

**Welcome to Lord of Life  
Lutheran Church  
January 25, 2026  
Third Sunday after Epiphany**



*Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.*

**Welcome:** Lord of Life Lutheran Church’s long-standing credo is “We share God’s Love”.

LoL provides a welcoming and safe place for worship, comfort, solace, and reflection. We are called by Jesus to love God and one another: to practice radical hospitality, and to serve all without reservation, stipulations or regard to your race, ethnic background, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, or where you are in your faith journey. You are a unique and beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us in worship and communion and be part of our commitment to anti-racism, social and economic justice and environmental care.

**Worship:** *Communion:* All are welcome to share in Holy Communion.

*Passing of the Peace:* It is ok to greet those sitting near you. Please remember people have different levels of personal space which may vary from day to day and situation to situation. You can be respectful by asking, “May I hug you?” or “Would you like a handshake.”

*Physical Distancing:* It is still important to be aware of distancing. Pews along the sides of the church near the stained-glass windows are for people who want space; please space yourselves accordingly.

**Children Welcome:** Kids of all ages are welcome in service, and we celebrate their joyful wiggles and giggles! There are kids bags in the back of the sanctuary.

*Information, service & liturgy instructions are shown in italic or **bold italic** type on the following pages.*

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the leaders are shown in plain type.*

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the assembly are shown in **bold type**.*

## ***PRELUDE***

### ***Gathering***

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#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

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**

***I Love to Tell a Story***

***ELW 661***

1 I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else would do.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the story;  
'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

2 I love to tell the story:  
how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it,  
more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story,  
for some have never heard  
the message of salvation  
from God's own holy word.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the story;  
'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

3 I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory,  
I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story  
that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the story;  
'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

***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***

Lord God, your loving kindness always goes before us and follows  
after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways  
of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*All are seated*

**First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4**

*The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.*

<sup>1</sup> There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm: Psalm 27:1, 4-9**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>4</sup> **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

<sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup> **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.**

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup> **My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”  
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

*Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God’s salvation.*

<sup>10</sup> Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup> For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

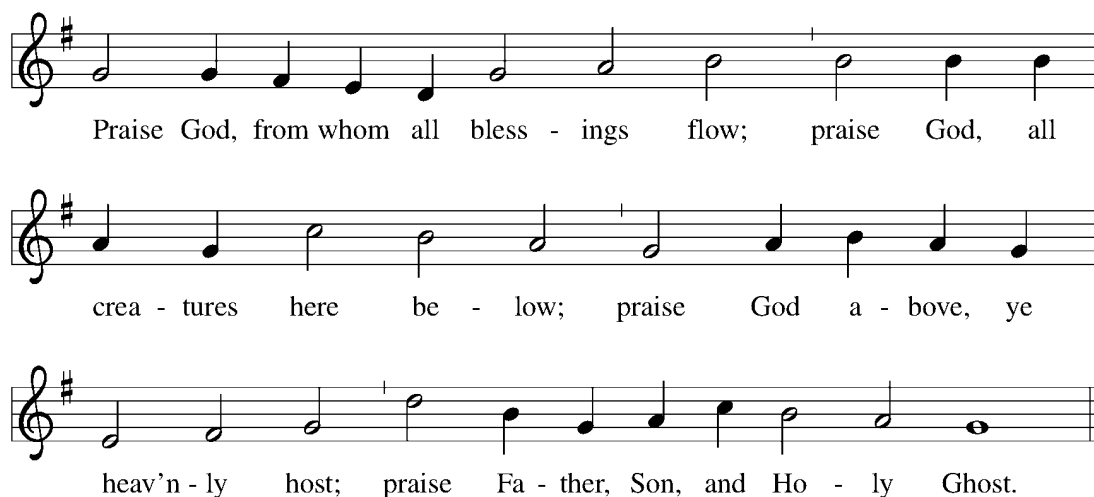
<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***

