

HOLY COMMUNION
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026

8:00 am and 10:30 am

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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 in this countercultural way of living and serving.

SILENT PRAYER

PRELUDE: “*Symphonie Gothique, Op. 70: II. Andante Sostenuto*”

Charles-Marie Widor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING (ENTRANCE RITE)

Stand

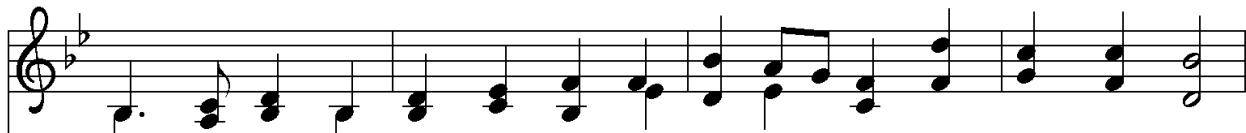
HYMN: *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

Printed on the next page.

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis-turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.



CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS (ABSOLUTION)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

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

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Kneel/Stand

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

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.

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 In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the **✚** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Stand

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 (GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO)



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



C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al- might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je- sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa- ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat- ed at the right hand of the Fa- ther; re- ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir- it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, you know that we cannot withstand the dangers which surround us. Strengthen us in body and spirit so that, with your help, we may be able to overcome the weakness that our sin has brought upon us; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

Later service only:

CHILDREN'S SERMON

LITURGY OF THE 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.

A A reading from Micah.

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?

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Later service only:

PSALM 15 (*Congregation sings the refrain as printed*)
The first time the choir sings the Refrain and the congregation repeats it.



LORD, who may a - bide up - on your ho - ly hill?

¹ Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right,

who speaks the truth from his heart,

³ there is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend;

he does not heap contempt up on his neighbor.

⁴ In his sight the wicked is rejected,

but he honors those who fear the Lord.



LORD, who may a - bide up - on your ho - ly hill?

⁵ He has sworn to do no wrong

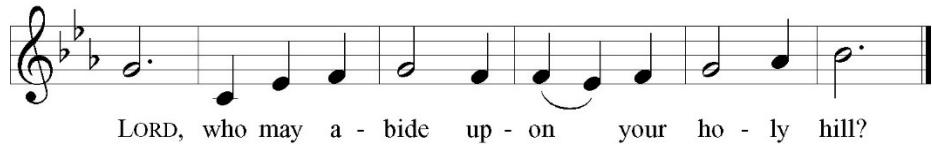
and does not take back his word.

⁶ He does not give his money in hope of gain,

nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

⁷ Whoever does these things

shall never be overthrown.



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.

A A reading from First Corinthians.

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.”

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation sings the Acclamation.

The choir sings the Verse.

Rejoice ¹ and be glad,
for your reward is ¹ great in heaven.

The congregation repeats the Acclamation.

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.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

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

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Weleck

Stand

Later service only:

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Dearest Jesus, at Your Word*
Printed on the next page.

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and

gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:

and in glow-ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on

es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Stand

The Nicene Creed is appropriate during Advent, Christmas, Easter, and on festival days; the Apostles' Creed during Lent and at other times.

APOSTLES CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

**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 into hell.
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.**

**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. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A We pray for the church, for its pastors and other ministers, for the newly baptized, for all the faithful, for this congregation here gathered, and for our growth in grace.
Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for all nations, for all rulers, legislators, and judges, for an increase of justice in our lands, and for all who work for peace among nations and among peoples.
Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for all in any need, for the hungry and the homeless, for victims of war and injustice, for prisoners, for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, for the sick and infirm, for all with incurable illness, and for all who this day will die. We pray especially for those we name in the silence of our hearts...
Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for the members of our armed forces wherever they serve, and especially when they serve in harm's way, that they might speedily complete their mission and be safely reunited with their loved ones.
Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

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

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say Peace be with you or similar words.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

The Offering will be collected in the Narthex as you leave the church.

