us to be. *This is Part 3 of a year-long series, "A Year in Matthew."*

P Pastor **C** Congregation/All

✠ All may make the sign of the cross to remember their baptism.



Led by the Holy Spirit, we gather for worship.
We are prepared for worship through Confession and Absolution.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 400 *"Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"*

BAPTISM OF INGRID DEBORAH RUDOWSKE (8:00 am)

CONFESSION OF SINS & FORGIVENESS *Psalm 124:8; 32:5*

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

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the

stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

INTROIT | Entrance *Psalm 19:1–4a, b; antiphon: v. 14*

P Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,

C **O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

P The heavens declare the glory of God,

C **and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.**

P Day to day pours out speech,

C **and night to night reveals knowledge.**

P There is no speech, nor are there words,

C **whose voice is not heard.**

P Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

C **In them he has set a tent for the sun.**

GLORIA PATRI | Glory to the Father *For text and tune, see page 186.*

C (sung) **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

KYRIE | Lord, Have Mercy *Mark 10:47*

For text and tune, see page 186.

C (sung) **Lord, have mercy upon us
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS | Glory to God in the Highest *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

For text and tune, see pages 187–189.

P (sung) Glory be to God on high:

C **and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.**

**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.**

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

**For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

For text and tune, see page 189.

P (sung) The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

VERSE OF THE MONTH *Zephaniah 3:17*

C **The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.**



We hear God's Word read and proclaimed,
and we respond with our prayers and praise, tithes and offerings.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 9:1-4*

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali felt the gloom of defeat by the Assyrian army. Still, the prophet foretells of a time when their gloomy darkness will be turned to joyous light.

¹There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt

in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 1:1–9*

As his first letter to the church in Corinth begins, Paul tells the Christians there how he gives thanks to God for them. Even though they are a divided and conflicted congregation, God has given them every spiritual gift they need to sustain them in their life and faith.

¹Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that

was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE *For text with music, see page 190.*

C (sung) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 4:12–17*

Jesus begins His ministry, the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy of the coming Messiah (see Isaiah 9:1–2).

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



P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED *See the inside back cover of the hymnal. (10:30 am)*

SERMON HYMN 412 *“The People That in Darkness Sat”*

SERMON *Who We Are: “Living in the Light”*

OFFERTORY *Psalm 51:10–12; for text and tune, see page 192.*

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

Music during the offering:

ANTHEM *“Living in the Light of Jesus” by Ruth Elaine Schram*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

*The 10:30 am service concludes with the Lord’s Prayer, Benediction,
and Closing Hymn 825 “Rise, Shine, You People.”*



We receive God’s gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation
as we share the Sacrament of the Altar.

The 8:00 am service continues with the Preface on page 194 in the hymnal.

We believe that in the Lord's Supper our Lord gives to us His true body and blood with the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of our sins. We recognize the charge that St. Paul offers in 1 Corinthians 11:27–28 that those who come to receive the Lord's Supper ought to examine themselves so that they do not eat and drink in an unworthy manner. Therefore, out of concern for those who have not been instructed in the faith or who hold to a different confession, we ask that only members of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations receive the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more about what our congregation teaches, to inquire about becoming a member or have questions about our practice, please speak to one of the pastors. Adults and children who have not yet been baptized or instructed in the Christian faith are invited to come forward and receive a spoken blessing at the altar rail; please indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest.

For those who require it, diluted wine is found in the purple glasses in the center of the tray of individual cups; gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Music during distribution:

HYMN 839 “O Christ, Our True and Only Light”

HYMN 636 “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

HYMN 810 “O God of God, O Light of Light”



Even as this time of worship ends, we go out of the church into the worship of our everyday lives, ready to be God's witnesses and do His will.

The service concludes with the Nunc Dimittis, Thanksgiving, Salutation and Bendicamus, and Benediction on pages 199–202.

CLOSING HYMN 825 “Rise, Shine, You People”

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

This week's takeaway: The Gospel of John proclaims that Jesus is “the Light of the World.” In our Gospel reading from Matthew today, He is described as the “Great

Light” from Isaiah’s prophecy, shining on people sitting in darkness. Today, we remember that no matter how dark, confusing, or frightening things may seem, Jesus is that Light for you and me. He breaks through the darkness with His light and life, and the darkness of sin and death cannot overcome Him.

