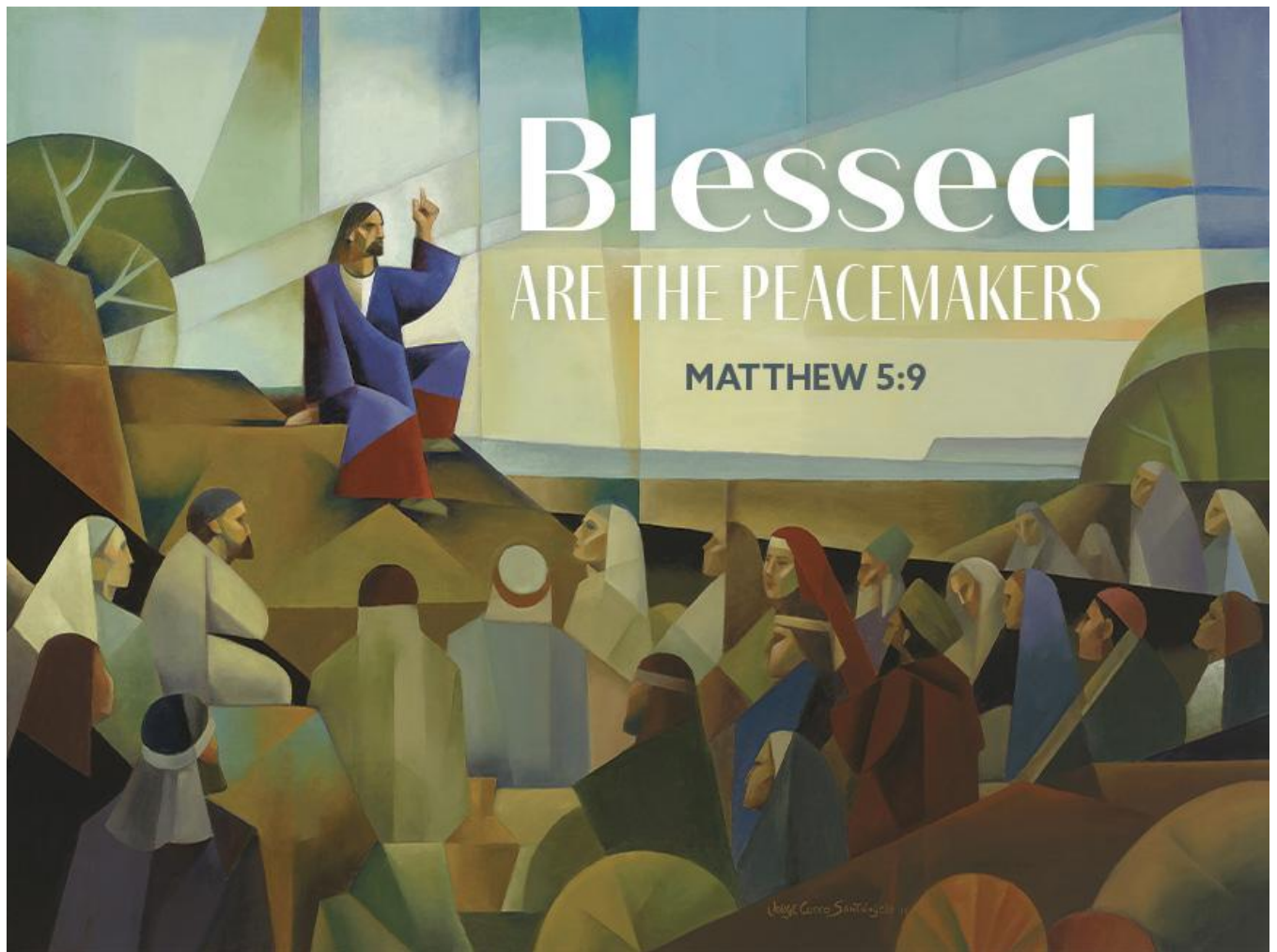


**First Lutheran**  
relationships that transform



**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**February 1, 2026**

## Welcome to worship at First Lutheran Church.

We worship God using the form of worship which has been used by Christians throughout church history, which is commonly called “liturgical worship.” Liturgy is defined as the “work of the people,” which means that this is a participatory form of worship for all people, whether leading from the front, or singing and responding as a part of the congregation.

