

Morning Worship
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
February 1, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad (Psalm 126:1-3).

Adoration

Opening Hymn

How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place (TH469)

*How sweet and awesome is the place with Christ within the doors,
while everlasting love displays the choicest of her stores.*

*While all our hearts and all our songs join to admire the feast,
each of us cries, with thankful tongue, "Lord, why was I a guest?*

*"Why was I made to hear your voice, and enter while there's room,
when thousands make a wretched choice, and rather starve than come?"*

*'Twas the same love that spread the feast that sweetly drew us in;
else we had still refused to taste, and perished in our sin.*

*Pity the nations, O our God, constrain the earth to come;
send your victorious Word abroad, and bring the strangers home.*

*We long to see your churches full, that all the chosen race
may, with one voice and heart and soul, sing your redeeming grace.*

Invocation

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Confession

Call to Confession

"Neither allow the magnitude of your sins, nor the fact that you sin repeatedly discourage you from praying for the forgiveness of sins. Where then do you wish to turn? Do you wish to remain in this wretched condition? Do you know of a different way? You must have forgiveness, and therefore you must pray for it. Therefore, turn to the Lord against whom you have sinned. Confess your sins before Him, humble yourself before Him, and pray for forgiveness, for our God is not harsh and unyielding. Rather, He is 'merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth' (Exo. 34:6)."

- Wilhelmus a Brakel, *The Christian's Reasonable Service*, vol. 3, p. 569

Corporate Confession of Sin

Holy God, you said that you are the Light of the World, yet we still refuse to let you into the darkest places of our lives. You said that you are the Good Shepherd, but we fail to follow where you lead. We are sheep that have gone astray. You said that you are the Bread of Life, but we seek out other things to satisfy us. You said that you are the Way, but we often make our own paths. You said that you are the Truth, but we find ways to deceive ourselves and others. You said that you are Life. Forgive us and help us to embrace the mercy, forgiveness, and grace that you offer us so that we can have an abundant life with you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Silent Confession of Sin

Assurance

Assurance of Pardon

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David (Isaiah 55:1-3).

Thanksgiving

Offertory

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Offertory Prayer

Petition and Intercession

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer for the Salvation of Others

Instruction

Hymn of Preparation

My Worth is Not In What I Own

*My worth is not in what I own; not in the strength of flesh and bone.
But in the costly wounds of love at the cross.*

*My worth is not in skill or name; in win or lose, in pride or shame.
But in the blood of Christ that flowed at the cross.*

Chorus: *I rejoice in my Redeemer – Greatest treasure, Well-spring of my soul.
I will trust in Him, no other; my soul is satisfied in Him alone.*

*As summer flowers we fade and die; Fame, youth and beauty hurry by.
But life eternal calls to us at the cross.*

*I will not boast in wealth or might, or human wisdom's fleeting light.
But I will boast in knowing Christ at the cross.* Chorus

*Two wonders here that I confess: My worth and my unworthiness.
My value fixed – my ransom paid at the cross.* Chorus X2

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Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:28-31

Leader: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 11:23-31

Leader: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Hebrews 11:23-12:3

Communion

Hymn of Preparation

He Will Hold Me Fast

*When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.*

Chorus: *He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;*

For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

*Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. Chorus*

*For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last! Chorus*

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Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Sursum Corda

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And with your spirit.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is good and right to do so.

We welcome to Communion (also called The Lord's Table or The Eucharist) all baptized Christians who have received and are resting on Jesus alone for salvation, and are communing members of any church that faithfully proclaims the gospel. If that does not currently describe you, we invite you to participate by observing but not partaking of the elements – in part because of the warnings Scripture gives those who partake of the Supper without discerning its spiritual significance; but also because we don't want you to express something with your body that isn't true of your heart and mind, namely, that you're trusting in and depending on Jesus as your Lord and Savior. We invite you to take this time to consider what you've seen and heard in the worship service, including Jesus' love for sinners as it is portrayed in this meal. There's also a prayer below for those considering Christianity that you might wish to pray. If this raises questions or concerns, we welcome them and invite you to address them to our pastor or elders.

Prayer for those searching for truth: Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If you are real, please open my heart and mind to the truth of who you are and what you have done in your life, death, and resurrection. Give me faith to trust you for salvation and satisfaction, and to follow you as my Lord. Help me to see this as the only way to the life you promise and for which I long. Amen.

Prayer for Christians: Lord, you have prepared for me a feast; and though I am unworthy to sit down as a guest, I rest on the merits of Jesus, and come clothed in his righteousness. While I see the bread and the cup, may I ponder why Jesus died and hear him say, "I gave my life to purchase yours, presented myself as an offering to satisfy divine justice, shed my blood to blot out your guilt, opened my side to make you clean, endured your curses to set you free." May I obey, extend the hand, take the bread, receive the cup, eat and drink, testify before all that I gladly receive Jesus to be my life, strength, nourishment, joy, delight. In the Supper give me assurance of pardon, adoption, life, and glory. As the outward elements nourish my body, may your Spirit invigorate my soul, until that day when I hunger and thirst no more, and sit with Jesus at his heavenly feast. Amen.

- excerpted and adapted from *Valley of Vision*, "The Lord's Supper"

Charge and Blessing

Closing Hymn

*This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears,
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.*

This Is My Father's World (TH111)

*This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world: he shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me everywhere.*

*This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: the battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heav'n be one.*

Benediction