

## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026 + 9:30 am



**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**  
2417 Drexel Avenue - Racine, Wisconsin 53403  
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<https://www.facebook.com/LCRRacine>



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.

### GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

*We gather today on the ancestral lands of the Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, Ojééhi Šakówi, Kickapoo, and Peoria peoples. We honor and acknowledge the traditional stewards of this land, recognizing their enduring connection to this region. As we come together in worship, let us commit ourselves to respecting their history and culture, and work toward healing and justice for Indigenous communities. May we be mindful of our role in creating a more equitable future for all.*

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his

authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Gathering Song

### “Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace” ELW 716



1 Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace to love all  
2 Break down the wall that would di - vide thy chil - dren,  
3 For - give me, Lord, where I have erred by love - less  
4 Give me thy cour - age, Lord, to speak when - ev - er  
5 With thine own love may I be filled and by thy



peo - ple, ev - 'ry race; and in each per - son may I  
Lord, on ev - 'ry side. My neigh - bor's good let me pur -  
act and thought - less word. Make me to see the wrong I  
strong op - press the weak. Should I my - self the vic - tim  
Ho - ly Spir - it willed, that all I touch, wher - e'er I



see my kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by thee.  
sue; let Chris - tian love bind warm and true.  
do will cru - ci - fy my Lord a - new.  
be, help me for - give, re - mem - b'ring thee.  
be, may be di - vine - ly touched by thee.

Text: Olive Wise Spannaus, b. 1916, alt.  
Music: BEATUS VIR, *Šanotulský Kancionál*, 1561  
Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

### 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.**

# Gloria

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace  
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the  
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,  
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace  
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the  
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God,  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:  
have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right

hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace

to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -

lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

*Final refrain*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

A - men, a - men.

## Prayer of the Day

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.**

## WORD

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

### First Reading

**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.*

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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."

<sup>6</sup> "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? <sup>7</sup> 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?" <sup>8</sup> 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?

*At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.***

### Psalm 15

*LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)*

<sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

<sup>2</sup> **Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,  
who speak the truth | from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup> **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear  
the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back  
their word.**

<sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst  
the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.

## Second Reading

## 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 believers.*

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. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> 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? <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

*At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: **Thanks be to God***

## Gospel Acclamation

*The Assembly may rise in body or spirit as the Gospel is proclaimed.*



## Gospel Announcement

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

# Gospel

**Matthew 5:1-12**

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

- <sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- <sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- <sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- <sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- <sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
- <sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- <sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- <sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- <sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> 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

## Hymn of the Day

*“Rise Up, O Saints of God!” ELW #669*



1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;  
 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's 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;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler 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: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893  
 Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son\*,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

\*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

## Prayers of Intercession

*The Assisting Minister leads the prayers of the people for the church, the world, and all people in need. Each petition ends with:*

**Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

We remember our homebound members and all who have asked for our prayers: Erna Joswig, Joyce Owens, Dorothy Popadic, Pat Quale, Bonnie Ayers, Sue Heckel, Donna Johnson, Linda Bagley, Carmen Falk, Tom Johnson, Mario Miranda, Lynda, Sheila Fair, Cherie Julius, Lynn Hooper, Randy Weit, Aimee and Mark Hooper, Missy Hoffman, Mary Scruggs, Linda Losito, Anne Maley, Judi and Larry Krebs, and Eloise and Larry Laugen, and the family of Dennis Painter (*Teresa Miranda's father*).

## Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## Offering



*Your offering helps us carry on God's mission in our community! You may place your offering in the offering plate as it is passed, you may mail your offering to the church office, you can even text to give by texting the amount you wish to give to 262.592.5757, then follow the prompts. You may also scan the code to the right with your smartphone's camera to give on our website ([www.racinelcredeemer.com](http://www.racinelcredeemer.com)). You can also sign up for automatic giving on our website as well!*

**Thank you for your generosity!**

## Offering Song



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 the 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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948

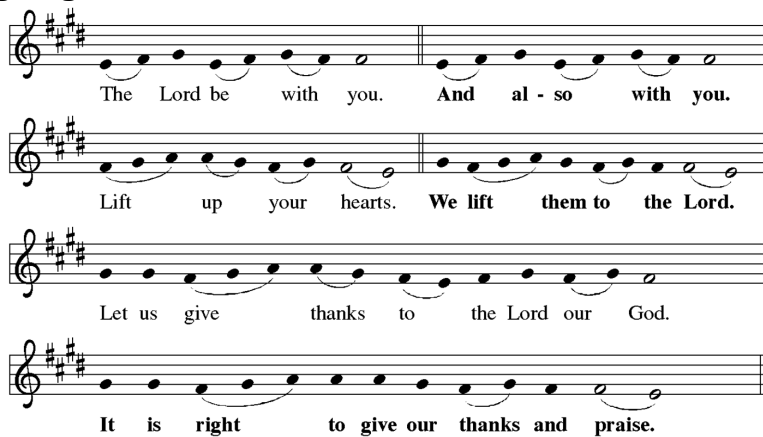
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