In worship, we come out of the chaos of the world to prepare ourselves to meet God, who is revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Through confession/forgiveness, prayer, and proclamation of the Word of God, we are led to the center of our worship which is the celebration of Holy Communion (also called the Lord’s Supper or Eucharist). It is in that act of eating and drinking the true body and blood of Jesus in the forms of bread and wine, that we make a sacred connection with God. As our worship concludes, we are sent back into the world, as people who have been changed by an encounter with God, to be light in the midst of the chaos and confusion of the world.



### Are you having trouble hearing the sermon?

An assistive listening system is available in our sanctuary.

You may select a receiver from the basket in the rear of the sanctuary, near the sound booth; please return it following worship.

There are **printed** copies of the sermon available in the narthex near the bulletins

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**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
**FEBRUARY 1, 2026 8:15 am & 10:45 am**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Welcome to worship, we are glad that God has brought us together today! If you are visiting us today, please fill out a card to receive more information about First Lutheran Church. The cards are in the narthex near the bulletins or from an usher or staff member.*

**NURSERY**

*Children 3 and under are invited to our staffed nursery.*

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

*Children up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend Children's Church. Meet the leader at the back of the sanctuary. The children meet in the chapel and will return to the service just before Holy Communion.*

**PRELUDE**

**Change My Heart, O God**

**The Chancel Choir**

*Please stand.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✙ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Let us make personal confession of our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Let us confess our sin together.

Mighty God,  
**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.**

**Amen.**

The former things have passed away,  
and new things God now declares:

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.**

## **SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

*The sharing of the peace is a time for us to be reconciled with one another  
through the peace, love, and forgiveness of Christ.*

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

## Rejoice, for Christ Is King!



1 Re - joice, for Christ is king! Your Lord and king a - dore;  
 2 Our Sav - ior Je - sus reigns, the God of truth and love;  
 3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
 4 He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit



re - joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:  
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove:  
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n:  
 and bow to his com - mand and fall be - neath his feet:

*Refrain*

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; re -



joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

## 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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE (Vs 1 & 3)



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be  
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we  
giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -  
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one  
will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,  
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord  
heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in  
praise you for your glo - ry.  
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - - - men.

## 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**

*Please be seated*

## Word of God, Come Down on Earth

1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from  
heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth  
faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from". The second staff continues: "heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth". The third staff continues: "faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,". The fourth staff concludes: "we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you." The piece ends with a double bar line.

### BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

Let us pray.

May God bless our lector as they read for us the scriptures. May the word of God dwell in us richly so that everything we do in word or deed will be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **Amen.**

### FIRST READING: Micah 6:1 – 8

- 1 Hear what the LORD says:  
Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.
- 2 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.
- 3 "O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
- 4 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.**

## **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 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.

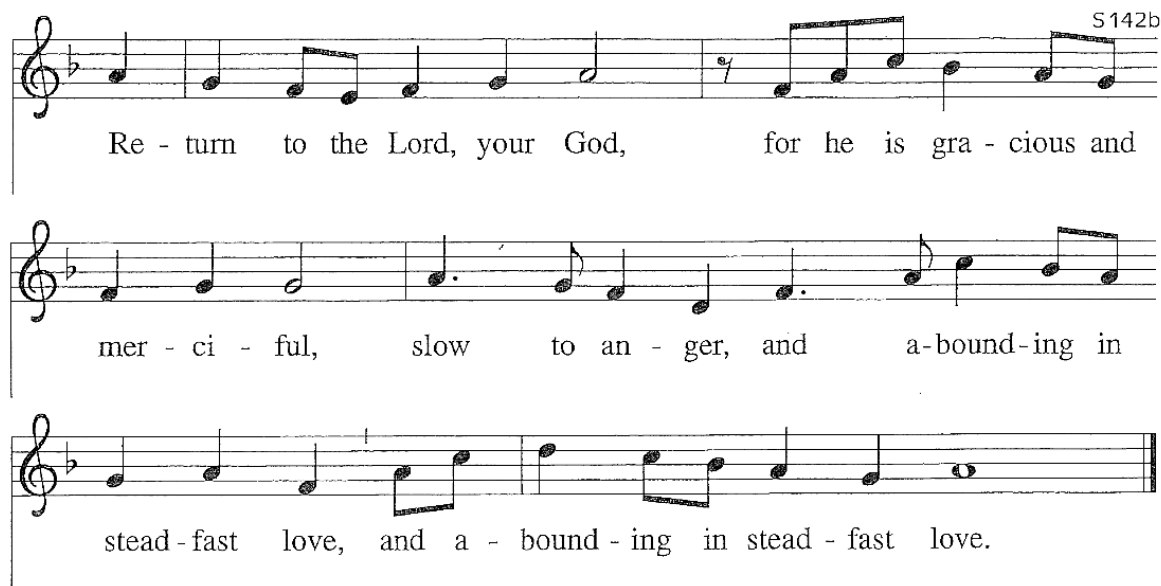
<sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</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.**

