



# First Lutheran Church

Sunday, February 1, 2026 | 4th Sunday after Epiphany

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.



## PRELUDE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INVOCATION

### GATHERING SONG | *Behold Our God*

Who has held the oceans in His hands? Who has numbered every grain of sand?  
Kings and nations tremble at His voice. All creation rises to rejoice.

**Chorus: Behold our God, seated on His throne. Come, let us adore Him.  
Behold our King, nothing can compare. Come, let us adore Him!**

Who has given counsel to the Lord? Who can question any of His Words? Who can teach the One who knows all things? Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds? **Chorus**

Who has felt the nails upon His hands, bearing all the guilt of sinful man?  
God eternal, humbled to the grave, Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign! **Chorus**

**Bridge** Choir and Worship Team sings this

**Chorus 2: Behold our God, seated on His throne. Come, let us adore Him.  
Behold our King, nothing can compare. Come let us adore.**

**Chorus: Behold our God, seated on His throne. Come, let us adore Him.  
Behold our King, nothing can compare. Come, let us adore Him!**

## CONFSSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Merciful God, C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out our offenses. Release us from the guilt and shame we carry, and renew a right spirit within us. Teach us your ways, 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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Holy God, C: 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.

### MUSICAL MESSAGE | *Joy in the Morning* - Natalie Sleeth | Jubilate Choir

## FIRST READING | *Micah 6:1-8*

<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?

## RESPONSIVE PSALM | *Psalm 15*

R: O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

**C: Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right and speak the truth from their heart;**

R: who do not slander with their tongue and do no evil to their friends nor heap shame upon their neighbors;

**C: in whose eyes the wicked are despised but who honor those who fear the Lord; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**

R: who do not lend money at interest and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | *ELW pg. 205*

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th Chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON | Pastor Matthew Rossler

### SONG OF THE DAY | *Blessed Be Your Name*

Blessed be Your Name in the land that is plentiful;

Where streams of abundance flow, blessed be Your Name;

Blessed be Your Name when I'm found in the desert place,

When I walk through the wilderness, blessed be Your Name;

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise;

When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say.

**Chorus: Blessed be the Name of the Lord, blessed be Your Name;**  
**Blessed be the Name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious Name.**

Blessed be Your Name when the sun's shining down on me;

When the world's all as it should be, blessed be Your Name;

Blessed be Your Name on the road marked with suffering;

Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your Name;

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise;

When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say. **Chorus 2 times**

You give and take away, You give and take away;

My heart will choose to say, "Lord, blessed be Your Name". **Repeat**

**Chorus 2 times**

## STATEMENT OF FAITH | *Apostle's Creed*

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 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 THE PEOPLE

P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

## SHARING OF PEACE

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

## OFFERING / NOISY OFFERING | *February: Lutheran Social Services of MN*

### OFFERTORY SONG | *Holy, Holy, Holy* | ELW #473

1 Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.  
My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy God. (**Sing 2x**)

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Loving God, **C: receive this offering for the building up of your kingdom: the proclamation of your word and the loving of our neighbor. Amen.**

## COMMUNION

### Words of Institution

#### Lord's Prayer

**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.**

#### Distribution

#### Post Communion Blessing

#### Post Communion Prayer

**C: Gracious God, at this table you have nourished our body and soul with food and drink. As you have been food and drink for us, transform us to be food and drink for one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

### SENDING HYMN | *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* | ELW #547

1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave. The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all. Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living, the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—  
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

## SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

February 18 @ noon & 6pm.

Join us for one of our Ash Wednesday worship services. A soup & sandwich lunch will follow our noon worship service. We will serve our Oasis diner at 5pm, as usual, however, there will be NO prek-12th grade programing that evening.

### THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 1 pm. in the library

Through March 10

Led by Wade Dutton, see and discuss this acclaimed video series about Jesus and his "chosen" disciples.

Each of the 8 sessions includes a 40-50 minute video with discussion following. If you are not able to come each week, each video stands on its own. Or you can watch online anytime at:

[Home Page](#) | [The Chosen](#)

### THEOLOGY ON TAP

February 5 & 19

Do you have questions about life, God or both? Grab a cold drink, and let's ponder life together. Theology on Tap meets the first & third Thursday of each month at 7pm at Bucks Mill Brewing.

### BLESSING CLOSET NEEDS

Currently we are need of: mens clothing, blankets & gloves. Donations can be brought to the church office. Thanks!

**PRECHEL FUNERAL** | Tuesday, February 17 @ 1pm

### LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS MENTAL ILLNESS & DEPRESSION

Today, 10:30am in the Library

Join us for the next session in the *Loving Our Neighbors Series*. Dr. Jonathan Aligada, a Sanford Health psychologist, will be with us to discuss how we can be good neighbors to those dealing with mental health & depression. Nearly one-in-five

American adults have experienced a mental illness according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

Those experiencing these conditions may be family members, friends, co-workers, or other people in your life. They are our NEIGHBORS! How can we as Christians love, include, and respect these neighbors. Plan to join us, bring questions, and share your experiences!

### REBEKAH CIRCLE

The Rebekah Circle will meet on February 10 @ 9am at the Lincoln Park Apartments, 207 Park St.

### HIGH SCHOOL FREE LUNCH

High School Students, join us on February 26 @ 11:30am at Pizza Ranch for lunch with the Pastors

### FLC WOMEN'S CIRCLE BOOKS

The 2026 Circle Book are now available. Pick up your copy today! Books are at the volunteer table, by the office.

### WANT TO TRY CONFIRMATION AGAIN?

After numerous requests, we're going to experiment with 'open confirmation sessions'. On select Wednesdays you can come to the sanctuary from 6:30PM to 7:30PM and join our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders for their confirmation lesson. Take a seat in an open pew and learn and relearn alongside our middle schoolers!

This year's curriculum is centered on the basics of Lutheran theology. You are welcome to come join us for any or all of the following lessons for the remainder of the year:

**2/11: Theology – Vocation**

**2/25: Theology – Money**

**3/18: Theology – Creation**

**3/25: Theology – Baptism & Communion**

**4/8: Theology – The Cross vs. Glory**

### Prayers for God's People

Ongoing prayers for:  
Bill Wegscheid, Cole Woltjer, Vern, Greta Frisch, Judy Wood, Larry Kjono, Tyler Wilson, Dave & Pam Nustad, Cami Eckhoff, Atticus, Kathy Larson, & Henrietta Malchow.

Prayers of comfort for those who mourn the loss of a loved one, including, the families of Liz Dahl, Matt Brown, Richard Dahlen & Mary Lou Anderson.

### Thanks for worshiping with us!



Lead Pastor: Joe Skogmo  
Associate Pastor: Matthew Rossler  
Music Director: Karen Bimberg

### GIVE ONLINE

#### Prefer electronic giving?

Set up an automated method and frequency that works best for you by using the **QR code**.

Then, if you like, drop the **green laminated slip** in the offering plate.

