

Stewardship 2026 Join the Journey

*"Trust in God from the bottom of your heart;
don't try to figure out everything on your own.
Listen for God's voice in everything you do,
everywhere you go." Proverbs 3:4-6*



WELCOME TO WORSHIP 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 2nd Sunday after Epiphany January 18, 2026

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz

Lector: Bob Kluge

Acolytes: Beckett Nelson

Ushers: Jeffrey Morgan, Jerry Graffin, Jerry Buskager and Mark Holzhuter

Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

CALL TO WORSHIP: "Lamb of God" 1st Class Ringers Paris/Bettcher

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.

Brief silence for reflection.

P: Mighty God,

C: lover of justice, you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. 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.

Stand

HYMN: "Jesus Calls Us: O'er the Tumult" ELW #696 Vss. 1, 3 & 5

**Vs. 1: Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding,
saying, "Christian, follow me":**

**Vs. 3: Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."**

**Vs. 5: Jesus calls us! By your mercy,
Savior, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.**

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.

LITANY

P: In the beginning was the Word,

C: and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

P: In the Word was life,
C: and the life was the light of all people.

P: The word became flesh and lived among us,
C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Arise, Your Light Has Come" ELW #314 Vss. 1,2 & 4

**Vs. 1: Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.**

**Vs. 2: Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

**Vs. 4: Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.**

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.
C: Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sit

ANTHEM: "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" Chancel Choir set by Van Camp

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7

¹⁻³ Listen, far-flung islands, pay attention, faraway people: God put me to work from the day I was born. The moment I entered the world he named me. He gave me speech that would cut and penetrate. He kept his hand on me to protect me. He made me his straight arrow and hid me in his quiver. He said to me, "You're my dear servant, Israel, through whom I'll shine." ⁴ But I said, "I've worked for nothing. I've nothing to show for a life of hard work. Nevertheless, I'll let God have the last word. I'll let him pronounce his

verdict.”⁵⁻⁶ “And now,” God says, this God who took me in hand from the moment of birth to be his servant, To bring Jacob back home to him, to set a reunion for Israel—What an honor for me in God’s eyes! That God should be my strength! He says, “But that’s not a big enough job for my servant— just to recover the tribes of Jacob, merely to round up the strays of Israel. I’m setting you up as a light for the *nations* so that my salvation becomes *global!*”⁷ God, Redeemer of Israel, The Holy of Israel, says to the despised one, kicked around by the nations, slave labor to the ruling class: “Kings will see, get to their feet—the princes, too— and then fall on their faces in homage Because of God, who has faithfully kept his word, The Holy of Israel, who has chosen you.”

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL CANTICLE: “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp, and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine.

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 1st Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 1:29-42

²⁹⁻³¹ The very next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and yelled out, “Here he is, God’s Passover Lamb! He forgives the sins of the world! This is the man I’ve been talking about, ‘the One who comes after me but is really ahead of me.’ I knew nothing about who he was—only this: that my task has been to get Israel ready to recognize him as the God-Revealer. That is why I came here baptizing with water, giving you a good bath and scrubbing sins from your life so you can get a fresh start with God.”³²⁻³⁴ John clinched his witness with this: “I watched the Spirit, like a dove flying down out of the sky, making himself at home in him. I repeat, I know nothing about him except this: The One who authorized me to baptize with water told me, ‘The One on whom

you see the Spirit come down and stay, this One will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' That's exactly what I saw happen, and I'm telling you, there's no question about it: *This is the Son of God.*" ³⁵⁻³⁶ The next day John was back at his post with two disciples, who were watching. He looked up, saw Jesus walking nearby, and said, "Here he is, God's Passover Lamb." ³⁷⁻³⁸ The two disciples heard him and went after Jesus. Jesus looked over his shoulder and said to them, "What are you after?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He replied, "Come along and see for yourself." They came, saw where he was living, and ended up staying with him for the day. It was late afternoon when this happened. ⁴⁰⁻⁴² Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard John's witness and followed Jesus. The first thing he did after finding where Jesus lived was find his own brother, Simon, telling him, "We've found the Messiah" (that is, "Christ"). He immediately led him to Jesus. Jesus took one look up and said, "You're John's son, Simon? From now on your name is Cephas" (or Peter, which means "Rock").

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Stand

HYMN: "I love to Tell the Story" ELW #336

**Vs. 1: I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.**

**Refrain: I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

**Vs. 2: I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy word. *Refrain...***

**Vs. 3: I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungry and thirsting to hear it like the rest.**

And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. *Refrain...*

APOSTLE'S 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

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, our home.

A brief silence

P: Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disasters. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Just God, you desire respect and equality for everyone. Raise up prophets

who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, oppression, or illness. Bring an end to social injustice and inequities of every kind, so that all people may have abundant life. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in this community. Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Faithful God, you promise to be with us always. We remember with gratitude the faithful departed who now rest in you. Strengthen us to the end, that we may see you face to face. 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.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERTORY: "The Only Son from Heaven" set by Bogner

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: God of majesty,

C: 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. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Music is played as those who wish to come forward for communion come forward and kneel at the communion rail. Others are invited to commune in your pew.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace till life everlasting.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Radiant God,

C: 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. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

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.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN: “I Want to walk as a Child of the light” ELW #815

Vs. 1: I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Vs. 2: I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

**Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain...***

Vs. 3: I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to be with Jesus.

**When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain...***

POSTLUDE: “O Morning Star” Nicolai/Miller