



**February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

***Fourth Sunday of Epiphany***

*Reaching Out in Christian Love to All*

1375 Highway 210

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**Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**  
**Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

*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.*

\*=Stand as you are able    **Bold Print** = congregation responds

**ELW**=Red Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Prelude

Ringling of the Bell

**GATHERING** *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Page 94*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

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.

**Amen.**

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

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by**

**your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG**

**“Give Thanks”**

**W&P 41**

**AUTHORS** Henry Smith; **CCLI SONG #**20285; **CATALOG** Integrity's Hosanna! Music;  
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Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,  
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.  
Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,  
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am  
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And  
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am  
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

*Lost time*

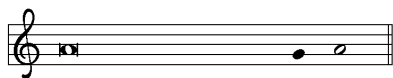
## \*GREETING

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

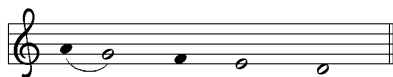
**And also with you.**

## \*KYRIE

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In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



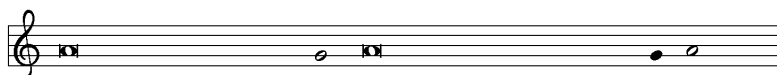
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



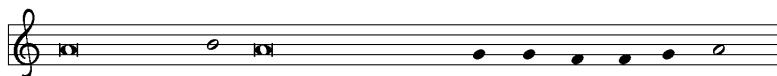
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

## \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

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*Refrain*  
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.  
Amen.**

**WORD** *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **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.*

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the LORD says:

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> “O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.”

<sup>6</sup> “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?

<sup>7</sup> 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?”

<sup>8</sup> 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?

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 15**

<sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

**Who may abide upon your holy hill?**

<sup>2</sup> Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
**who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their  
friends;

**they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.**

<sup>4</sup> In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those  
who fear the LORD.

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

<sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

**Those who do 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.*

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

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

<sup>20</sup> 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? <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*page 151*



### **GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

### **Children’s Church**

*Children will leave to go to Children’s Church*

Preschool/Kindergarten – room beside nursery in north fellowship hall

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – Upstairs to the left

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grades – Upstairs to the left

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades – Downstairs

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE MONTH: “Make Me a Servant”**

**W&P 96**

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# Make me a servant

96

Make me a ser - vant, hum - ble and meek.

Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.

And may the prayer of my heart al - ways be:

Make me a ser - vant, make me a ser - vant,

make me a ser - vant to - day.

Chord symbols: F, Dm<sup>7</sup>, Gm<sup>7</sup>, C<sup>7</sup>, Gm<sup>7</sup>, Bb/C, C<sup>7</sup>, Bb/F, F, F<sup>sus</sup><sub>4</sub>, F, A, Dm, Dm/C, G<sup>2</sup>/B, Bbm<sup>6</sup>, F/A, Gm<sup>7</sup>, F/A, Gm<sup>7</sup>, F/C, C<sup>7</sup><sub>sus</sub>, F<sup>2</sup>.

## **INSTALLATION OF LEADERS IN THE CONGREGATION**

The following people have been *elected* (by the congregation) to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

*The offices and names of those who are to be installed are read by a representative of the congregation.*

*The presiding minister addresses those being installed.*

*A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same*

Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

*The presiding minister continues.*

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

*The presiding minister addresses those being installed.*

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

**Response:** I will, and I ask God to help me.

*\*The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly.*

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

I now declare you installed as *officers/council members/committee members* of this congregation.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

**Amen.**

**\*APOSTLES CREED**

**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 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.**

**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**

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, our home.

*A brief silence.*

Response:      Merciful God,  
                      **receive our prayer.**

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.

**Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL** *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**OFFERING**

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**\*DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