*The assembly stands as they are comfortable*



**Alleluia.** Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom **and cured every sickness among the people. Alleluia.** (Matt. 4:23)

### ***THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 4:12-23***

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fourth chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the  
gentiles—

<sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

<sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into



the sea—for they were fishers. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

*All are seated*

***SERMON***

**Brandon Fuhr**

***HYMN OF THE DAY***

***The Summons***

***John L Bell***

***Response to the Word***

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*The assembly stands as they are comfortable.*

***THE APOSTLE’S CREED***

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle’s 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 power of 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**

*All are seated.*

## ***THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH***

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*A brief silence.*

Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide the newly baptized and deepen the faith of all who follow Christ. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth's resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick especially Nancy, Jenna, Art, Aimee, Donna, Ken, Vernetta, Roberta, Judy, Linda, Paul, Toni, Kerry, Jim, Caryl, and Gale. We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters. Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy Savior, you free us from the power of death. Lead and guide us until we come at last into the communion of all your saints in light. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.  
**Amen.**

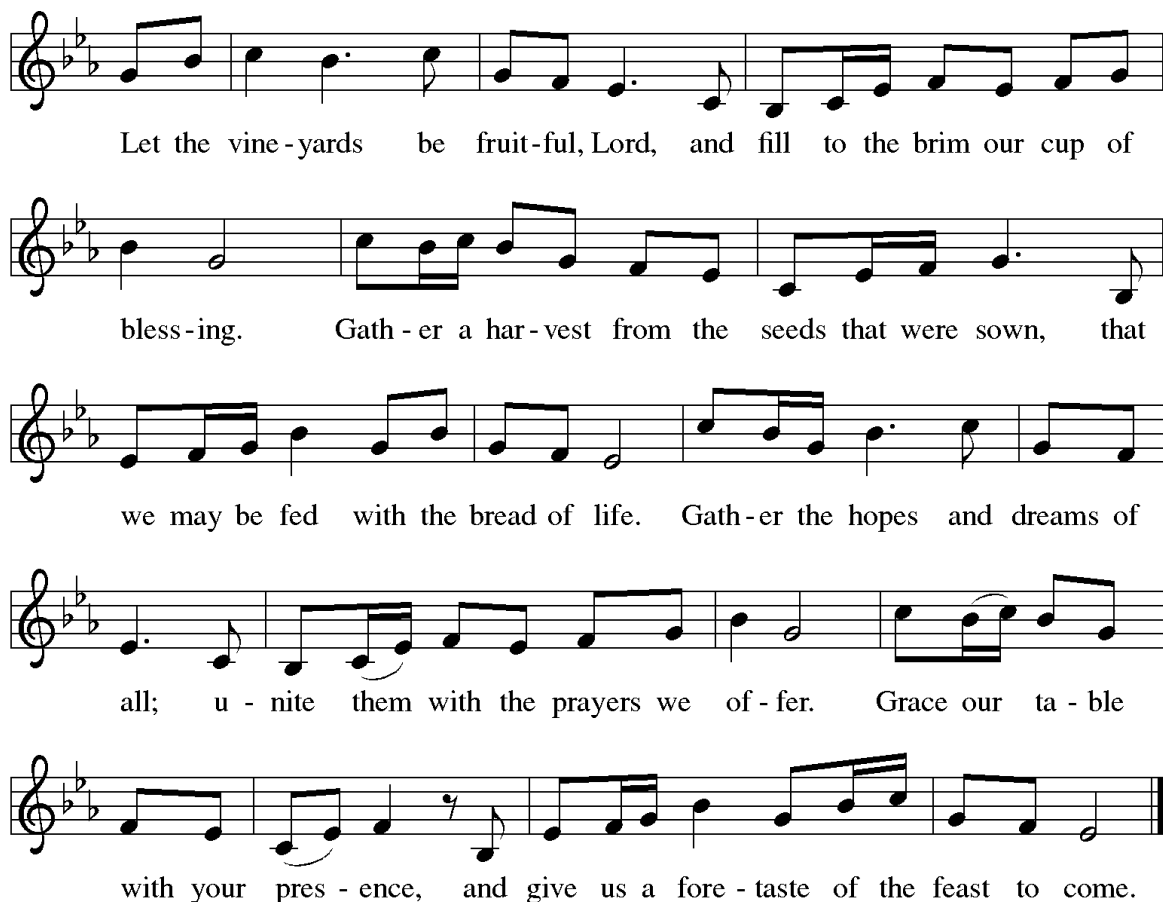
### ***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE***