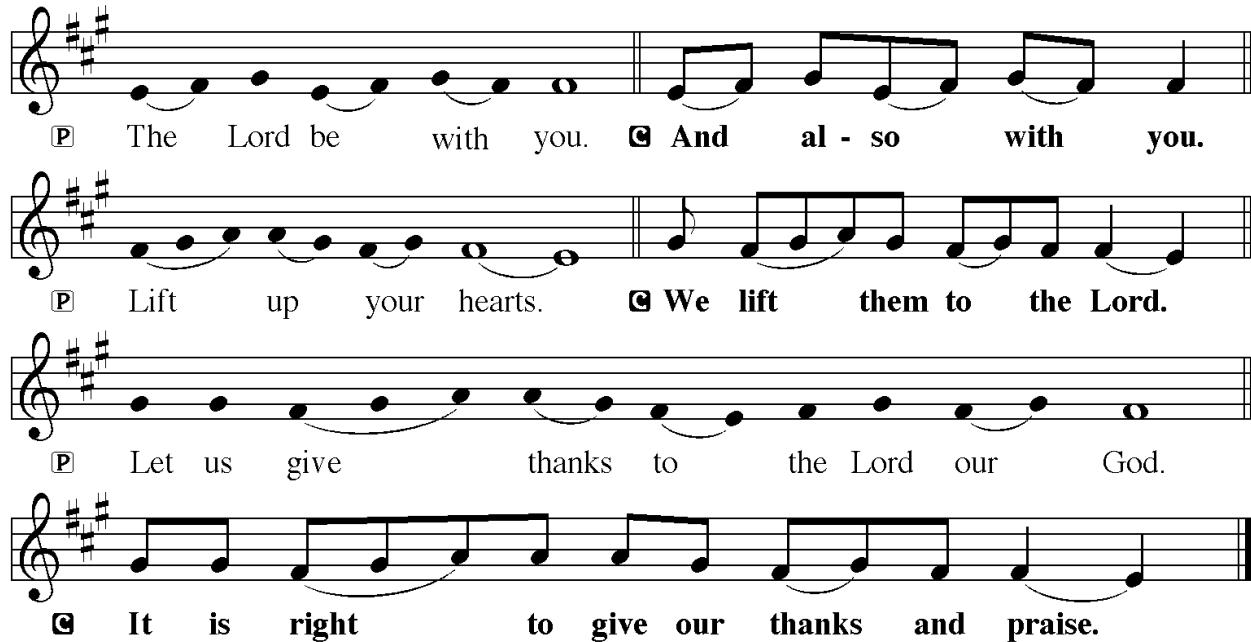
OFFERTORY

The musical score consists of eight staves of music in G clef, B-flat key signature, and common time. The music is arranged for a three-part choir: soprano (top), alto (middle), and bass (bottom). The lyrics are integrated into the musical lines, with each line of text corresponding to a staff. The lyrics are as follows:

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks:



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

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

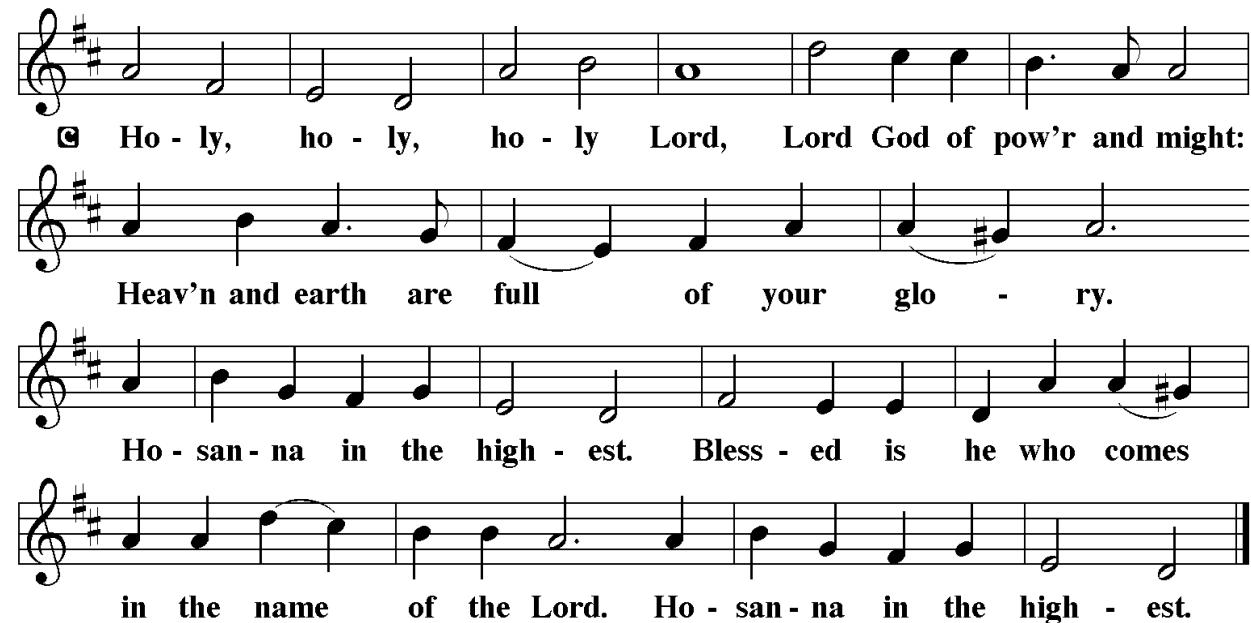
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister continues with the PROPER PREFACE, concluding:

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The assembly sings the SANCTUS:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

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 INSTITUTION are sung to the music *Blessed Martin Luther* himself composed specifically for this purpose.*

P 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

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.
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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
C **Lord, I am not worthy**
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.