## Offertory 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.**

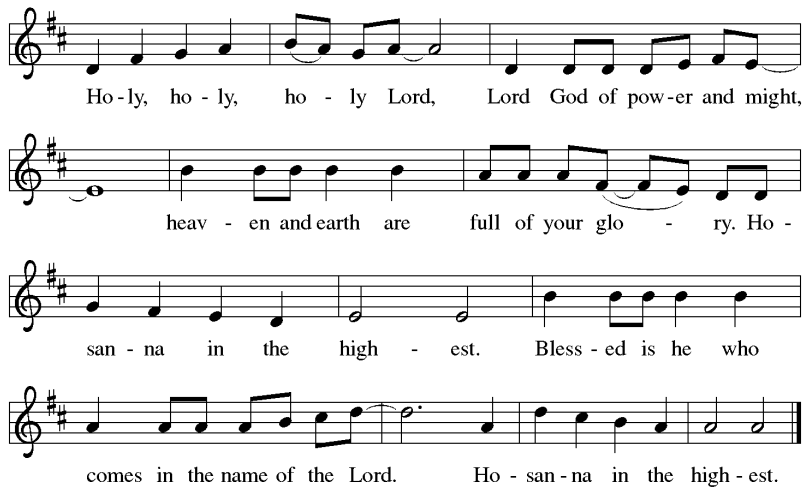
## Great Thanksgiving



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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

.... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Presiding Minister prays giving thanks to God, for God's saving work throughout history.*

*The Assembly responds when prompted:*

The earth is full of your glory

**The earth is full of your glory. ...**

Amen and amen.

**Amen and Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

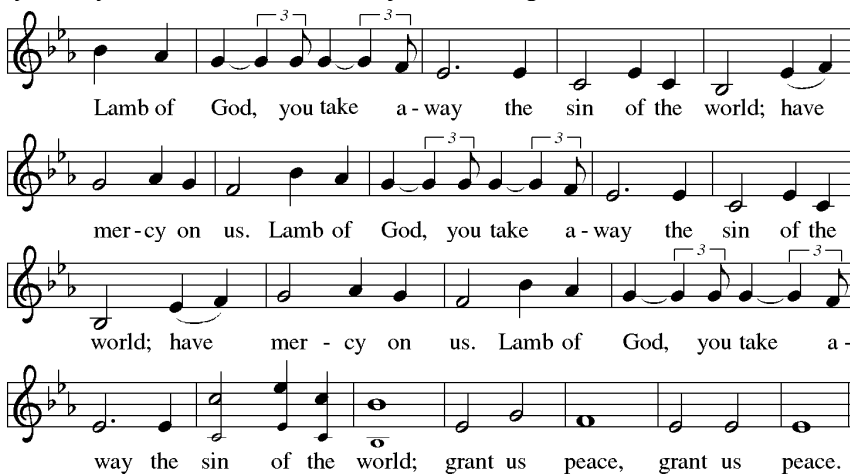
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## Invitation to Communion

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## Distribution of Communion

*If you are worshipping with us at home, you are invited to partake in Communion as well! All you need is bread of any kind and wine or juice of any kind. As you receive the bread: 'This is the Body of Christ given for you.' As you receive the wine or juice: 'This is the Blood of Christ shed for you.' If you are worshipping with more than one person, please serve one another as you able using the above words.*



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 Song

*“Let Justice Flow like Streams” ELW #717*



- 1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar-king wa - ter, pure,
- 2 Let righ-teous-ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans-ing, sure.  
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans-lat - ed in - to deed.  
and jus-tice, right, and peace per-vade this world our whole life through.



Sending Hymn

“Christ, Be Our Light” ELW #715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957  
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell  
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## **This Week @ Redeemer**

<b>Tuesday:</b>	Service of Lament & Hope – 12:30pm @ Journey in Faith (6767 Highway 38, Franksville)
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Bible Study – 1:30pm
<b>Saturday:</b>	Together in Mission
<b>Sunday:</b>	Sunday Worship – 9:30am

### **Celebrations this Week**

**Birthdays:** Lori Rennock (2/5)

### **Upcoming Commemorations**

#### **Presentation of Our Lord**

##### **Monday, February 2, 2026**

Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

#### **Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865**

##### **Tuesday, February 3, 2026**

A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

#### **The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597**

##### **Thursday, February 5, 2026**

Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.

### **Texts for Next Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20