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Liturgist*

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Preacher*

Katie Drefs, *Organist*

Middle School Students, *Vocal Ensemble*

Jemma Oetting, Addilyn Batye, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*

Kiefer Lange, Tytus Lark, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*

Gerald & Wendy Dittmer, *Greeters (8:00 am)*

Richard & Linda Strobel, *Greeters (10:30 am)*

Tim Bauer, Mark Heins, Russ Kruse, *Elders on Duty*

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please contact the church office to keep our prayer list up-to-date.

Our pastor “on call” number in case of emergency is (660) 580-5483.

New: Nicole Maxwell, Richard Cordes, Tom Burrow, Melba Poese, Bridget Kage-man, Addison Wehrle, Alan Luebbert, Diane Stumpfenhaus, Lisa Arnett, Ricky Flandermeyer, Ron Roepe, Joyce Kroll, Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan, Rev. Dr. Les Mitkos, Susan Reeves, Les Bruns

Ongoing: Chad Nuelle, Barbie Cowherd, Baby Felix, Gene Virus, Harry Rehkop, Nolan Kirby, Jon Spells, Hudson Kloos, Joe Connell, Roger Kammeyer, Ledrue Brandt, Alyssa Pfannkuch, Alice Hildebrand, Donnie Fiene, Rev. Perry Copus, Darla Wolters, Vickie Greene, Amy Gerdts, Tim Bergman, Amy Backus, David Rehmsmeyer, Dannie Griffit, Lari Huntze, Johnny Cowherd, Kelly Meyer, Shirley Kimball

Nation and World: the people of Serbia

Partners in Mission: Immanuel Lutheran Church; Crystal City, MO and Rev. Kyle Castens; Lutherans For Life

Birthdays: (1/18) Joshua Bushman, Brooks Kreisel, Esther Mehl, Donald Phillips, Alan Riesterer, Victoria Strobel; (1/19) Ronald Cordes, Alic Frerking, Grayson Jones, Gavin Kueck, Gina Martens, Luther Schmidt; (1/20) Erin Chrisman, Aiden Kirchhoff, Trent Kuecker, Trevor Morrison; (1/21) Logan Estes, Nathanael Poppe, Kyle Schemmer; (1/22) Spencer Brown, Mark Northen, Kelly Rose, Garth Stuenkel, Jacob Wasson; (1/23) Jules Bobzin, Lettie Brandt, Mark Oehlschlaeger; Beth

Schlesselman, Sydney Wiles; (1/24) James Mueller

Anniversaries: (1/20) Greg & Risa Bushman, Edward & Kristina Strobel; (1/21) Robert & Phyllis Nuelle; (1/22) Rick & Sheree Heimsoth

FAMILY FOOTNOTES

Gina Martens, Family Life Director

Have you ever treated God like a drive-thru window? Have you ever folded your hands, closed your eyes, and then placed your order? Have you expected to pull forward and have your “prayer order” handed to you so that you can go about your day? I know I have. I might have tried to disguise it with some fancy phrasing but when it came down to it, I wanted God to answer my prayer in the way I saw fit, and the sooner the better. God most certainly wants us to pour our hearts out to him, but prayer is about much more than simply placing an order. Prayer is about having a connection with God. That connection is a much deeper relationship than merely wanting something from Him. I ran across an acrostic a few weeks ago that uses the letters in **PRAY**.

P = praise: Praise God for what He has done in your life! Let Him know that you are thankful.

R = repent: Ask God for forgiveness of the things that have dishonored Him.

A = ask: This is the part where you get to ask God for His help. Tell him of your desires and aspirations, or plea to Him for mercy.

Y = yield: This is the tough one. Let Him know that you want to follow His will for your life and then trust Him in His timing.

Prayer is not a “done in one.” Revisit your Savior often.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP

Isaiah 49:1–7; 1 Corinthians 1:10–18; Matthew 4:18–25

Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 688, 856, 849, 826, 395, 803, 653



“Making a Christ-centered difference in our community and world today and for eternity.”

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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