

First Lutheran Church

February 1, 2026

Epiphany 4

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice,
love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross.

For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the
peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness.

In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling by living and serving.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

ENGELBERG

David M. Cherwien

Fugue on To Be Your Presence

GATHERING

(Please stand as you are able)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

**C: you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.**

**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.**

Amen.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

To Be Your Presence

ELW # 546



1 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com -
2 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the
3 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest, to speak for
4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your



pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy
poor and shel - ter home - less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,
all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your
peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the



ev - er near,
right up - hold, al - le - lu - ia!
love ex - pressed,
church, re - joice,

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

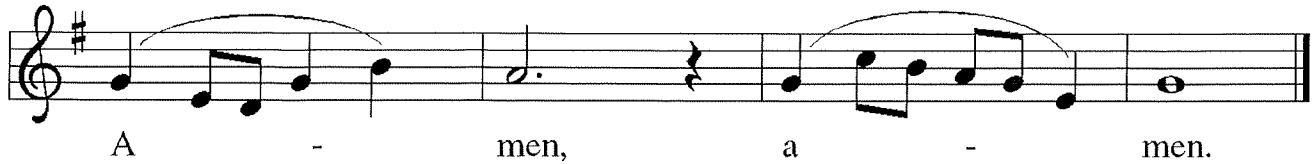


Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

The Cantor will sing the verse.

Join the Cantor for the final Amen.

For you alone are the Holy One, ... with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

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

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

+ + Children may attend Sunday School

WORD

FIRST READING

MICAH 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

R: A reading from Micah, the sixth chapter.

¹ Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ 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. ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam 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?" ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, 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?

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

R: A reading from 1 Corinthians, the first chapter.

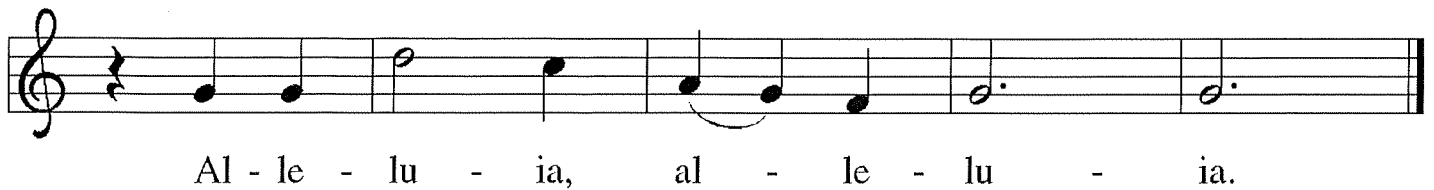
¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ 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; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Cantor will sing the verse.

Rejoice¹ and be glad,* for your reward is¹ great in heaven. Alleluia. (Matthew 5:12)

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter.



¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak 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 will be comforted. ⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

P: The gospel of the Lord.



(Please be seated)

SERMON

REVEREND CHRISTIAN DITTMAR

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;
2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,
3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.
in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,
glo-ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,
God has made a new be - gin - ning from the ash - es of our past;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, glo - ry now re-sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.
in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.
in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: OUIMETTE, John C. Ylvisaker

(Please be seated)

HOLY BAPTISM OF NORA JAMES SCHULZ

PRESENTATION

Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font.

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these words:

P: In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors for each candidate, in turn, present the candidates:

S: I present Nora James Schulz for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses the parents.

P: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

P: As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:
to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that your child may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

P: Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

P: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Nora James in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

P: People of God, do you promise to support Nora James and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C: We do.

(Please stand)

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses the candidate for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of this child. The assembly joins in the responses.

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and profess the faith of the church.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

BAPTISM

Water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:

P: Nora James Schulz, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

Water is poured on the candidate's head a second time:

P: and of the Son,

Water is poured on the candidate's head a third time:

P: and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Clothed with Christ in baptism, the newly baptized receives a baptismal napkin.

P: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit
you give your daughter new birth, cleanse her from sin,
and raise her to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

P: Sustain Nora James Schulz with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom
and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge
and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the newly baptized.