*Please stand.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



S 142b

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

### GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1 – 12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**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.”

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ

*Please be seated.*

SERMON

Bless You

Pastor Jeffrey Borgwardt

SILENT REFLECTION

*Please stand.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

TFF 234

## Lord, I Want to Be a Christian



1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;  
2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;  
3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;  
4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart,



in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.  
in my heart, Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.  
in my heart, Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.  
in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

## **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

## HYMN

### O Lord, Hear My Prayer *The Lord Is My Song*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system contains the first two lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the next two lines. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Each petition ends with: O Lord, hear our prayer

**Congregation sings:**

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.

This block contains a single system of music for the congregation. It features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Receive our prayers...in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

## HYMN

### O Lord, Hear My Prayer *The Lord Is My Song*

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems. The first system contains the first two lines of music, with lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me." The second system contains the next two lines of music, with lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me." The piano accompaniment is written in a simple, homophonic style, primarily using block chords and moving bass lines.

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERING ANTHEM

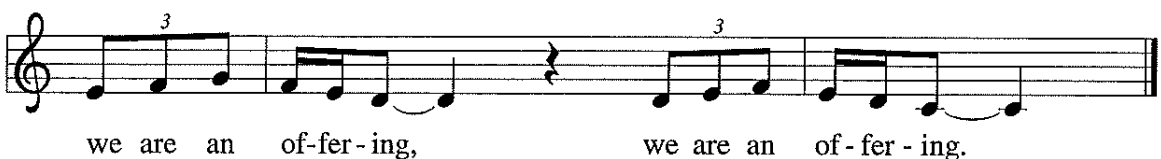
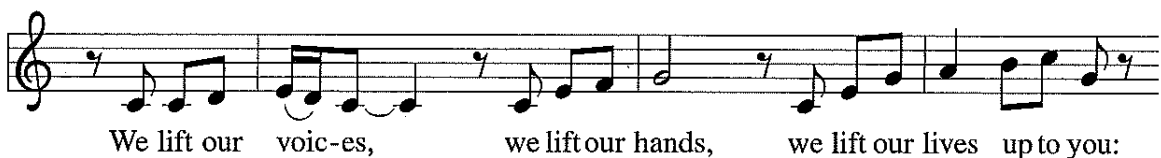
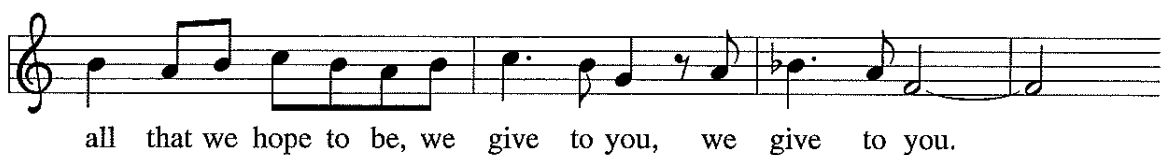
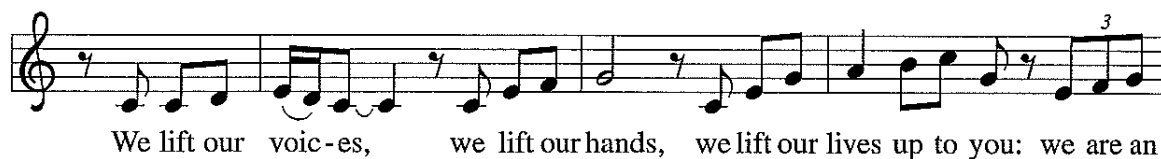
*Please stand.*

## PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

*As the gifts are presented, the congregation sings.*

### We Are an Offering

692

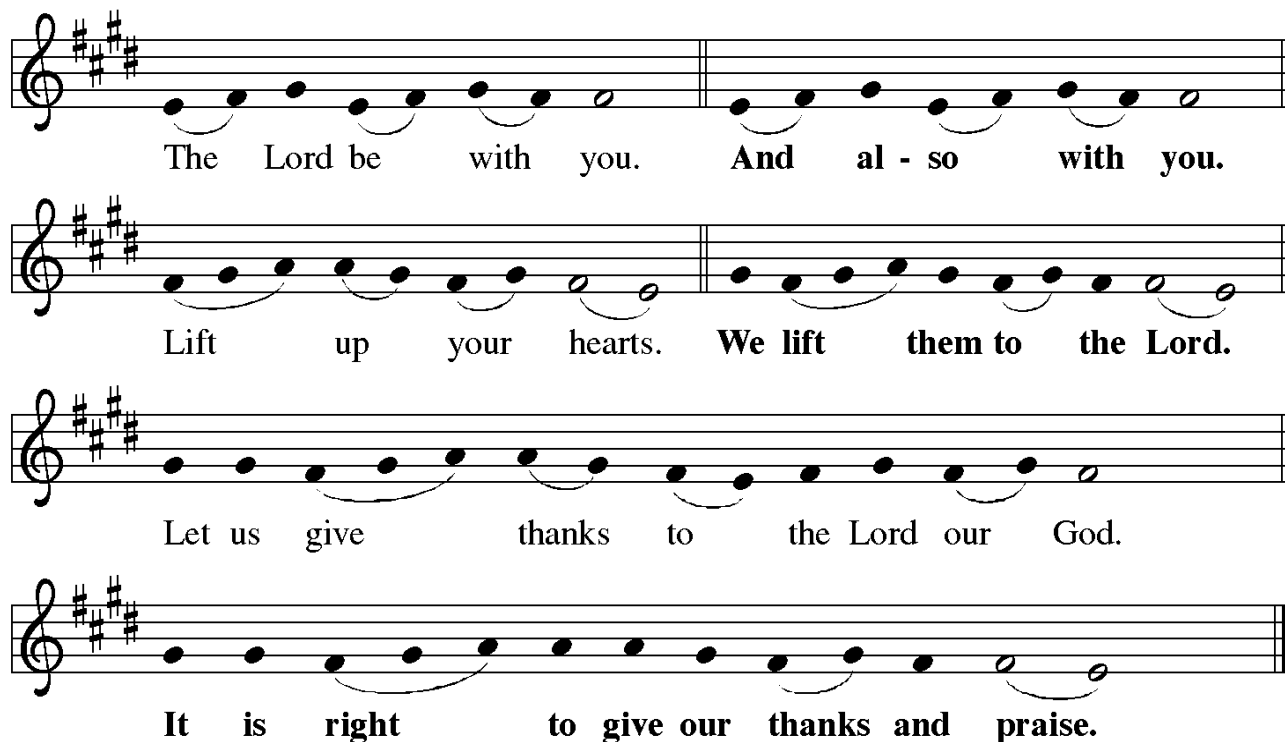


## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

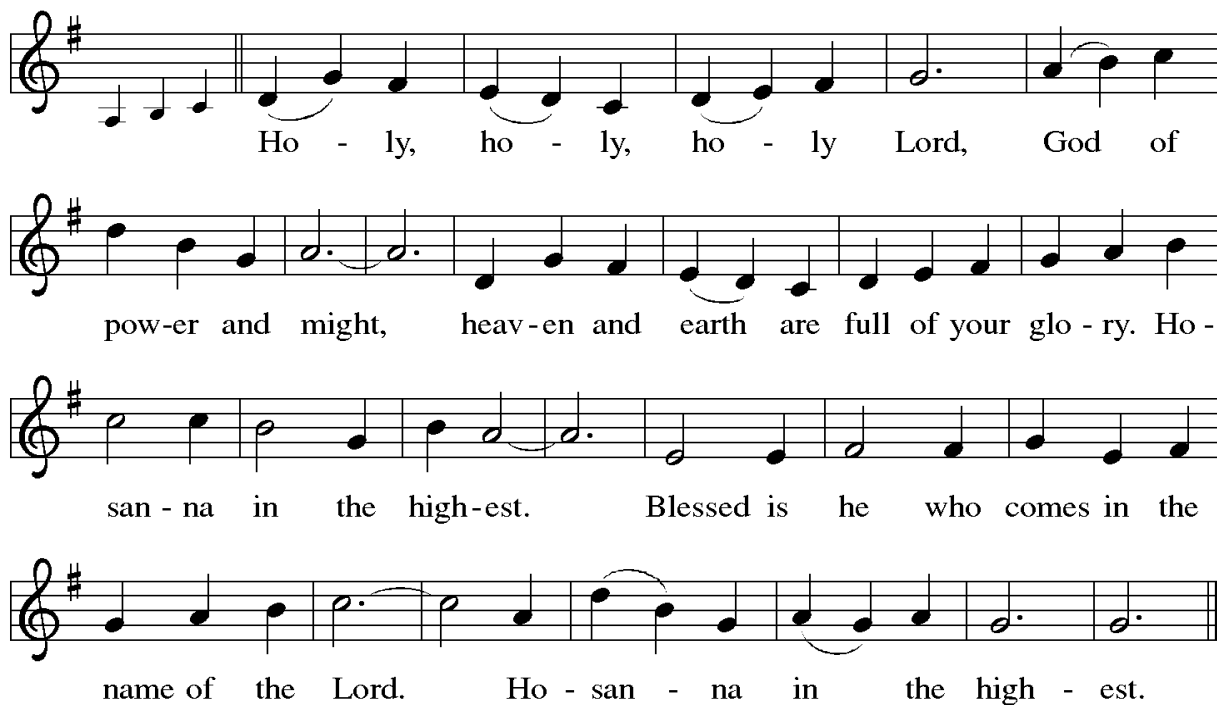
God of all creation, all you have made is good and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

It is indeed right...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

### **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**

The gifts of God for the people of God. . .

*Please be seated.*

### **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

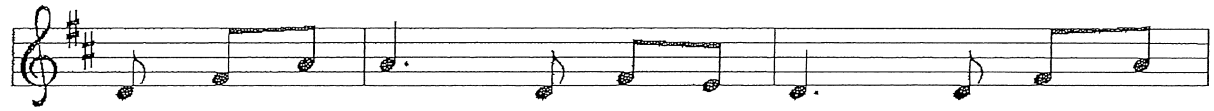
*All baptized Christians are welcome to commune. We teach that Holy Communion is a celebration of the real presence of Christ under forms of bread and wine. For those who prefer, cups in the center ring of the tray are filled with white grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing, signal this by crossing your arms against your chest.*



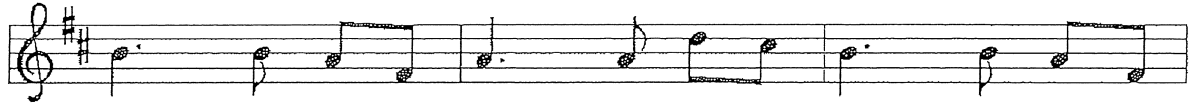
COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God  
*Your Only Son*

336



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.

O Lamb of



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

268

Jesus, Name Above All Names

D F#m7

Je - sus, name a - bove all names, beau - ti - ful

The first system of music features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, name a - bove all names, beau - ti - ful". Chord symbols D and F#m7 are placed above the staff.

Em7 A

Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord, Em-

The second system of music continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord, Em-". Chord symbols Em7 and A are placed above the staff.

D F#m7

man - u - el, God is with us, bless - ed Re -

The third system of music continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "man - u - el, God is with us, bless - ed Re -". Chord symbols D and F#m7 are placed above the staff.

Em7

Optional repeat	Last time
D	D
G/A A	

deem - er, liv - ing Word. Word.

The fourth system of music concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "deem - er, liv - ing Word. Word.". Chord symbols Em7, D, G/A, and A are placed above the staff. A box above the staff indicates an optional repeat ending with a D chord, and a final ending with a D chord.