Sit

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

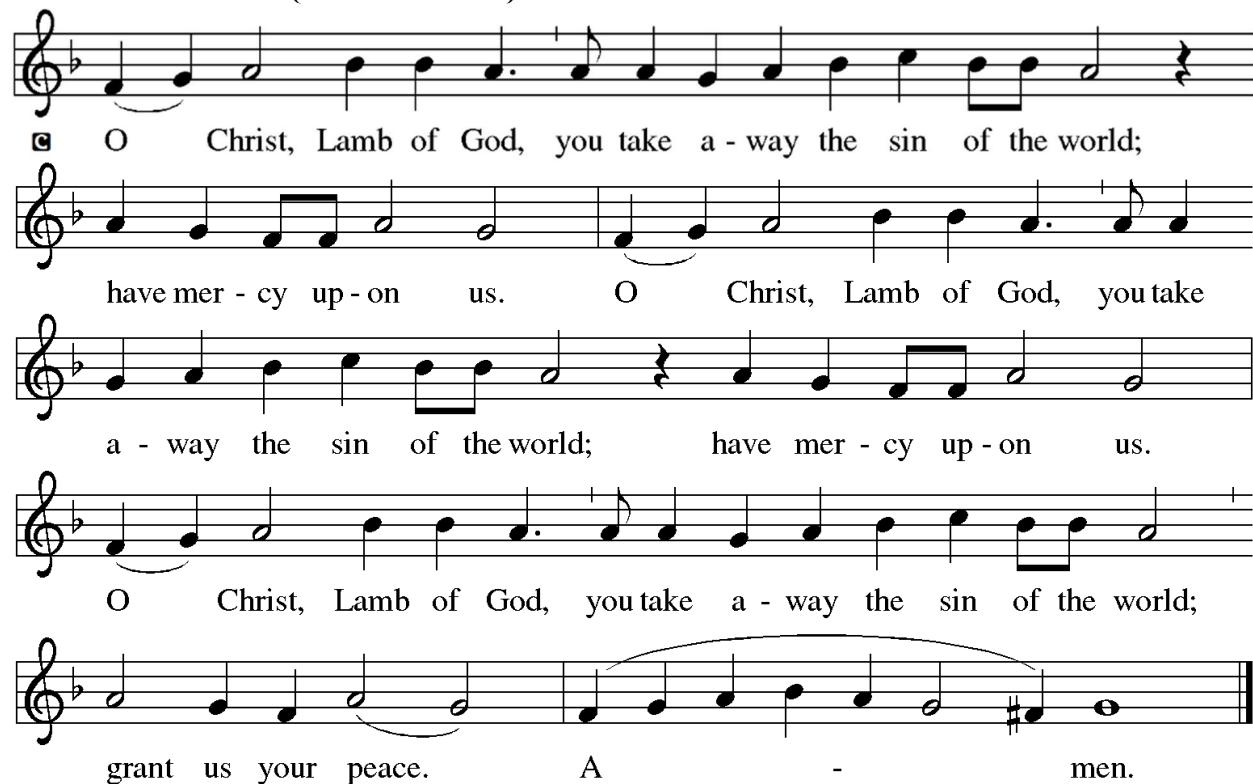
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond  Amen.

We Lutherans believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are “truly and substantially” present “in, with, and under” the forms of bread and wine. We invite to the communion all who are baptized and communing in this or another Christian denomination. We welcome children and others who are not communing to come forward for a blessing.

Music during Communion:

LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take
a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

COMMUNION ANTHEM: “*Blessed Are the Pure in Heart*” Walford Davies

*Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs, Their soul is Christ's abode.
Still to the lowly soul He doth himself impart,
And for his cradle and his throne Chooseth the pure in heart.*

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY:

“*Dearest Jesus, at Your Word*” BWV 633 & 634

J. S. Bach

*Dearest Jesus, at your word
We have come again to hear you;
Let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
And in glowing faith be near you
As the promises here given
Draw us wholly up to heaven.*

Stand

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.
We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the
healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this
gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake
of Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING (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 give you peace.



DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN: *Onward, Christian Soldiers*

Printed on pages 20 and 21

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Onward, Christian Soldiers



1 On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, march-ing as to war,
2 Like a might - y ar - my moves the church of God;
3 Crowns and thrones may per - ish, king - doms rise and wane,
4 On - ward, then, you faith - ful, join our hap - py throng;



with the cross of Je - sus go - ing on be - fore.
let us bold - ly fol - low where the saints have trod.
but the church of Je - sus con - stant will re - main;
blend with ours your voic - es in the tri - umph song.



Christ, the roy - al mas - ter, leads a - gainst the foe;
We are not di - vid - ed; all one bod - y we;
gates of hell can nev - er 'gainst the church pre - vail.
Glo - ry, laud, and hon - or un - to Christ the king.





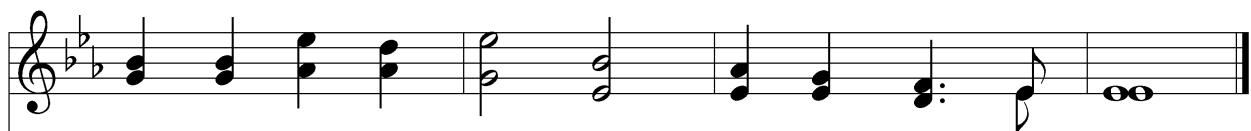
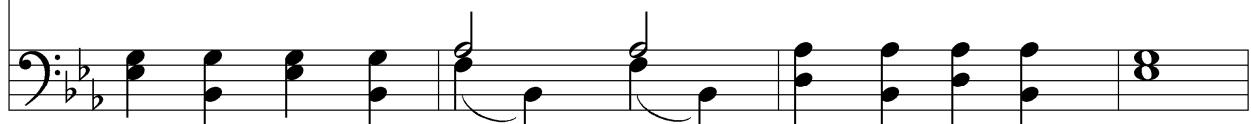
for - ward in - to bat - tle, see, his ban - ners go!
one in hope and doc - trine, one in char - i - ty.
We have Christ's own prom - ise, and that can - not fail.
We through count - less a - ges with the an - gels sing:



Refrain



On-ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, march-ing as to war,



with the cross of Je - sus go - ing on be - fore.



OFFERING

The offering will be collected as you leave the Church.

POSTLUDE: “Sonata, Op. 65, No. 4: - I. Allegro con brio” Felix Mendelssohn



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The Christmas Cycle celebrates the events surrounding Christ's coming — the prophecies, his birth, his manifestation (epiphany) to the Gentiles, and his baptism — through the Advent season, the Christmas season, and the Epiphany season.

On Sundays for which the color is green, it is appropriate to omit either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise, reserving both together for festival seasons.

The liturgical color green, symbolic of growth, is used for the season after Epiphany and after Pentecost.



2026 Vestry		
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Tim Anderson	Cemetery	T1anderson@hotmail.com

Worship Assistants

Ushers: Scott Halteman, Dick Allebach, Frank DePaul, and Karl Stefan

Elevator Attendant: Graham Anderson

Altar Guild: Debra Augustine, Sally Sweeney, Deb Scholl, and Marie Conver

Lectors: 8:00 am: Debra Augustine

10:30 am: Lessons: Sonya Sowards Prayers: Cheryl Camuso

Communion Assistant: Sherry Jessee

Acolyte and Crucifer: Summer Allen and Shealyn Frazier

Offering Tabulation: Jennifer Wentworth, Brian O'Hara, and Tim Anderson

Video Streaming: Jim Lien, Chilly Lyaro, and Shane Elison

The Flowers that Adorn the Altar are given to the glory of God by Ken and Stacie Missimer in loving memory of Wife and Mother Sherry and Mother and Father Mary and Harold Missimer.

The Sanctuary Candle is given to the glory of God by John and Charlotte Wentworth in loving memory of parents Leon and Leona Linsenbigler and John and Mary Wentworth.

The Worship Bulletins are given to the glory of God by Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Milliem in loving memory of Ryan Peck.

SOUP SALES!! The Senior Youth Group will hold their annual winter soup sales February 15, and March 15!

PARENTS:



It certainly doesn't feel like summer out there, but we know you're already planning your kids' summer schedule. Don't miss Vacation Bible School at Augustus June 22-25, 2026! Sessions are daily from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and our theme is "Road Trip: On the Go with God!" Scan this code to register.