P: Nora James, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit
and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

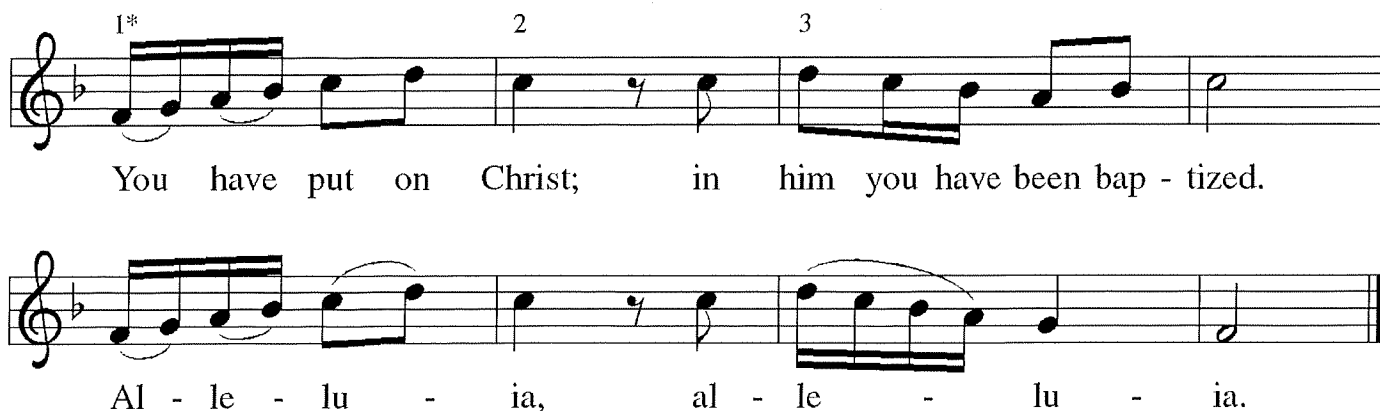
C: Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle is given to the newly baptized.

L: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

**C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative
and redeeming word to all the world.**



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Please kneel)

P: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church,
the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth.

A brief silence.

L: God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit,
that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly,
and boldly proclaim Christ crucified.

(Each petition concludes)

P: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us,
we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness
made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen.

(Please stand)

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: Sisters and brothers, rejoice! Mend your ways,
encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace!

P: May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*You are welcome to share the Peace of Christ
with those around you as you feel comfortable.*

(Please be seated)

MEAL

OFFERING AND MEDITATION

DOVE OF PEACE

Matthew H. Corl

I Come with Joy

(Please stand)

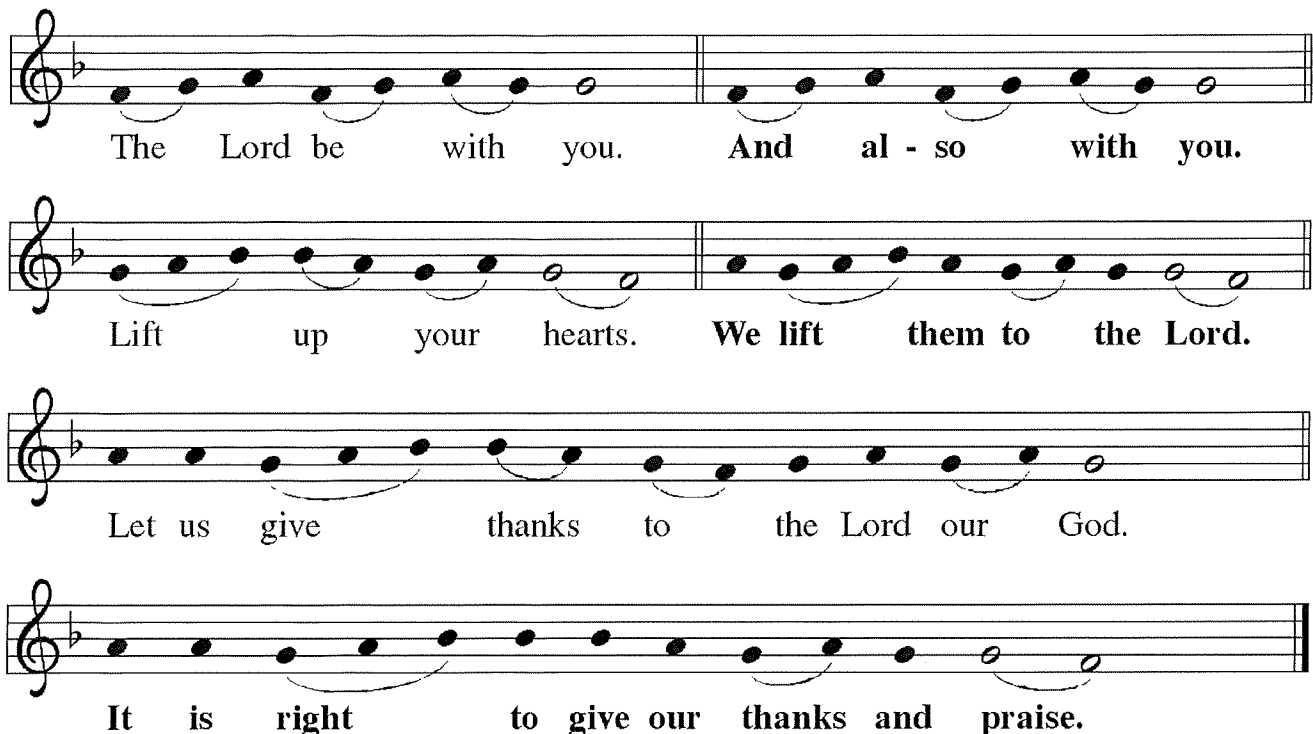
OFFERING PRAYERS

L: God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.

Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

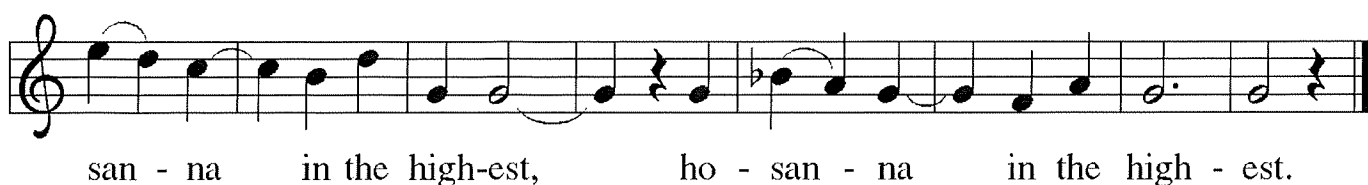
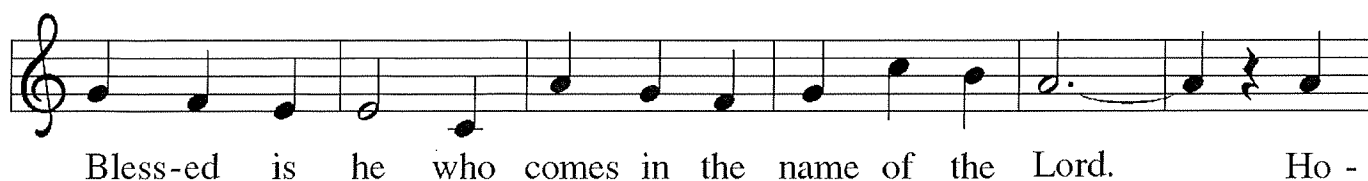
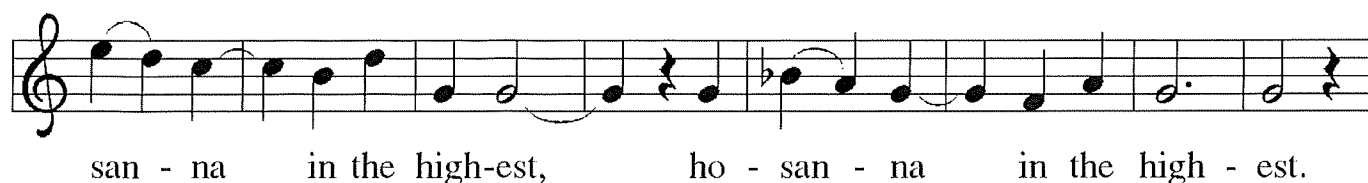
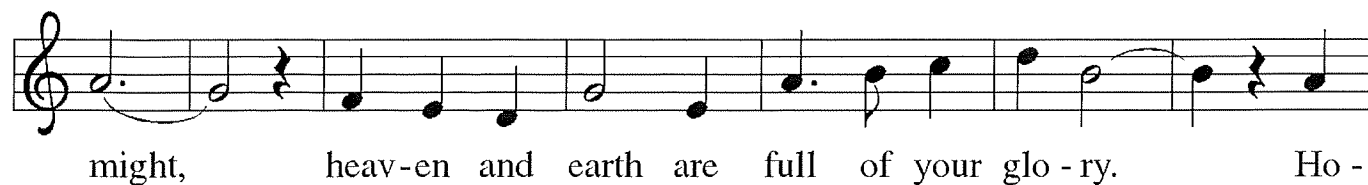
PREFACE

P: It is indeed right,
our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star, He was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son,
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

(Please be seated)

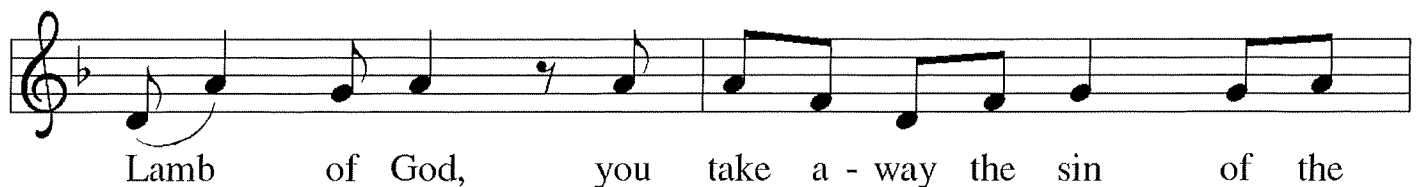
COMMUNION IS DISTRIBUTED IN TWO MANNERS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

† You may commune in your pews.

