

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after 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.*



*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Council Secretary: Kay Michaelson 712-540-5368

Pastor Paige McGrath: [pastor@livingfaithlemars.com](mailto:pastor@livingfaithlemars.com)

712-541-3782 | [www.livingfaithlemars.com](http://www.livingfaithlemars.com)

**For our weekly prayer list, news, and events, please visit our News and Events page, found on our website: <https://www.livingfaithlemars.com/blog>**

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

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INVOCATION**

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.

**Amen.**

**CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Mighty God, 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.**

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.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Let Streams of Living Justice*

**ELW 710**

**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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

<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?

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 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.

**Amen.**

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

<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 the 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.”

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p.205

## GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 546

*To Be Your Presence*

## THE 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**

**Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

### **MEAL**

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

### **OFFERING**

**ELW 685**

*Take My Life, That I May Be*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer 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**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**ELW p.207**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

... we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

... all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

... we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

## 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.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW 522 & 651

## BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart,  
and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to  
be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our  
Savior and Lord. Amen.

### SENDING

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

## A TIME ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

## BENEDICTION

### SENDING SONG

ELW 669

*Rise Up, O Saints of God!*

### SENDING

Go in peace. Walk humbly with your God.

**Thanks be to God.**

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### Thank you, worship leaders!

Greeter/Usher: Tim Kass

Accompanist: Gail Kass

Reader: Debbie Gibson

Communion Assistant: Sandy Heeren

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**\*\*Remember! Next Sunday, February 8\*\***

**ELCA Western Iowa Synod Bishop Scott Dalen will be with us in worship!**