

The message  
about the cross  
is foolishness  
to those who  
are perishing,  
but to us who  
are being saved  
it is the  
power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18, NRSV



First Lutheran Church  
2808 South Avenue West

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
February 1, 2026

# First Lutheran Church

Missoula, MT

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026

## WE ARE PEOPLE OF GOD...

...who worship together, grow together, work together and together serve God and one another in Christian love.

...who gather around Word and Sacrament for spiritual nourishment.

...who take seriously Christ's command to make disciples of all nations.

## Prelude

## Welcome

### Opening Hymn LSB 814

### O Bless the Lord, My Soul



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with - in me join  
2 O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mer - cies lie  
3 'Tis He for - gives thy sins; 'Tis He re - lieves thy pain;  
4 He crowns thy life with love When ran - somed from the grave;



And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.  
For - got - ten in un-thank - ful - ness And with - out prais - es die!  
'Tis He that heals thy sick - ness - es And makes thee young a - gain.  
He that re-deemed my soul from hell Hath sov - 'reign pow'r to save.

He fills the poor with good;

He gives the suff'ers 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 belovèd Son.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731-76

Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Introit**

**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.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**P** For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,

**C** **but the way of the wicked will perish.**

## Kyrie

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

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

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** 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.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** Amen.

## Collect

**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.

## Praise Team (11 am only)

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## Micah 6:8

## Old Testament Reading

## Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says:

Arise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, 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.

“O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I wearied you? Answer me!

For 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.

O 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.”

“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?  
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?”  
He 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?

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

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. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where 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? For 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. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Alleluia and Verse

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

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

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

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

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

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

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the  
dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\ddagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

### Sermon Hymn LSB 554



1 O Je - sus, King most won - der - ful!  
2 When once You vis - it dark - ened hearts,  
3 O Je - sus, light of all be - low,  
4 May ev - 'ry heart con - fess Your name,  
5 Oh, may our tongues for - ev - er bless,

### O Jesus, King Most Wonderful



O Con - quer - or re - nowned! O Source of peace in -  
Then truth be - gins to shine, Then earth - ly van - i -  
The fount of life and fire, Sur - pass - ing all the -  
For - ev - er You a - dore, And, seek - ing You, it -  
May we love You a - lone And ev - er in our



ef - fa - ble, In whom all joys are found:  
ty de - parts, Then kin - dles love di - vine.  
joys we know, All that we can de - sire:  
self in - flame To seek You more and more!  
lives ex - press The im - age of Your own!

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.

Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823-76

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

✚ ✚ ✚ Our offerings are received at the Altar ✚ ✚ ✚

### Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord, You have called us to good work in our various vocations. Give us courage that we might never be ashamed of Christ and Him crucified, but be free to boast in the Lord within our callings. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** God of all wisdom, You tell us plainly that the Word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but it is Your power to all who are being saved. Strengthen the faith of pastors and congregations, that they would not turn to man-made wisdom but boldly proclaim Christ and Him crucified. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son as the Savior of the world, that all the families of the nations might worship before You. Bless the families of this congregation with Your grace and protection, that they might remember You in both joy and trouble and worship before You forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** O Lord of lords, You rescued Your people from Egypt and confounded Balak, king of Moab, for their protection. Guide the decisions and actions of all earthly authorities, that Your people may live in peace and quietness. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Almighty God, when Christ returns in His glory You promise to wipe away every tear from every eye. Comfort those who mourn. Heal and deliver, according to Your good and gracious will, those troubled by sickness and affliction *including* *J.* Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** God of all righteousness, You command us to be holy as You are holy, and You sanctify us with Your Son's body and blood. Prepare the hearts of all who partake of the Sacrament today, that they might repent of their sin, trust in Your promises and find their righteousness in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Holy Father, You know the way of the righteous. Preserve Your people from walking in the counsel of the wicked, from standing in the way of sinners and from sitting in the seat of scoffers. By Your grace, cause them to delight in Your Holy Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**C** **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.**

### **Service of the Sacrament**

#### **Preface**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\ddagger$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\ddagger$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

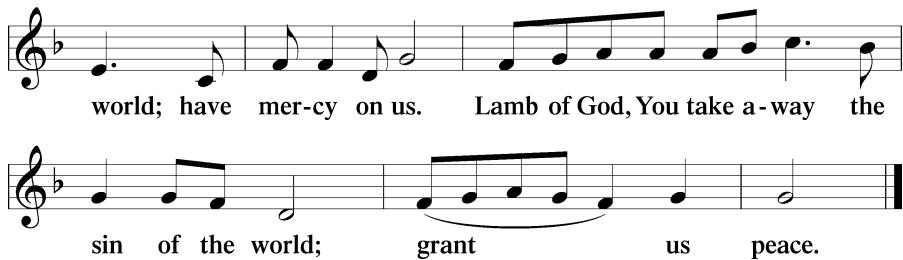
## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

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



## The Distribution

### Hymn LSB 852

### O God of Mercy, God of Might

1 O God of mer - cy, God of might, In love and  
2 And Thou, who cam'st on earth to die That our lost  
3 Teach us the les - son Thou hast taught: To feel for  
4 All are re - deemed, both far and wide, Since Thou, O

pit - y in - fi - nite, Teach us, as ev - er  
world might live there - by, O hear us; for to  
those Thy blood hath bought, That ev - 'ry word and  
Lord, for all hast died. Grant us the will and

in Thy sight, To live our lives in Thee.  
Thee we cry, In hope, O Lord, to Thee.  
deed and thought May work a work for Thee.  
grace pro - vide To love them all in Thee!