*Please stand.*

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace.  
**Amen.**

### CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -  
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the  
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions  
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with spiritual food, the body and blood of Christ. All who come to you will not hunger, all who believe in you will not thirst. Empowered by this sacrament, send us back into the world to do the work you have given us to do: to share the gospel and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

ELW 854

### Blessing and Honor



1 Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and pow'r, wis - dom and  
2 Let all the heav - ens sound forth Je - sus' name; let all the  
3 Ev - er as - cend - ing the song and the joy, ev - er de -  
4 Give we the glo - ry and praise to the Lamb! Take we the



rich - es and strength ev - er - more, be to the Lamb who our  
earth sing his glo - ry and fame. O - cean and moun - tain, stream,  
scend - ing the love from on high; bless - ing and hon - or and  
robe and the harp and the palm; sing we the song of the



bat - tle has won, whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the  
for - est, and flow'r ech - o his prais - es and tell of his  
glo - ry and praise—this is the theme of the hymns that we  
Lamb who was slain, dy - ing in weak - ness and ris - ing to



throne; whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the throne!  
pow'r; ech - o his prais - es and tell of his pow'r.  
raise; this is the theme of the hymns that we raise.  
reign; dy - ing in weak - ness and ris - ing to reign!

Go in peace. We are formed and loved by Christ to live!

**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

**LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK:**

<b>Monday, February 2</b>	<b>Tuesday, February 3</b>	<b>Wednesday, February 4</b>
<b>9:30 am</b> Staff Meeting	<b>9:30 am</b> Friendship Circle <b>1:00 pm</b> Birds of a Feather at Ruby's <b>3:30-5:30 pm</b> Success Center <b>4:30 pm</b> Fitness Class <b>6:30 pm</b> Family Improvement Class <b>6:30 pm</b> Spiritual Journey	<b>10:00 am</b> Quilters <b>5:00-6:00 pm</b> Dinner <b>6:00 pm</b> Class Hour for Children & Youth <b>6:00 pm</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal <b>7:00 pm</b> Class Hour for Children & Youth <b>7:00 pm</b> Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday, February 5</b>	<b>Friday, February 6</b>	<b>Saturday, February 7</b>
<b>3:30-5:30 pm</b> Success Center <b>4:30 pm</b> Fitness Class		
<b>Sunday, February 8</b>	<b>Volunteer Schedule February 1</b>	<b>Volunteer Schedule February 8</b>
<b>8:15 am</b> Worship with Holy Communion, and Children's Church. <b>9:30 am</b> Bible Study <b>10:30 am</b> Choir warm-up <b>10:45 am</b> Worship with Holy Communion, and Children's Church <b>6:00 pm</b> Bible Study	<b>Lector:</b> <b>8:15 am:</b> John Parsons <b>10:45 am:</b> Donna Ashby <b>Communion:</b> <b>Set up:</b> Carolyn Ramirez <b>Clean Up:</b> Lucy Maxwell <b>Offering Counters:</b> Rachel Grundmann & Randy Cathey	<b>Lector:</b> <b>8:15 am:</b> Rick Poland <b>10:45 am:</b> Mike Gentsch <b>Communion:</b> <b>Set up:</b> Caroly & Ray Bird <b>Clean Up:</b> Teresa DeShazer & Randi McRae <b>Offering Counters:</b> Ranette Carter & Arlene Hicks

**Readings for in preparation for Sunday, February 2:**

Isaiah 58:1 – 12; Psalm 112; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Flowers given by  
Eva Touchstone in memory of  
Scott's heavenly birthday.**

**Scouting  America**

**Sunday February 8th is  
Scout Sunday**

**9:30 am Pancake Breakfast  
will be served by the scouts.  
Donations will be accepted.**



### **SAVE THE DATE**

Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup> following the 2<sup>nd</sup> service there will be a business meeting and luncheon for the ladies of WELCA. All ladies are invited to attend. Please RSVP on the sheet in the narthex.



**Adult Classes offered on  
Sunday Mornings at 9:30 am**

**Introduction to Bible Study Methods**

Led by Vivian McElligott.

**Study of the book of Genesis**

Led by Kevin Bond

**40 Days with Martin Luther**

Through the season of Lent

(Beginning February 22<sup>nd</sup>)

Led by Pastor Jeff

**LONGVIEW  
Community Ministries**  
*Serving With Love*

**SOUPER  
BOWL  
OF CARING**

**It's that time of year again!  
Let's fill the narthex with  
good things for our  
community!**

CONGREGATIONAL  
**- MEETING -**

**Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>  
9:30 am  
In the sanctuary  
All members are encouraged  
to attend this brief meeting.**