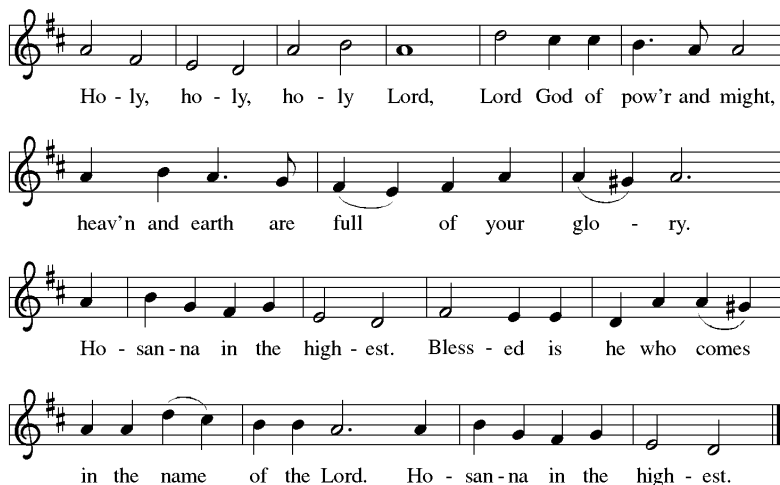
**\*PREFACE**

Page 153

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of  
everlasting life.

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:



### **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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

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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## COMMUNION

### COMMUNION SONG

(Page 154)



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; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



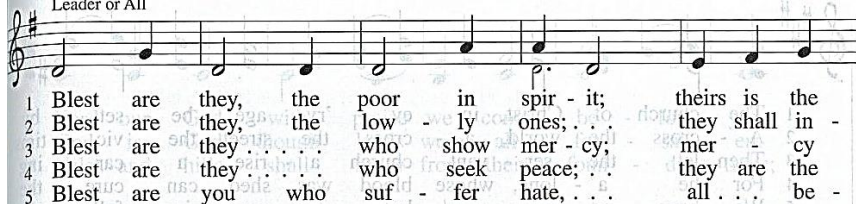
# COMMUNION HYMNS:

## “Blest Are They”

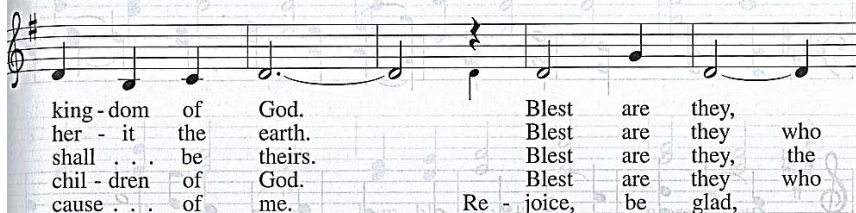
ELW 728

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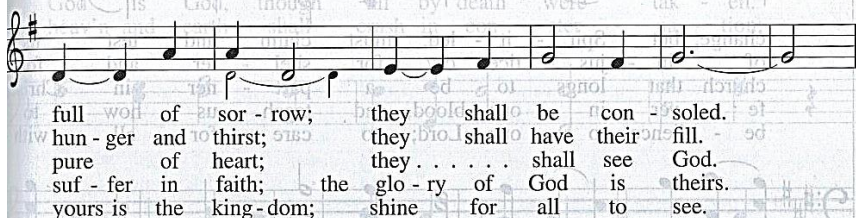
Leader or All



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the  
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . they shall in -  
 3 Blest are they . . . who show mer - cy; mer - cy  
 4 Blest are they who seek peace; . . . they are the  
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . all . . . be -

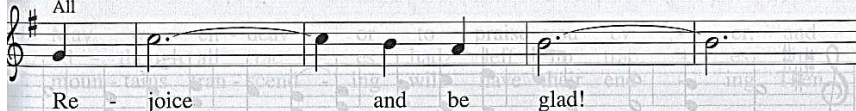


king - dom of God. Blest are they,  
 her - it the earth. Blest are they, who  
 shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the  
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they, who  
 cause . . . of me. Re - joice, be glad,

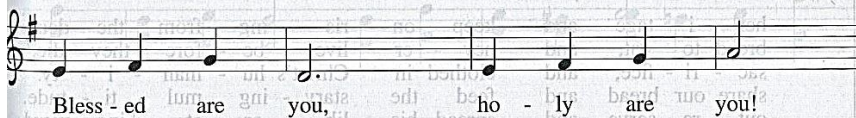


full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.  
 hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.  
 pure of heart; they . . . shall see God.  
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.  
 yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

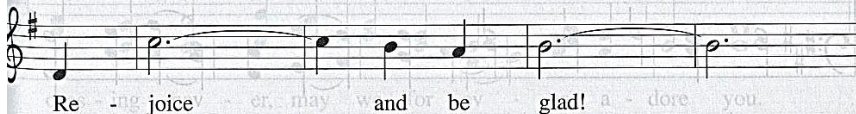
Refrain  
All



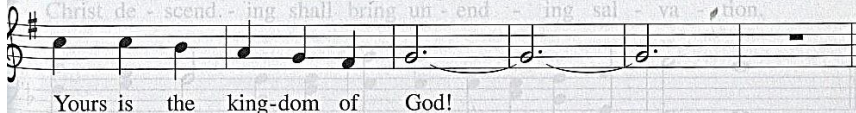
Re - joice and be glad!



Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!



Re - ing joyce and be glad! a - dore you.



Yours is the king - dom of God!


## "Oh, Praise the Gracious Power"

ELW 651 verses 1-4

AUTHORS Carol Doran, Thomas H. Troeger; CCLI SONG #230697; CATALOG Oxford University Press  
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1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear  
 2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds  
 3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,  
 4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,  
 5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:  
 and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:  
 ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:  
 a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:  
 with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

*Refrain*



We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

- 6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,  
 the love, the word, the tide.  
 Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,  
 praise Christ the crucified: *Refrain*
- 7 Oh, praise the living Christ  
 with faith's bright songful voice!  
 Announce the gospel to the world  
 and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

### \*TABLE BLESSING

*The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

**Amen**

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

**God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the**

world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ,  
our Lord.

Amen.

**SENDING** *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**\*BLESSING**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement  
grant you to live in harmony with one another,  
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

**\*SENDING SONG**

**“To Be Your Presence”**

**ELW 546**

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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,

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

Ring of the Bell

Postlude

For streaming and printing:

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### Those Serving in Today's Service

Pastor: Eric Klimpel

Accompanist: Mindy DeVries

Youth Liaison: Nels Dovre

Lector: Matt Williams

Acolytes: Rex Clark; Samantha Ewing

Altar Guild: Donna Millang; Helen Kepler

Communion Assistants: David & Vallery Eisenmann

*Technicians:* Brent Emerson, Owen Williams

### This Week at Palestine

Today, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 *Fourth Sunday of Epiphany*

8:00 a.m. Council Meeting

8:30 a.m. Choir

9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion; Installation of Council

*Music with Nels*

Altar guild meeting and training

Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

10:00 a.m. Rock Creek Ankeny (*Pastor*)

7:00 p.m. Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

1:00 p.m. Quilters

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

6:30 p.m. R.O.C.K. @ Palestine  
Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 *Fifth Sunday of Epiphany*

8:30 a.m. Choir

9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Baptism

*Music with Nels*

*Cookie Sunday*

5:30 p.m. Theology on Tap @ Flight in Huxley

Lectionary texts: Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-9 (10); 1

Cor 2:1-12 (13-16); Matthew 5:13-20

**Thank you for your Gifts for Ministry:**

**Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025:**

General: \$ 2,329.25

**Attendance: 121**

Benevolence: \$105.00

THANK YOU!!! We celebrate your generosity and thank you in  
advance for your support.

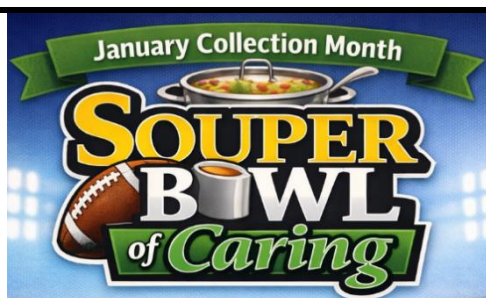


Palestine will accept your offering!

1. **Bring** to worship service with you and place in offering plates.
2. **Mail** check to:  
Palestine Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 189  
Huxley, IA 50124
3. **Give online through Easy Tithe.**  
Go to our website [www.plchuxley.com](http://www.plchuxley.com)  
and click on the bright red ONLINE  
GIVING tab on the right located above  
our "Reaching out in Christian love to all"  
statement. **OR** scan the QR code to take  
you right to our tithing page.
4. **Text GIVE** to 515-207-6435.



*Thank you. Continue to pray and know God is with us.*



The K.I.C.K. Group is collecting cans of chunky-style soup & monetary donations to support our local food pantry. **Drop-off location:** north fellowship hall. Now – February 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Help us tackle hunger—one can at a time!**



There will be an altar guild meeting and training  
**Today, Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>** after worship.

