



January 11, 2026, 10:00 am  
Sunday after Epiphany



## GATHERING

*The Spirit Calls Us Together*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Karen Moore

Affirmation of Baptism

Loving God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, nourished us in the community of faith, and sent us to carry out the work of Jesus in the world.

Uphold and strengthen us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism. We ask this in the name of Christ.

**Amen.**

Rejoicing in the gifts of baptism, do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

Do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth as your beloved children.

Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the love of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn

### "Shall We Gather at the River"

ELW 423

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

(Refrain:) Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,  
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. (Refrain)

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. (Refrain)

Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. (Refrain)

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

## Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

## Hymn of Praise

### "Now the Feast and Celebration"

ELW 167

(Refrain:) Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and freedom; praise and glory forevermore!

Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has freed and united us  
to be one great people of God. (Refrain)

Power and riches, wisdom and might,  
all honor and glory to Christ forever. (Refrain)

For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God;  
to make all things new. (Refrain)

Text: Marty Haugen b. 1950 Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.  
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## Prayer of the Day

## Special Music

Karen Moore

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### First Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup>He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; <sup>3</sup>a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. <sup>4</sup>He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. <sup>5</sup>Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: <sup>6</sup>I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, <sup>7</sup>to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. <sup>8</sup>I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. <sup>9</sup>See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

<sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**Hymn of the Day**

*Baptized in the Water*

ELW 456

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:  
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our king:  
one with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our king:  
born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Saward, b. 1932; Text © 1982 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

**Affirmation of Faith**

**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.

**The Prayers of the People**

As petitions conclude: "God of grace," please respond "**hear our prayer.**"

**Sharing of God's Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus*

**Offering & Offering Prayer**

## Great Thanksgiving

Presider: The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give

Congregation: thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider: It is our duty and delight...and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW 191

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;  
heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in your name.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

## Words of Institution

**Lord's Prayer** (*Please feel free to pray your preferred version of the Lord's Prayer*)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

## Communion

(Refrain:) Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
blow through the wilderness calling and free;  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,  
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;  
and over the eons you called to each thing:  
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." (Refrain)

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,  
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;  
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,  
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. (Refrain)

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,  
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;  
and down in the city you called once again,  
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. (Refrain)

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.  
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;  
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions your people arise. (Refrain)

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940; Text © 1978 James K. Manley, admin. Augsburg Fortress..

## Communion Blessing

## Post-Communion Prayer

**SENDING**  
Blessing

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

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
manifested by the star to the sages from afar,  
branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem:  
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy word;  
grace to imitate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;  
that we might become like thee at thy great epiphany,  
and may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, alt.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*(Following worship, setup for Sunday Supper takes place in the Fellowship Hall  
and making sack lunches takes place in the Library.)*

**We Hold in Prayer this Week**

Those Grieving: Family & friends of Kevin Browne; Family & friends of Dan Erickson.

God's Healing Presence: Jean Lilley; Kathy Trosvig; Steve Olsen; Mary Beck; Pat Krassin; Sheryn Todd; Elizabeth Ritchie; Gayle & Dave's niece Amanda; Beth's friend Kamm & sister-in-law, Megan; Debbie's friend Larry & cousin David; Surridges' friends Barby & Larry & Marc Walkden; Ed & Evie Bishop; Peggy & Dave's friend Martin Olson; Joan's father; Debbie's Aunt Jennie & Uncle Bill; Dave's friend, Julie Bolser, and niece, Leile Defolo.

Prayers for our world, nation, and communities: For immigrants living in fear. For nations and peoples in the midst of warfare. For refugees seeking safety.

**Announcements**

The Annual Meeting of Central Lutheran Church is Sunday, January 25, following worship. Business items for the meeting include electing three Congregation Council Members, adopting the 2026 budget, and amending Central's constitution to conform with required sections of the ELCA Model Constitution.

Budget Forum In preparation for the Annual Meeting, there will be a Budget Forum this morning following worship in the Friendship Room. The goal of this forum is to answer questions regarding the budget prior to the Annual Meeting.

Pastor Jim's last Sunday is next week January 18. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after service for a celebration to honor and thank him for his service to our church community, and wish him well on his next adventures in retirement.

January Mission of the Month: Share and Care Fund The Care and Share fund is a discretionary fund used to help people with short-term financial needs. Often, helping to cover one month's rent, or paying a utility bill keeps a family or individual from experiencing greater and greater financial difficulties. The Congregation Council added the Care and Share fund to the Mission of the Month list this year to allow Central to assist the growing number of people facing financial difficulties.

## This Week at Central

### Sunday, January 11

8:45 am Choir Rehearsal  
9:15 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Central Lutheran Worship  
11:15 am Budget Forum  
1:00 pm Looking for Jesus Prayer Group  
2:30 pm Marshallese Worship  
5:00 pm Sunday Supper  
7:00 pm Marshallese Fellowship

### Monday, January 12

9:30 am Quilters

### Tuesday, January 13

5:00 pm Academia Latina  
6:00 pm Council Meeting

### Wednesday, January 14

8:00 am Lutheran Counseling Network  
7:00 pm Marshallese Fellowship

### Thursday, January 15

8:00 am Lutheran Counseling Network  
5:00 pm Academia Latina  
7:00 pm Marshallese Fellowship

### Sunday, January 18

8:45 am Choir Rehearsal  
9:15 am Sunday School  
9:30 am Friends Worship  
10:00 am Central Lutheran Worship  
11:00 am Pastor Jim's Retirement  
Celebration  
1:00 pm Looking for Jesus Prayer Group  
2:30 pm Marshallese Worship  
5:00 pm Sunday Supper  
7:00 pm Marshallese Fellowship

Worship Leaders	This Sunday, January 11	Next Sunday, January 18
Keyboard	Joan Dirska	Joan Dirska
Usher	Dave Finstad	Dave Finstad
Lector	Elijah Lickneckert	Dave Kurtz
Assisting Minister	Jonathan Todd	TBA
Communion Bread	Beth Kendall	Beth Kendall
Fellowship Host	TBA	TBA
Altar Guild	Pam Gleave	Pam Gleave