



FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third & Terry, Longmont, Colorado
(303) 776-2800 | www.firstluth.org
Pastor Garrett Struessel and Deacon Korra Looschen

Ordinary Time

4th Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday, February 1, 2026
9:30 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION



Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \dagger 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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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 \dagger Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"As We Gather at Your Table"

ELW 522

As We Gather at Your Table

ELW 522

1. As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 wheretri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing - joy.

IN BABILON

8 7 8 7 D

Text: Calr P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: *Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlenties en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Rontgen, 1855-1932

Text: © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

ANTHEM

"This House of Worship" by Serino/Callaway

Chancel Choir

WORD

READINGS

Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

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. ⁵ 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." ⁶ "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? ⁷ 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?" ⁸ 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?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for be-

lievers.

¹⁸ 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.¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”²⁰ 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?²¹ 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.²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom,²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles,²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.²⁶ 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.²⁷ 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;²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are,²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God.³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

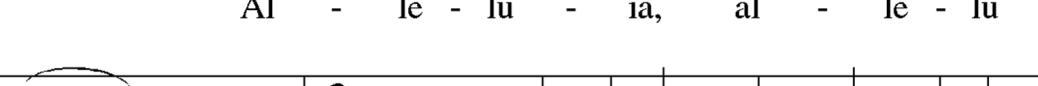
CHILDRENS TIME

Deacon Korra Looschen

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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C 

P 

Repeat alleluia

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th chapter beginning at the 1st verse.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² 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.

SERMON

Bishop Meghan Johnston Aelabouni

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

The following people have been elected by the First Lutheran Congregation to positions of leadership and responsibility:

Dorotha Ekx, Andrew Howell, Rick Samson, Eric Pederson, Bill Campbell, Kayla Morelli, John Gaddis, John Oppenlander, Al Manley . We give thanks for your willingness to serve.

Jesus said, “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” In baptism, we receive the Holy Spirit, and we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We rejoice now that these *sisters and brothers* will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (*1 Corinthians 12:4-7*)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

Please join me in confessing our faith, using the words of the 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.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your *elected* leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

I now declare you installed as *Congregation Council members* of this congregation.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful God

Receive our prayer

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Peace of the Lord be with you always

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Page 107

The Lord be with you. And also 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, our duty and our joy....we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

HOLY HOLY HOLY

Page 108

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

SHARING OF COMMUNION

All are welcome who come trusting in the gift of God's presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation shared in this meal. "The body of Christ, broken for you", and "the blood of Christ shed for you", include the promise of forgiveness, life and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

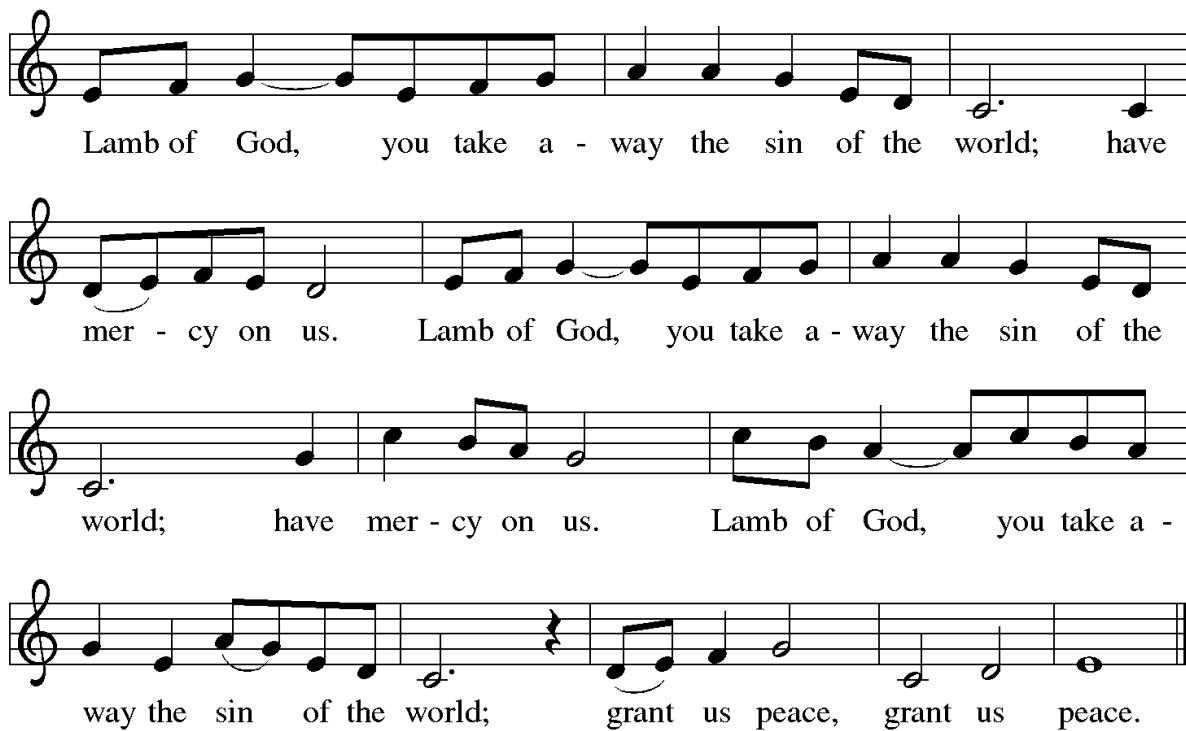
Hear these words and partake of the bread/cracker and wine/juice, giving it to each other, if possible:

"The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you."

