

Church of the Divine Love

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

JANUARY 18, 2026 10:15 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

A Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer: Heavenly Father, Thank You For allowing us to see a brand -new day. For this, we give You Praise! Lord, we lift up our concerns, worries, and burdens before You, knowing that You are with us in every step of the way. Fill us with Your peace that surpasses all understanding, calming our hearts and reassuring us of Your unfailing presence. Deliver us from the evil one and keep us safe from all harm, known and unknown. In the precious name of Jesus. Amen

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect for 2 Epiphany page 215

First Lesson: **Isaiah 49:1-7** (*pages 629 in the Bible*)

Psalm 40:1-12 page 640

Second Lesson: **1 Corinthians 1:1-9** (*page 991*)

Gradual Hymn #

Gospel: **John 1:29-42** (*page 922*)

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

The Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Confession	page 393
The Peace	
Welcome and Announcements	
<u>THE HOLY COMMUNION</u>	
Offertory Hymn #	
Doxology (sung)	
The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer A	page 361
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People - All baptized Christians, regardless age, are welcome to receive Communion.	
Communion Hymn #	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace	page 815
Prayer for the Parish	page 817
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #	
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday January 18, 2026

Isaiah 49: 1-7; Psalm 40: 1-12; 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9; John 1: 29-42.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, He said to them, 'Come and see.'"

Those are probably familiar words for most of us. I don't just mean in the context of today's gospel (**John 1:29-42**, the Second Sunday after Epiphany). Even if you've never read or heard today's gospel you've probably both heard and spoken those words. How many times have you heard your child or grandchild say, "Come and see?" "Come and see my drawing!" "Come and see this bug!" "Come and see what I made!" There was excitement and joy in their voice, maybe even a sense of urgency. Their words were an invitation to share in their discovery, to experience their world, and to participate in their life. It was the invitation to let your life and theirs come together as one.

That's why you can't just sit back and say, no, just tell me about it. That's not an acceptable answer. They know that information and relationship are not interchangeable. They are not the same thing. No, I'm not going to tell you, they will say. You have to come and see. In those moments there is only one thing to do; get up and go look. If you haven't heard a child say, "Come and see," maybe you remember saying it when you were a child. Something happened and you just couldn't keep it to yourself. "Come and see," you yelled. You wanted that other person to enter into and be a part of our life. It's not just kids that say that. Adults say it too. We invite our spouse, a best friend, a trusted colleague to come and see our work and accomplishments, to come and see our pain and struggles, to come and see our life. Not only that but we also want to be invited to come and see theirs. At some level these are moments of epiphany, moments when God reveals his life in us and among us.

It may be easier to see this in kids but it's in us as well. It's not a function of age but a function of being human. We never outgrow the desire to invite and to be invited, to share our life with another in a deep and meaningful way, and to participate in something larger than ourselves. That's a part of our having been created in the image and likeness of God. Jesus knows that about us and about God. That's why he doesn't answer the disciples' question when they ask, "Where are you staying?" He doesn't offer information, he invites relationship. "Come and see." That invitation is the antidote to the ways in which we often live vicarious lives. Too often we allow political agendas, talk radio, surveys, and news to tell us what to think rather than to help us engage our world. We settle for church leaders telling us what to believe rather than pointing us to and opening the doors to the mystery of Jesus' presence in our lives. We idolize what others have, what they do, and who they are rather than discovering the unique ways in which God reveals himself in and through our own lives. We are living secondhand lives and dying from a secondhand faith.

A secondhand faith can neither sustain nor transform life. That happens only by firsthand experience. Think about it for just a minute. Would you rather be told how pretty the sunset was or be drenched in the pinks, oranges, and purples of the evening sky? Would you rather hear a love story or fall in love and live a love story? Would you rather read a travel brochure or travel to a new land? Would you rather know about Christ or know him? That's the difference between a secondhand faith and a firsthand experience. Our relationship with Christ, with one another, and with ourselves cannot be based on a secondhand faith. It must be a firsthand experience. A firsthand experience won't let us stay where we are. It moves us to a new place. It opens our eyes to a new reality. It turns our life in a different direction.

