

## 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**  
**9:15 AM Worship Express**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**January 18, 2026**

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

**Organist/Pianist:** Linda Kunz

**Lector:** Lucas Peterson

**Acolytes:** Ben Foltz

**Ushers:** Linda Trunzo

**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" 1<sup>st</sup> 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*

**GATHERING SONG: "We are Marching in the Light of God" WOV #650**

**We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)  
we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)  
we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are dancing . . .**

**We are praying . . .**

**We are singing . . .**

## **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.**

*Sit*

**SPECIAL MUSIC: “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” Chancel Choir**

**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.**

*Stand*

**GOSPEL SONG: “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**

**Narrator:** 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.”<sup>32-34</sup> 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.” **Come, See for Yourself.** 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.” <sup>37-38</sup> The two disciples heard him and went after Jesus. Jesus looked over his shoulder and said to them,

**Jesus (Women and Girls): What are you after?**

**John’s Disciples (Men and Boys): Where are you staying?**

**Jesus (Women and Girls): Come along and see for yourself.**

**Narrator:** They came, saw where he was living, and ended up staying with him for the day. It was late afternoon when this happened. <sup>40-42</sup> 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,

**Simon (Congregation): We’ve found the Messiah**

**Narrator:** (that is, “Christ”). He immediately led him to Jesus. Jesus took one look up and said,

**Jesus (Women and Girls): You’re John’s son, Simon? From now on your name is Cephas.**

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sit*

**CHILDREN’S WORD/WORD**

*Stand*

**SONG OF THE WORD: “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...***

### **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**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, God's only Son, our Lord?

**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. Amen.

### **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

**C:** And also with you.

*Sit*

**OFFERTORY SONG: “This Little Light of Mine”**

**Vs. 1: This little light of mine, I’m goin’ a let it shine. (3 times)**

**Let it shine, let it shine let it shine.**

**Vs. 2: Ev’rywhere I go, I’m goin’ let it shine. (3 times)**

**Let it shine, let it shine let it shine.**

**Vs. 3: Jesus gave it to me, I’m goin’ let it shine. (3 times)**

**Let it shine, let it shine let it shine.**

**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.**

**POSTLUDE: "O Morning Star" Nicolai/Miller**