

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 1, 2026

*“The Living Response to God’s Grace”*

## THE WELCOME

### THE OPENING HYMN #848 *“Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service”*



1 Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice Bore the weight of  
2 Still Your chil - dren wan - der home-less; Still the hun - gry  
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, Till Your love's re -  
4 Called by wor - ship to Your ser - vice, Forth in Your dear



hu - man need, Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,  
cry for bread; Still the cap - tives long for free - dom;  
veal - ing light In its height and depth and great - ness,  
name we go, To the child, the youth, the a - ged,



Of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed, We, Your ser - vants, bring the  
Still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, Your deep com -  
Dawns up - on our quick-en ed sight, Mak - ing known the needs and  
Love in liv - ing deeds to show; Hope and health, good - will and



wor - ship Not of voice a - lone, but heart, Con - se -  
pas - sion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the  
bur - dens Your com - pas - sion bids us bear, Stir - ring  
com - fort, Coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, That Your



crat - ing to Your pur - pose Ev - 'ry gift that You im - part.  
love Your Spir - it kin - dles Still to save and make us whole.  
us to tire - less striv - ing, Your a - bun - dant life to share.  
ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom May Your mer - cy know and live.

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*(please stand)*

## THE INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☧ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Peace be with you!

C: Amen. Thanks be to God!

*(please be seated)*

## THE INTROIT OF THE DAY Psalm 1; *antiphon*: Psalm 1:6 (ESV)

P: For the Lord knows the way of the righteous

C: **but the way of the wicked will perish.**

P: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,

C: **nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;**

P: but his delight is in the Lord's instruction,

C: **and on His law he meditates day and night.**

P: He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.

C: **In all that he does, he prospers.**

P: The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

C: **Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**

P: For the Lord knows the way of the righteous

C: **but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## THE HYMN OF PRAISE “Glory to God in the Highest” (page 154 in the hymnal)

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

C: (sung) Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY (page 156 in the hymnal)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: (sung) And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sung) Amen.

## THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Micah 6:1-8 (ESV)

Listen to what the LORD says: “Stand up, plead your case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say. Hear, O mountains, the LORD’s accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the LORD has a case against His people; He is lodging a charge against Israel. My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer Me. I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam. My people, remember what Balak king of Moab counseled and what Balaam son of Beor answered. Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD. With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## THE EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (ESV)

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate” [Is. 29:14]. Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know Him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength. Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him. It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.” [Jeremiah 9:24]

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*(please stand)*

**THE VERSE** *(sung) (page 156 in the hymnal)*

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 5:1-12 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C: *(sung)* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Seeing the crowds, He went up on the mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him. And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**THE NICENE CREED**

I 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 men 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 sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I 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 I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*(please be seated)*

## THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### THE HYMN OF THE DAY #842 "Son of God, Eternal Savior"



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and  
2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and

truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us  
oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;  
Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,  
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us

Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in  
Free-ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the  
Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of  
Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your

glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your  
sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards  
toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered  
will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our

love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.  
of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.  
thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

### THE SERMON "The Living Response to God's Grace" Text: Micah 6:1-8

### THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

## THE HYMN #612 "As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered"



1 As rebels, Lord, who foolishly have wandered  
2 Still we return, our contrite words rehearsing,  
3 A feast of love for us You are preparing;  
Far from Your love— unfed, unclean, unclothed—  
Speech, that within Your warm embrace soon dies;  
We who were lost, You give an honored place!

Dare we recall Your wealth so rashly squandered,  
All of our guilt, our shame, our pain reversing  
“Come, eat; come, drink, and be no more despairing—

Dare hope to glean that bounty which we loathed?  
As tears of joy and welcome fill Your eyes.  
Here taste again the treasures of My grace.”

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*(please stand)*

## THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*(Each petition concludes with the response: "Let us pray to the Lord", "Lord, have mercy."*

### THE PREFACE *(responses are sung)*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, . . . . Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:

**Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## 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.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE PEACE

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

C: *(sung)* Amen.

*(please be seated)*

## THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

## #636 “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness” (verses 1-5)

A musical staff in common time with a key signature of two sharps. It consists of eight notes: a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, and a half note.