In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,  
May we each other's burdens share;  
May we, where help is needed, there  
Give help as unto Thee!

And may Thy Holy Spirit move  
All those who live to live in love  
Till Thou shalt greet in heav'n above  
All those who live in Thee.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.  
Tune: Samuel Howard, 1710-82  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Hymn LSB 533

## Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure



1 Je - sus has come and brings plea - sure e - ter - nal,  
 2 Je - sus has come! Now see bonds rent a - sun - der!  
 3 Je - sus has come as the might - y Re - deem - er.  
 4 Je - sus has come as the King of all glo - ry!



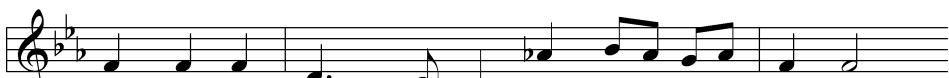
Al - pha, O - me - ga, Be - gin - ning and End;  
 Fet - ters of death now dis - solve, dis - ap - pear.  
 See now the threat - en - ing strong one dis - armed!  
 Heav - en and earth, O de -clare His great pow'r,



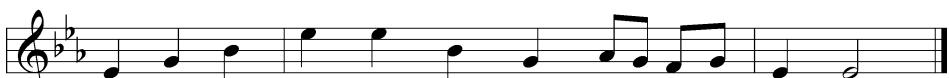
God - head, hu - man - i - ty, u - nion su - per - nal,  
 See Him burst through with a voice as of thun - der!  
 Je - sus breaks down all the walls of death's for - tress,  
 Cap - tur - ing hearts with the heav - en - ly sto - ry;



O great Re - deem - er, You come as our friend!  
 He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,  
 Brings forth the pris -'ners tri - um - phant, un - harmed.  
 Wel - come Him now in this fast - fleet - ing hour!



Heav - en and earth, now pro - claim this great won - der:  
 Lifts us from shame to the place of His hon - or.  
 Sa - tan, you wick - ed one, own now your mas - ter!  
 Pon - der His love! Take the crown He has for you!



Je - sus has come and brings plea - sure e - ter - nal!  
 Je - sus has come! Hear the roll of God's thun - der!  
 Je - sus has come! He, the might - y Re - deem - er!  
 Je - sus has come! He, the King of all glo - ry!

Text: Johann Ludwig Conrad Allendorf, 1693-1773; tr. Oliver C. Rupprecht, 1903-2000, alt.

Tune: Cöthen, c. 1733

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Tune: Public domain

## Hymn LSB 547

## The Lamb

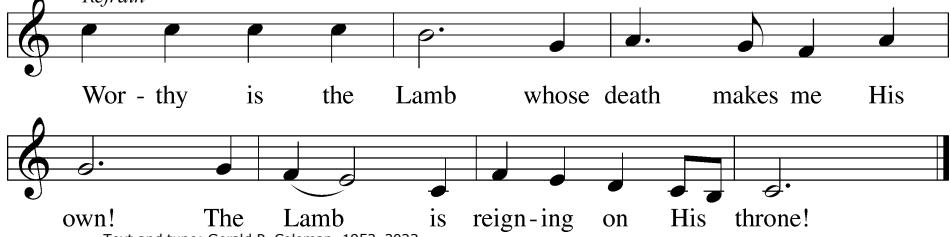


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?  
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.  
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill  
4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.  
5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!  
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.  
So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.  
He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.  
His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.

*Refrain*



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His  
own! The Lamb is reign-ing on His throne!

Text and tune: Gerald P. Coleman, 1953–2023  
Text and tune: © 1987 and 1997 MorningStar Music Publishers. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003610

## Thank the Lord



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev - 'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Post-Communion Collect

**P** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\ddagger$  give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## Closing Hymn LSB 577

## Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

1 Al - might - y God, Your Word is cast Like  
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe This  
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares The  
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, Life -

seed in - to the ground; Now let the dew of  
ho - ly seed re - move, But give it root in  
ris - ing plant de - stroy, But let it yield a  
giv - ing grace be - stow That all whose souls the

heav'n de - scand And righ - teous fruits a - bound.  
ev - 'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.  
hun - dred - fold The fruits of peace and joy.  
truth re - ceive Its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775-1852, alt.

Tune: The Whole Booke of Psalmes, 1562, London

Text and tune: Public domain

## Announcements

Please complete the "Friendship Pads" found at the inside aisle holder in each pew and pass it to the others in your row. We especially ask our visitors and guests to share their information with us, so we can stay in touch!

## Dismissal

**P** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## +++ HOLY COMMUNION +++

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to meet with the pastor.

***"Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup."*** (1 Cor. 11:27-28) For further study, see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; 1 Cor. 11:17–34

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