# HUXLEY COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE



**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH**

**2:30PM-6:30PM**

Palestine Church  
55971 IA-210 - Huxley



**APPOINTMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED**



## R.O.C.K. GROUP'S *Valentine's Day* RAFFLE BASKET



Treat your Valentine to a cozy date night with a charcuterie-style basket! **Tickets are \$10 each.**

Sales will be in north fellowship hall after worship today, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, and Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> before the drawing. (OR see a ROCK member or leader for a ticket). **Drawing will be held Sunday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>.** You do not need to be present to win.



### Ballard Clothing Pantry

March is Palestine's month to staff the Clothing Pantry. There will be a sign up in fellowship hall to sign up for shifts or you can go to our online sign up on our weekly announcements or at [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rr8989x2djv\\_nfZufdFDSR\\_YeN0N27m4\\_B3FU-ifZU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rr8989x2djv_nfZufdFDSR_YeN0N27m4_B3FU-ifZU/edit?usp=sharing). The Clothing Pantry is a valuable service for many people in our community. It stays open only because of generous volunteers.

***Please consider staffing at least one shift.***



You are invited to a  
Wartbug Winter Concert  
Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at  
Grace E-Free Church in  
Huxley.

**All are welcome! 7:00 p.m. (1 to 1-1/2 hour concert)**

*Chamber Choir and Chamber Strings concert*

**Reception to follow with free-will offering**

*(benefitting Ballard Music Boosters)*

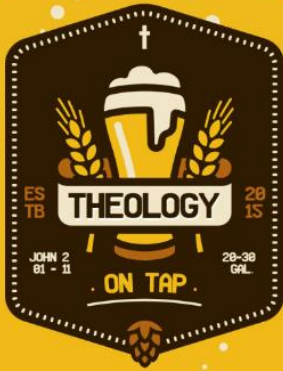


## First Communion Class

This year's first communion classes will be held after church (10:45-11:30) on **February 22, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>** (this avoids spring break Sundays). The class is designed for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level, however, if your child is younger and you feel they are ready to participate, that is fine. Class will meet in the conference room. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend along with their child.

If you have questions or want to enroll your child in the class, you can email the church office at [palestinelutheran@gmail.com](mailto:palestinelutheran@gmail.com).

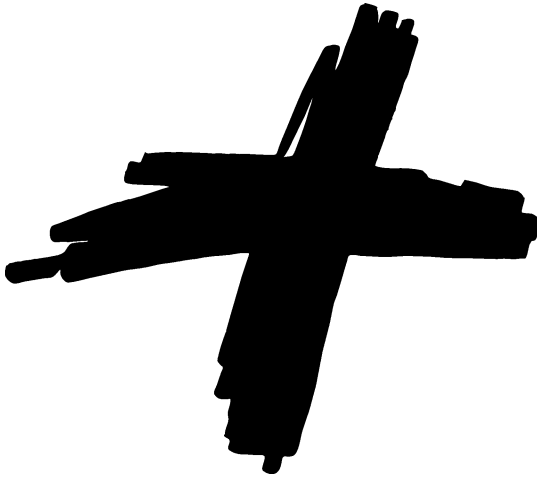




## THEOLOGY ON TAP

Question freely. Think deeply. Drink a little.

Join us Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>  
at 5:30 p.m. @ Flight in  
Huxley!



**Mark your calendars for Ash Wednesday**  
**February 18, 2026 7:00 p.m.**

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

Pastor Eric Klimpel

<b>PRESIDENT:</b> David Eisenmann	<b>COUNCIL:</b>
<b>VICE PRES.:</b> Kristin Shelton	Mike Brixius                      Mark Pote
<b>SECRETARY:</b> Christa Hartsook	Scott Johnson                      Deidre Qual
<b>TREASURER:</b> Kari Sandquist	Brad Lewis                      Chris Richter
<b>FINANCIAL</b>	Darin Madson                      Jean Saveraid
<b>SECRETARY:</b> Julie Emerson	

### Finance Committee

Kari Sandquist, Chair (treasurer)

David Eisenmann (president)

Julie Emerson (financial secretary)

Stewardship chair, advisor

Brad Lewis

Matt Williams

### Nominating Committee

Tim Wilson                      (*outgoing council member*)

Greg Saveraid                      (*outgoing council member*)

Vallery Eisenmann                      (non-council member)

Greg Hartsook                      (non-council member)

Crystal Hughes                      (non-council member)

Lyle Martin                      (non-council member)