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The assembly greets one another in the name of the Lord with phrases like “**Peace be with you.**” If you have your phone available, text a word of peace to someone who is worshiping alone.*

## **OFFERING AND PRAYER**

*The offering plate is brought forward as a sign of the good gifts, ourselves included, God has given us.*

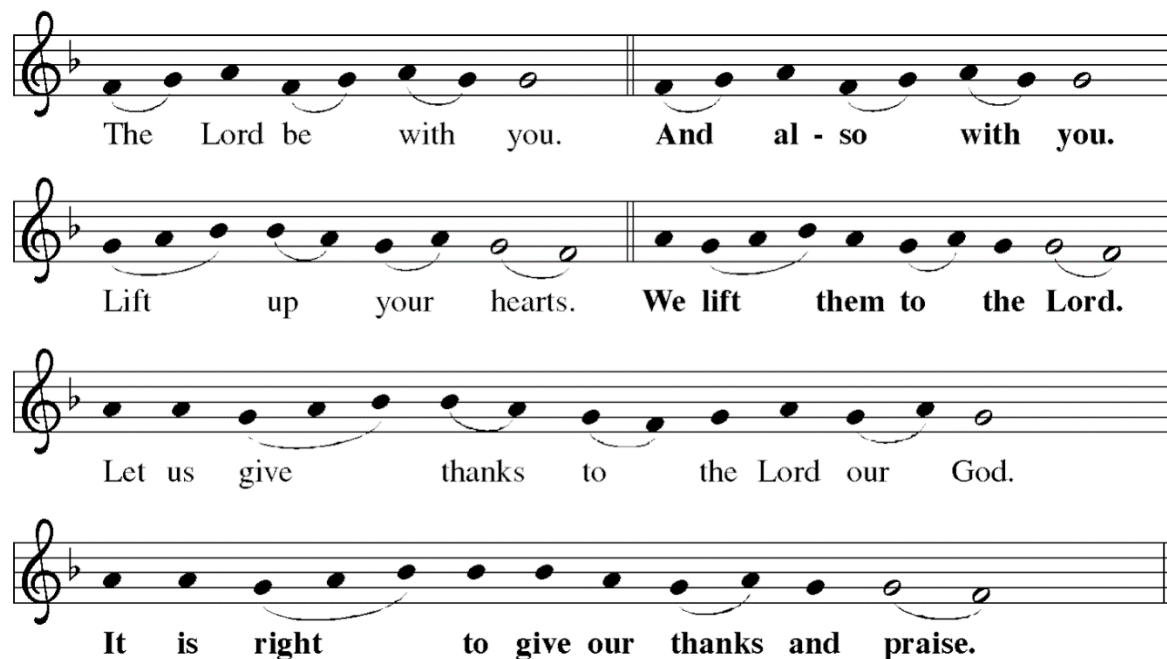


Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

God of majesty,  
no eye has seen, no ear has heard  
what you have prepared for those who love you,  
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.  
Use what we have gathered  
to feed us with the reign of God come near,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## *Meal*

