



February 1, 2026

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

- ♪ Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race,
You our Head, who, throned in glory, For Your own will ever plead:
Fill us with Your love and pity, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
- ♪ As You, Lord, have lived for others, So may we for others live.
Freely have Your gifts been granted; Freely may Your servants give.
Yours the gold and Yours the silver, Yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of Your bounty Held in solemn trust will be.
- ♪ Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion, Bid its cruel discords cease.
By Your patient years of toiling, By Your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, Stem our selfish greed of gain.
- ♪ Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race:
By Your praying, by Your willing That Your people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition: Here on earth Your will be done.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 842—Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, alt.; Text: Public domain

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;

With my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens You will establish Your faithfulness.”

Psalm 89:1–2

Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O Lord, Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

Psalm 89:5

O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty as You are, O Lord, with Your faithfulness all around You?

Psalm 89:8

Blessed be the Lord forever! Amen and Amen.

Psalm 89:52

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Isaiah 2:5

Confession and Absolution

Now let us make confession of our sins to God, our gracious heavenly Father.

Eternal God, we confess that by nature we are sinful people. We are given to sinful thoughts, sinful words, and sinful deeds. We have transgressed Your law in many ways, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have often been heedless of our calling to follow in Your ways. Because of our sins and our sinfulness, we deserve Your punishment now and for eternity. Gracious God, in Your mercy, forgive our sin and restore us to a full and joyful relationship with You through the merits of Jesus, our Lord. Direct our days by Your Holy Spirit that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments as Your redeemed people, bringing the brightness of Your light to the darkened world. *A Time of Silence*

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.

Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“O Bless the Lord, My Soul”

- ♪ O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all within me join
And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose favors are divine.
- ♪ O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mercies lie
Forgotten in unthankfulness And without praises die!
- ♪ 'Tis He forgives thy sins; 'Tis He relieves thy pain;
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses And makes thee young again.
- ♪ He crowns thy life with love When ransomed from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell Hath sov' reign pow'r to save.
- ♪ He fills the poor with good; He gives the suff' rers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud And justice for th'oppressed.
- ♪ His wondrous works and ways He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace By His beloved Son.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 814—Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748; Text: Public domain

Old Testament Reading

Micah 6:1–8

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 righteous 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?

⁷Will 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?

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

¹⁸For 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. 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. ³⁰And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

♪ When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.

♪ Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

♪ See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

♪ Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 425—Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748; Text: Public domain

Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Matthew 5:1–12

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Seeing the crowds, he 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^[a] 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Lift High the Cross”

~Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim Till all the world adore His sacred name.

♪ Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. ~Lift...

♪ Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. ~Lift...

♪ All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. ~Lift...

♪ O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. ~Lift...

♪ Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. ~Lift...

♪ So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! ~Lift...

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 837—Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.;
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Proclamation of the Word

“The Plea Bargain”

Micah 6:1–8

Offering and Musical Offering

Admonition to Communicants

Lord's Prayer

Agnus Dei Hymn

“The Lamb”

- ♪ The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price! Refrain
~Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!
- ♪ The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. ~Worthy...
- ♪ The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill. ~Worthy...
- ♪ He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness. ~Worthy...
- ♪ He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. ~Worthy....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 547—Text: Gerald P. Coleman, 1953–2023;
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Words of Our Lord

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Distribution Hymn

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

- ♪ The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His And He is mine forever.
- ♪ Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.
- ♪ Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me.
- ♪ In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.
- ♪ Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!
- ♪ And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 709—Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77; Text: Public domain

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Onward, Christian Soldiers”

♪ Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus
Going on before. Christ, the royal master, Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle See His banners go!

~Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus Going on before.

♪ Like a mighty army Moves the Church of God; Brothers, we are treading
Where the saints have trod. We are not divided, All one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, One in charity. ~Onward...

♪ Crowns and thrones may perish, Kingdoms rise and wane, But the Church of Jesus
Constant will remain. Gates of hell can never 'Gainst that Church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise, And that cannot fail. ~Onward...

♪ Onward, then, ye faithful, Join our happy throng, Blend with ours your voices
In the triumph song: Glory, laud, and honor Unto Christ, the king;
This through countless ages Men and angels sing. ~Onward...

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 662—Text: Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.; Text: Public domain

Postlude