It gives, grows, and sustains life in a way secondhand faith never will. The deepest and most profound firsthand experience is Jesus himself. In each of our lives he comes toward us. His coming is always a moment of decision. We must choose whether we will be spectators of or participants in his life. That was the choice John the Baptist set before his disciples.

John "was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus Walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!'" It was their moment of decision. Would they stay or would they go? Would they settle for a secondhand faith, information and facts about Jesus, or would they choose a firsthand experience of his life? If they choose a firsthand experience, they will have to leave John behind. They will have to let go of that which is familiar, comfortable, and known. They will have to open themselves to something new and something different. You can probably remember times like that. It can be difficult to let go of a secondhand faith and life. It usually means there will be more questions than answers. What are you looking for? Where are you staying? Those are not so much questions to be answered as they are experiences waiting and wanting to be lived. A firsthand experience invites us to discover the answers by living the questions. Think how different today's gospel would be if Jesus had just answered their question. "Where are you staying?" "Oh, it's just a couple miles down this road. Second house on the left." What do we do with that? How does that change anything? What difference does it make if we know Jesus' address but we are not invited in. We might as well stay where we are. But that's not how Jesus responds.

Jesus offers more than his address. "Come and see," he says. There is reassurance and promise in his words. That means that he has something for us. It means that he is opening himself to us and inviting us in. He has gone ahead of us and prepared a place for us. Regardless of what's going on in our life he makes it safe to move forward and take the next step in confidence that his life and presence await us. "Come and see" is his invitation to find ourselves and discover our lives. I wonder what Jesus wants to show you? In what ways does he want to share his life with you? How might he be offering himself to you, asking you to participate in his life? Look at your life. What do you see? What is it like?

Is it full and abundant? "Come and see." Empty and desolate? "Come and see." Filled with change, chaos, or the unknown? "Come and see." Is it one of joy and celebration? "Come and see." One of loss and sorrow? "Come and see." Do you feel lost and confused? "Come and see." Is it smooth sailing? "Come and see." Is it weighed down by guilt, shame, despair? "Come and see." However, you might describe your life Jesus' response is always the same.

Every life and every situation echo with Christ's invitation, "Come and see." He is there offering himself as the firsthand experience of your truest self your truest life. Don't just take my word for it. Don't believe it just because I said it. Get up and go look for yourself. God give us the grace, then, to hang out, gazing at our surroundings for the appearance of Jesus, that we may yet again be given the gift to proclaim Christ as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. **Amen.**

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father, I adore you, Lay my life before you, How I love you.

(repeat twice with 2nd verse starting with Jesus, and 3rd verse starting with Spirit)

2 EPIPHANY	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS
MONDAY	8:00 PM	AA MEETING
TUESDAY	6:00 PM	BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
3 EPIPHANY	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWS

Vestry nomination-Erika Febres - 2nd term as Junior Warden

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Deb Giordano	Dana Kenn
Coffee Hour	Dana Kenn	Annual Meeting

SUPPORT THE FOOD BANK, DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

Barbara Curran	Betty Curley	Martin
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Joseph
Chris Dickson	John Roccoo	Donny
John Mulligan	Marjorie Guerrier	Bobby
Scottie Credendino	Michael	Ryan
Sister Eddie	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Beverly Noel	Phil Ryder	Warren
Anthony Paribello	Jonathan	Jay
Donna Amundsen	Kate Jones	Jan
Timothy Treasure	Vincent & Barbara	Sandy
Mary & Family	Wendy	Aika
Gladys Hadija	Sophia	Aidan
Michael & Family	Donna A	Mo
Michelle & Family	Christopher	Annie
Moises Parra	Misael Varas	

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred and natural disaster.

The homeless and food insecure.

Help us speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them.

Bring us, with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen.

To add or make changes to the prayer list during the week,

email Janet Croft at jmc220@optonline.net.