A musical staff in treble clef, 2 sharps, and common time. The staff consists of eight measures. The first measure has a quarter note. The second measure has two eighth notes. The third measure has a quarter note. The fourth measure has a quarter note. The fifth measure has a quarter note. The sixth measure has a quarter note. The seventh measure has a quarter note. The eighth measure has a quarter note.

gloom - y      haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day - light's  
lov - ing      rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -  
cost nor      pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of  
this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is  
friend, and dear - est trea - sure, Peace be - yond all un - der -

splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - - der.  
mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - - tal.  
heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - - en.  
bound-less Though the souls it feeds are count - - less.  
stand - ing, Joy in - to all life ex - pand - - ing;

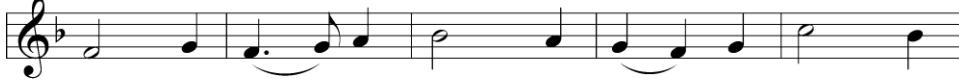
Bless the One whose grace un-bound - ed This a - maz - ing  
O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you  
Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the  
With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to  
Hum - bly now, I bow be - fore You; Love in - car - nate,

ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and  
there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -  
gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you  
us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -  
I a - dore You; Wor - thi - ly let me re -

A musical staff in common time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of eight notes: a quarter note, a eighth note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a eighth note, a eighth note, a eighth note, and a quarter note.

ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.  
ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.  
riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.  
la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!  
ceive You And, so fa - vored, nev - er leave You.

**#851 "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"**



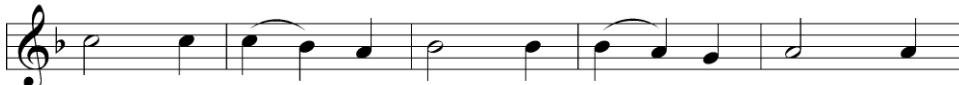
1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your  
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,  
 3 Won - drous hon - or You have giv - en To our  
 4 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your



life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the  
 free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your  
 hum - blest char - i - ty In Your own mys - te - rious  
 life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the



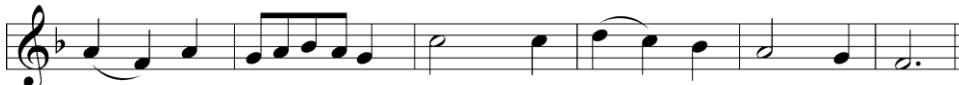
lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;  
 good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone  
 sen - tence, "You have done it all to Me."  
 lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings  
 Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by  
 Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That You  
 Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to

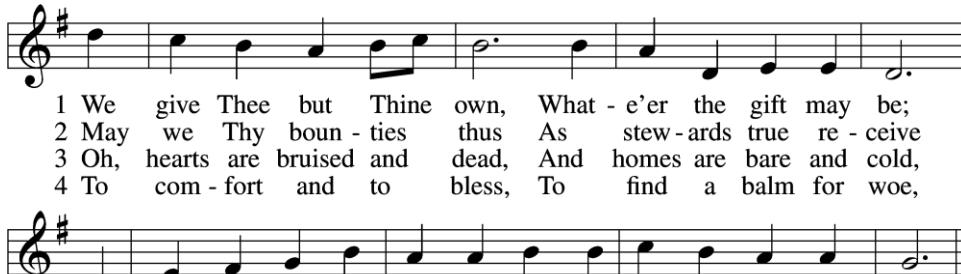


count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful  
 You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py  
 deign for alms to sue, Say - ing by Your  
 stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of



and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.  
 and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.  
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?  
 all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

## #781 "We Give Thee But Thine Own"



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive  
3 Oh, hearts are bruised and dead, And homes are bare and cold,  
4 To com - fort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,

All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.  
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!  
And lambs for whom the Shep-herd bled Are stray-ing from the fold.  
To tend the lone and fa - ther-less Is an - gels' work be - low.

**5 The captive to release,  
To God the lost to bring,  
To teach the way of life and peace,  
It is a Christ-like thing.**

**6 And we believe Thy Word,  
Though dim our faith may be:  
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,  
We do it unto Thee.**

*(please stand)*

## THE DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart  $\bowtie$  in peace.

C: Amen.

## THE POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come . . . through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## THE BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24-26*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance on you and  $\bowtie$  give you peace.

C: Amen.

*(please be seated)*

## THE ANNOUNCEMENTS