### Delegates

SE Iowa Synod Assembly: Mark & Jen Pote

Riverside Bible Camp: Erika Williams

<b>ALTAR GUILD</b> Denise Elliott Vallery Eisenmann Julie Huxford Helen Kepler Teri Klimpel Lesa Lewis Donna Millang Elaine Mohr Jennifer Pote (chair)	<b>LIBRARY</b> Doreen Blackmer McKenzie Bushaw (chair) Laura Kepler Teri Klimpel Shannon Wilson	<b>PROPERTY/PARSONAGE</b> Bill Harleen Greg Hartsook Mike Hughes (chair) Julie Huxford Kim Jensen Mark Pote Tracy Sheldahl Tom Shelton Greg Saveraid Tim Wilson <b>Vision Sub Committee:</b> Vallery Eisenmann (chair) Emily Saveraid Jean Saveraid Matt Williams Tim Wilson
<b>BANNER GROUP</b> McKenzie Bushaw Scott Bushaw Candi Engler Bill Harleen Sandy Harleen Melinda Kam	<b>MEMORIALS &amp; GIFTS</b> Jennie Huxford Ellen Longnecker Jean Saveraid Cindi Thomas Kari Sandquist (Treasurer-Advisor)	<b>STEWARDSHIP</b> Candi Engler Julie Emerson (advisor) Kari Sandquist (Treasurer-advisor)
<b>CEMETERY</b> Merle Brendeland Helen Kepler Brent Larson Leonard Larson Virgil Larson Richard Nelson Garry Wirtz	<b>MISSION OUTREACH</b> Mike Brixius Deb Moore Chris Nelson Kris Polich	<b>WORSHIP</b> Mindy DeVries Nels Dovre Teri Klimpel Jen Pote Jean Saveraid (chair)
<b>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b> Julie Emerson Candi Engler Shelley Klingbeil Kari Sandquist (interim chair) Kristin Shelton Michelle Siepker Erika Williams	<b>PRAYER SUPPORT GROUP</b> Robin Doty Lori Edwards Denise Elliott Helen Kepler Leona Larson Sue Larson (chair) Pastor Klimpel	<b>YOUTH COUNCIL</b> Shelley Klingbeil (KICK) Erika Williams (KICK) Melinda Kam (KICK) Heather Swan (KICK) Open (ROCK) Nels Dovre (ROCK)
<b>EVANGELISM/FELLOWSHIP</b> Robin Doty (chair) Crystal Hughes Laura Kepler Deb Moore Laurie Newman Mike Hughes Teri Klimpel Roger Moore Deidre Qual	<b>Evangelism/Fellowship cont.</b> Greg Saveraid Kristin Shelton	<b>WELCA</b> Treasurer: Cindi Thomas Vice President: Jean Saveraid Pianist: Leona Larson

**Welcome to Worship!** We're glad you're here (physically or virtually), guests and members alike, and pray that you will find in our worship an opportunity to praise God and hear God's Word.

All baptized Christians who believe that Christ Jesus is truly present in the sacrament to forgive, strengthen and bless us, are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

#### **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

##### **Something Bigger Than Us (*based on Matthew 5*)**

The beatitudes could easily be read as a list of rewards and consequences, and the kind of behaviors that will merit one or the other. We are well accustomed to understanding the world in such terms. Children receive rewards for good behavior. Students earn awards or scholarships. Athletes win medals or trophies. Success is a ladder we climb and, if we've done our part, our job is rewarded in the end.

Jesus talks about a great reward, but it's not one we can earn. On a closer look, the nature of many of the so-called "blessings" in the beatitudes is as much about what is done to us as about anything we do for ourselves. Jesus begins his sermon by going up the mountain, but his words push us not to new heights but to greater depths. Poverty of spirit, mourning, meekness, hunger, thirst, and persecution—these are not behaviors to strive toward for a reward. Instead, they are circumstances in which we can find ourselves when the ladder we've been climbing falls to the ground. Alternatively, to be merciful or pure in heart or a peacemaker is to choose to get off the ladder altogether for the sake of something bigger than our small selves.

The beatitudes as a whole suggest that Jesus wants more for us than simply collecting a heavenly prize in the end. His blessings assure us that all along the way, no matter our circumstances, we have an inherent, God-given dignity that no one and nothing can strip from us. At the table of Christ, all who hunger and thirst for righteousness are filled. This meal isn't awarded to us for a job well done. Rather, it feeds us for the work still to be done, that of sharing God's mercy and peace with others.