*The assembly stands as they are comfortable.*



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

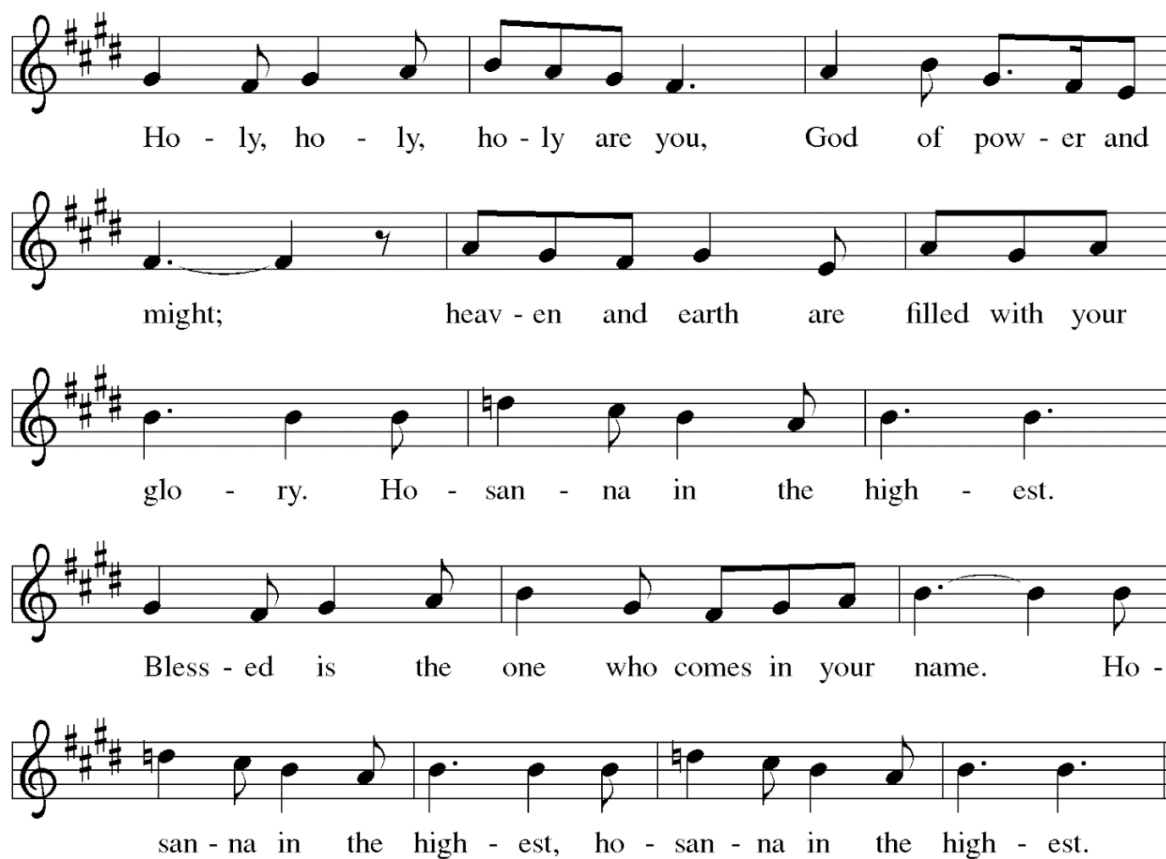
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## ***PREFACE AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER...***

*join their unending hymn*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The minister continues the eucharistic prayer.  
....We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:*

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

### ***LORD'S PRAYER***

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us *pray* the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**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. Amen.**

### ***INVITATION TO COMMUNION***

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

### ***COMMUNION***

*All are seated. Please take time to prepare yourselves and your communion elements.*

*We prioritize people with mobility issues. We invite you to come forward in your own time and take a position at the altar that is most accessible for you.*

## ***SONG DURING COMMUNION***

## ***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION***

Radiant God,  
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In the sacrament of his body and blood  
you have drawn us to your heart.  
Send us from this table with delight,  
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,  
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## ***Sending***

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## ***BLESSING***

May the triune God,  
who has put a new song in your mouth  
and tuned your heart for praise  
bless you now and forever.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,  
The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace.  
**Amen**

***SENDING HYMN Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ ELW 674***

- 1 Let us talents and tongues employ,  
reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

*Refrain*

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

- 2 Christ is able to make us one,  
at the table he sets the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless,  
love in word and in deed express.