**The 2025 giving statements are on  
the table in the narthex and ready  
to be picked up.**

The  
Success  
Center

**Family  
Improvement**

**Food & Childcare  
Provided**

**Tuesdays  
6:30 - 7:30pm**

**FAMILY IMPROVEMENT MEAL**

One of the things that makes the Family Improvement class work so well for families is that we serve them a meal (cooking is not required). We need volunteers to help provide a meal. Those who are willing to help in this way, please contact the church office or Donna Louvier who is coordinating the meals (903-399-8553) or [donnalouvier@gmail.com](mailto:donnalouvier@gmail.com)



**February 18, 2026**

**Worship at**

**12:00 pm & 6:15 pm**



MARTIN LUTHER



Lent Book Study Class  
with Pastor Jeff  
40-Day Journey with  
Martin Luther

9:30 am Sundays during Lent  
Sign-up sheet in the narthex  
Books \$15 each

Class begins February 22, 2026



**February 18 - March 25  
2025**

### **WEDNESDAY SUPPER**

Volunteers are needed to provide  
Wednesday Family Suppers during  
Lent

Meal is served from 5:00–6:00 pm

Worship is at 6:15 pm

5 volunteers are needed for each  
dinner. Each volunteer should bring  
enough soup or sandwiches to feed  
10 people.

Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

Thank you!



## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please send all prayer requests and updates to the church office at: [prayerchain@firstlutheran.us](mailto:prayerchain@firstlutheran.us)

### **FLC Members**

Jack Keener has pneumonia & a neck injury

Larry Craddock is recovering from a broken shoulder.

Karen Smith is recovering from back surgery.

Patty Lowe is in rehab.

Tori Bullock needs prayer.

Lois Boldt is in hospice care.

Doris Bero is recovering from a viral infection.

David Smith is having a reoccurrence of B Cell Lymphoma.

Pray for the children and teens who attend our church and The Success Center.

Pray for church growth, numerically and spiritually.

Pray for wisdom and direction for our church leadership.

Pray for the homebound of our church and their caregivers.

Jane Bailey

Robert Kohnfelder

Durwin Sewell

Mary Ann Gamel

Chuck & Paula Kaplan

Bruno Schueler

Patty Lowe

Johnnie Owens

Joseph Carlson

Albert Holmen

### **Family and Friends of FLC Members**

Sophie (age 14), friend of Cathleen Potichko, has a brain tumor on her optic nerve.

Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers.

Those who are imprisoned.

The homeless

### **Members Serving in the Military**

Eric Jenkins – Air Force, Ft. Meade, MD

Timothy Martin – Navy

Terrina Anderson – White House Military Office

Hannah Perry – Army, San Antonio, Tx

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**February 1, 2026**

### **Something Bigger Than Us**

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.

## **Assisting In Worship Today**

**Celebrant:** Pastor Jeffrey Borgwardt

**Musicians:** Donna Ashby, Pat Mueller  
and The Chancel Choir

**Live Stream: 8:15 am** Deb Butts, Eric  
Chandler, and Daniel Chandler

**10:45 am:** Diane Borgwardt

**Lector:**

**8:15 am:** John Parsons

**10:45 am:** Donna Ashby

## **Church Staff**

Jeffrey E. Borgwardt, Pastor

Donna Ashby, Director of Music

John Parsons, Dir. of Youth and Family Min.

Tina Sewell, Secretary

Karen Smith, Bookkeeper

Alex Enich, Maintenance

## **2026 CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

Beverly Bell (*President*)

Randy Cathey (*Vice-President*)

Arlene Hicks (*Secretary*)

Ranette Carter (*Treasurer*)

Jenn Belcourt (*Relationship with God*)

Johnny Davis (*Relationship with Community*)

Mary Stuart (*Relationship with One Another*)

3901 Bill Owens Parkway

Longview, Texas 75605

903-295-7423

[churchsecretary@firstlutheran.us](mailto:churchsecretary@firstlutheran.us)

[www.FirstLutheran.us](http://www.FirstLutheran.us)

***We receive gifts for the mission of the  
congregation and the Church in the world.***

*An offering plate is available in the back of the  
sanctuary. If you prefer to give by credit card  
you may do so at [www.firstlutheran.us/donate](http://www.firstlutheran.us/donate)  
or by scanning the QR code below*



*FLC regularly supports the work of the  
following ministries of our denomination and  
community with financial, volunteer, and food  
offerings:*

*Longview Community Ministries*

*Newgate Mission*

*Living Water International*

*Lutheran World Relief*

*Lutheran Disaster Response*

*For more information on how to get involved  
contact the church office (903)295-7423.*