



THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 1, 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 904 "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"

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 1:1–5; antiphon: v. 6*

P For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
C **but the way of the wicked will perish.**
P Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
C **nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;**
P but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
C **and on his law he meditates day and night.**
P He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
C **In all that he does, he prospers.**
P The wicked are not so,
C **but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**
P Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
C **nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**

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'ly 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 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.

VERSE OF THE MONTH *Luke 1:46–47*

C My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.



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

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Micah 6:1–8*

With His own saving acts as witnesses, the Lord indicts ancient Israel with failing to be faithful to Him. He requires no ritual sacrifices; instead, the Lord calls His people to “do justice,” “love kindness,” and “walk humbly” with God.

¹Hear what the LORD says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, 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. ³“O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For 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. ⁵O 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.”

⁶“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?

⁷“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?” ⁸He 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?

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 1:18–31

By the world's standards, the message of Christ crucified seems foolish and offensive. Nevertheless, this Good News is true wisdom and power for Christ-followers. We boast in the Lord and what He does for us.

¹⁸The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”²⁰Where 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? ²¹For 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. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of

God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the 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 5:1–12

Jesus begins His Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes—statements of blessing.

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

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

²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall

inherit the earth.

6“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

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

9“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

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

11“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12Rejoice 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.



CREED *See the inside back cover of the hymnal.*

SERMON HYMN 932 “*Jesus Sat with His Disciples*”

SERMON *Who We Are: “Blessed”*

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 (10:30 am):

ANTHEM “*Thanksgiving Canon*” by Anna Laura Page
(Students from SPLS; Lindsay McKeage, Flute)

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 409, "Hail, O Source of Every Blessing."



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 683 "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"

HYMN 851 "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

HYMN 782 "Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings"

(You may remain seated for verse 4.)



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 409 “Hail, O Source of Every Blessing”

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

This week's takeaway: Jesus says you are blessed ... even when what you are seeing and feeling tells you otherwise. Faith is not counting the blessings you can see; it is counting the blessings you can't see. The blessings of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) are yours in Jesus.

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Liturgist*

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Preacher*

Katie Drefs, *Organist*

Rachel Martens, *SPLS Choir Director*

Kiersten Beerman, Jade Brandt, Kahlan Haase, Bella Hagen-Mills,

Lindsay McKeage, Annika Pottschmidt, *Instrumentalists*

Truman Eckhoff, Chris Nienhiser, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*

Eli Boehmner, Lane Brackman, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*

Eddie & Linda Kammeyer, *Greeters (8:00 am)*

Roger & Carolyn Flandermeier, *Greeters (10:30 am)*

John Beerman, Mark Schelp, Andrew Jones, *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: Paul Brackman, Wilmer Bredehoeft, Raymond Becker, Nicole Maxwell, Richard Cordes, Tom Burrow, Melba Poese, Bridget Kageman, Addison Wehrle, Alan Luebbert, Diane Stumpenhaus, Lisa Arnett, Ricky Flandermeier, 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 Sierra Leone

Partners in Mission: Trinity Lutheran Church; Fredericktown, MO and Rev. David Lindenberg; Lutheran Hour Ministries

Birthdays: (2/1) Jan Beerman, Hayden Bredehoeft, John Brunkhorst, Kathy Frerking, Chris Gerdts, Kay Gray, Analise Meineka; (2/3) Angela Frerking, Christopher Maggert; (2/4) Gracie Denton, Diane Meyers, Brad Tagtmeyer; (2/5) Lori Kreisel, Bobbie Poesel; (2/6) Hannah Hasty, Scott Inman, Judy Rittman; (2/7) Hank Dittmer, Douglas Frerking, Cathryn Hamilton, Morgan Heimsoth, Louisa Lehenbauer, Cory Meineka, Devin Meyer, Dylan Meyer

Anniversaries: (2/4) Mark & Cindy Heins; (2/5) Kenneth & Kathy Frerking, Terry & Colleen Gerdts

FAMILY FOOTNOTES

Gina Martens, Family Life Director

“We’ve grown so used to convenience that we’ve forgotten the joy of gathering.” This line, from one of my devotions this week, caught my attention. Reread that first sentence again. Has worship become just another thing we *show up* for instead of really *being present* for? There’s a difference. Do we come to worship out of habit or eagerness? “...presence doesn’t always equal participation, and attendance doesn’t always equal adoration.” Sometimes it is habit that brings us through the doors, but hopefully as that relationship with our Savior and others is cultivated, it is **eagerness** that brings us into communion with others and with God. According to recent survey data from *Gallup* and *Pew Research Center*, only 20% of Americans attend worship weekly. God calls us to come to Him. We gather together to meet with Jesus, not because we *have to* but because we *get to*. The act of gathering together, worshiping, and being in God’s Word is where we gain our strength and our hope to press forward. “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’” Psalm 122:1

(Ideas taken from *Worship Eagerly* - Lutheran Church Charities devotion, January 26, 2026).

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK’S WORSHIP

Isaiah 58:3–9a; 1 Corinthians 2:1–16; Matthew 5:13–20

Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 914, 563, 398, 580, 627, 411 (*My First Hymnal* 56)

“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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