*Refrain*

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

- 3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere!

*Refrain*

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!



## ***DISMISSAL***

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

## ***POSTLUDE***

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Litanies of Welcome and Farewell-Interim Ministry Network, Baltimore, Maryland

**Presiding Minister**

**Guest Minister**

**Assisting Minister**

Lector

Pianist

Guitarist

Greeters

Ushers

Acolyte

Video

Pastor Adam Dowd

Brandon Fuhr

Bob and Elsy Eggert

Art Kardatzke

Christopher Vincent and Pastor Adam Dowd

Bruce Danielson

Marilynn Sells and Debbie McNichols

Alice Tangorra

Arlene Danielson and Sherry Sejnost

## **Announcements 1-25-2026**

**Wine and Candles** this month are provided by **Jan Treibachs** in memory of family members.

**God's Work our Hands** As the cold weather settles in, we're gathering socks, hats, gloves, and hygiene items for South Loop Community Table. Every small gift brings comfort, dignity, and warmth to someone facing a difficult season. Donations can be placed in the wooden chest in the narthex throughout the month. Thank you for sharing Christ's love in such a practical, compassionate way.

**Chicago Wolves** Save February 15th for an afternoon of exciting Chicago hockey with the Wolves. Today is the last day to sign up. If

you are interested, please call the office 630-323-3161, email lordlifesecc@gmail.com or sign up in the Sanctuary.

**Annual Meeting** The **Annual Meeting** will be held on **today** after service.

**Valentine Making** Stay after worship on Sunday, February 1, 2026 to help make valentines for the residents of Sunrise of Willowbrook. All ages are welcome and supplies will be provided. Your creativity will brighten someone's day.

**Lunch Bunch** We will meet at 3 Corners, 7231 Lemont Road, Downers Grove on **Tuesday, February 10 2026 at 11:30 AM**. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Sandy Waechter at 630-853-2437. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.

**Shrove Tuesday** ~~Shrove Tuesday~~ Let's celebrate Shrove Tuesday together. There will be a dinner in the Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, Feb 17 at 6 PM** followed by a game. The committee will make Sloppy Joes. If you wish to attend, please sign the sheet at the back of the sanctuary and bring a dish to pass. All are welcome to join the committee to organize the event. We will meet on Sunday February 8 after service. If you have any questions, please reach out to Judy Padera and Arlene Danielson who are the event coordinators.

**Ash Wednesday** There will be two services for **Ash Wednesday**. The **11:00 am service** will be held at **Lord of Life** and the **7:00 pm service** will be held at **Christ Lutheran Church** in Clarendon Hills

**Please pray for members:**

Nancy Urban	Jenna Suda	Art Sejnost
Aimee Jimenez	Donna Motes	Ken Gulliford
Vern Sima	Kerry Spitznagle	Roberta Sejnost

Judy Padera  
Toni Blesy  
Gale Dyskie

Linda Matta  
Jim Eckwall

Paul Ristau  
Caryl Schaer

A full list of relatives, friends, and military personnel for whom we pray is emailed weekly on Friday.

**Last Week's Giving – \$1943.00**

**Electronic Donation for the month of December- \$1343.82**

### **THIS WEEK AT LORD OF LIFE**

Sunday	1/25	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>
		<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b>
		12:00 PM	Loving Word
Tuesday	1/27	5:00 PM	Overeaters Anonymous
Wednesday	1/28	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
		7:00 PM	One Day at a Time
Friday	1/30	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>Cards</b>
Saturday	1/31	9:00 AM	SDA
Sunday	2/1	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>
		12:00 PM	Loving Word