Individual communion kits are available at the Narthex doors.

† You may come to the Table, to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

LAMB OF GOD



world; have mer-cy on us. 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
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG

I Come with Joy

ELW # 482

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for-giv-en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris-tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di-vi-sion
4 The Spir-it of the ris-en Christ, un-seen, but ev-er
5 To-geth-er met, to-geth-er bound by all that God has
free, the life of Je-sus to re-call in
fed, the new com-mu-ni-ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend-ship bet-ter known, a-
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the
love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com-mu-nion bread, in Christ's com-mu-nion bread.
strang-ers now are friends, and strang-ers now are friends.
live a-mong us here, a-live a-mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

(Please stand)

TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: 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.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

C: Oh God,
your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure.
We are grateful for the goodness you have shown us
through the years,
and we ask now for confidence to go forward into the future.
Bless our community of faith, bless our healing,
bless the changes that are before us, bless our pastoral leaders
who will shepherd us through this time of transition.
We thank you now for the wisdom you will show us
as we align with your will, and servant or servants
you are already preparing to send us in your blessed time.
Help us to keep looking to you to define our ministry and our future.
In his name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

BLESSING

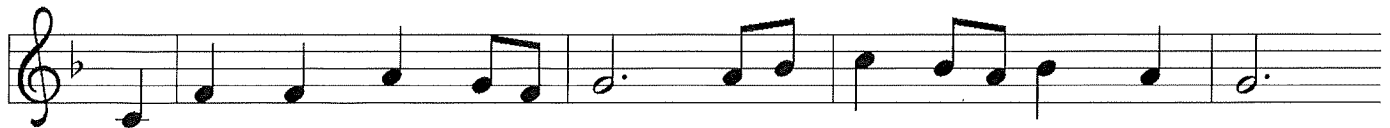
P: May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
† bless you now and forever.



SENDING SONG

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

ELW # 717



- 2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans-lat - ed in - to deed.
and jus - tice, right, and peace per-vade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731-1776

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace.
L: Do justice.
P: Love mercy.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

ENGELBERG

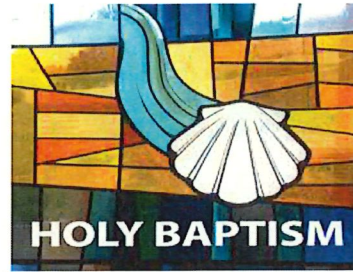
To Be Your Presence

Dale Wood

Events in Review



If you have a prayer request for today, please raise your hand during announcements and a host will give you a green card to fill out.



Today we celebrate the
Baptism of
Nora James Schulz
Daughter of
John & Morgan Schulz

Service

February 18, 2026

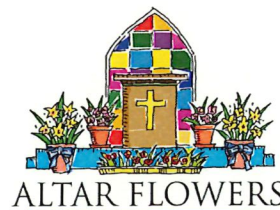
7:00 PM



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

February 15, 2026

w/Potato Bar to follow



Altar flowers were given today in honor of

Nora James Schulz

By

Great Grand Parents—
Mike & Bonnie Oberlander



Next Week

<u>Sunday</u>	Feb. 8
10:00AM	Church Service
<u>Monday</u>	Feb. 9
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
5:15PM	Bell Choir Practice
<u>Tuesday</u>	Feb. 10
<u>Wednesday</u>	Feb. 11
6:00 PM	Property Meeting
<u>Thursday</u>	Feb. 12
<u>Friday</u>	Feb. 13
<u>Saturday</u>	Feb. 14

Cookie Sign up sheets are located on the Information Board. Fellowship time is before and after Church Service. Approximately 4 dozen cookies are needed each week.

Contact Us



First Lutheran Church

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Interim Pastor

Pastor Mark Schuring

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theskipster55@gmail.com

Our Worship Leaders

Altar Guild: Deb & Jonathan Nominee

Cantor: Elijah Shiley

Facebook Camera The Rosses

Host: Janet Zirger

Reader: Melissa Chester

Worship Assistant Melissa Chester

Director of Music: Curtis L. King

Minister: Pastor Christian Dittmar

Emergency Pastors

Pastor Mark Schuring

(740) 360-2306

Mike Porter

(585) 813-5009

Pastor Philip Scherr

(814) 756-9435

Our Mission Statement

“God is among us!”

**“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel,
forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”**

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