All are welcome who come trusting in the gift of God's presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, shared in this meal. "The body of Christ, broken for you", and "the blood of Christ shed for you", include the promise of the forgiveness of sin, life and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord. The ushers will invite you to come forward for communion. We invite everyone to receive communion if you so desire. The invitation to receive Holy Communion is from Christ Jesus; therefore "all are welcome". In our serving communion trays, wine is darker red on the outside, and grape juice is the lighter color in the center. We serve only gluten-free bread prepared in a kitchen excluding wheat flour, to include everyone regardless of wheat-gluten sensitivities. Come, taste and see, that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD

Page 112



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

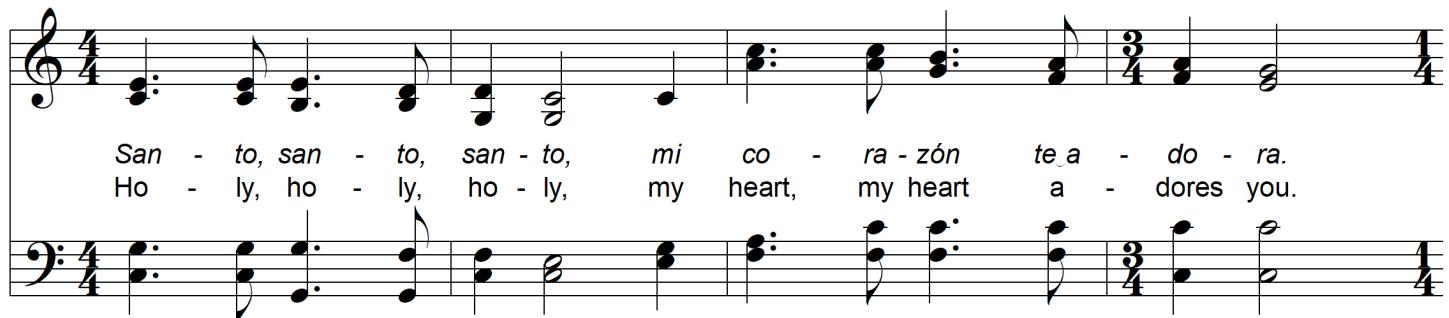
ELW 473 - 3x

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

ELW 471

"Oh, Praise the Gracious Power"

ELW 651



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - tole - res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

1. Let us break bread together on our knees: _____
 2. Let us drink wine together on our knees, _____
 3. Let us praise God together on our knees: _____

let us break bread together on our knees: _____
 let us drink wine together on our knees, _____
 let us praise God together on our knees: _____

Refrain

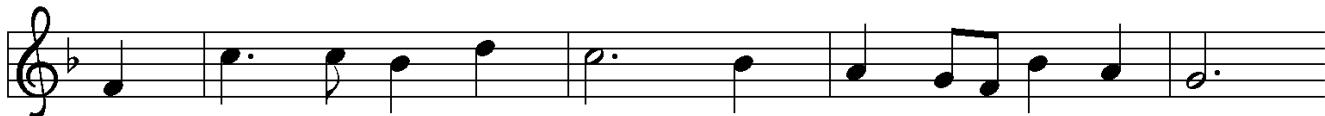
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, _____

sun, _____. Lord have mercy on me.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: African American spiritual

BREAK BREAD TOGETHER
 10 10 and refrain

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power



1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear
2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds
3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,
4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:
and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:
ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:
a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:
with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

Refrain



We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,
the love, the word, the tide.
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,
praise Christ the crucified: *Refrain*

7 Oh, praise the living Christ
with faith's bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world
and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: CHRISTPRAISE RAY, Carol Doran, b. 1936

Text and music from *New Hymns for the Lectionary*, © 1984 Oxford University Press, Inc.

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COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

"Rise Up, O Saints of God"

ELW 669

SENDING

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Preacher	Bishop Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA
Presider	The Rev. Garrett Struessel
Worship Assistant	Deacon Korra Looschen
Council Members	Dorotha Ekx Rick Samson
Ushers	Tim King John Osberg
Reader	Shannon Satur
Communion Assistants	Ann Hinman
Choir Director	Sally Campbell
Pianist/Organist	Gary Elmquist

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

ELW 669

1. Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn;
 2. Speak out, O saints of God! De-spair en-gulfs earth's frame;
 3. Rise up, O saints of God! The king-dom's task em-brace;
 4. Give heed, O saints of God! Cre-a-tion cries in pain;
 5. Com-mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christose tri-umphant that your hearts with no-blter zeal might burn.
 as heirs of God's bap-tis-mal grace, the word of hope pro-claim.
 re-dress sin's cru-el con-se-quence; give jus-tice larg-er place.
 stretch forth your hand of heal-ing now, with love the weak sus-tain.
 and, quick-ened by the Spir-it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893

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FESTAL SONG

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