



WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN FAMILY
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBURARY 1ST, 2026

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Family

We're so glad you're here!

ALL ARE WELCOME

We mean it when we say all are Welcome

No matter where you are in your faith journey, or how you identify, your presence means the world to us.

We are incomplete without you.

Pastor Paul M. Larson

Hospitality Details

We firmly believe that there are no limits in God's house. Young or old, you are part of our worship community.

There is a table at the right hand of the sanctuary especially for children. Each Sunday, they are free to sit there.

Families are encouraged to sit in the front the of the sanctuary, so they can fully see what is happening

Those participating in worship who find it difficult to stand for long periods of time are encouraged to take care of themselves. Please sit or stand in ways that make you comfortable.

Communion

ALL are Welcome at God's Table.

We offer both wine (bigger chalice) and grape juice (smaller chalice). We also have gluten free options, so please ask the acolyte.

Happy Hour

Join us for coffee and goodies in the Friendship Hall each Sunday after worship.

RESTROOMS

Restrooms are located in the foyer.

Nursery

There is a nursery that is staffed by members of the Youth Group every Sunday if your child needs to get some wiggles out.

BUSY BAGS

These are busy bags on the coatrack in the narthex. All the bags are filled with fun surprises to use during the worship service

Worship Book for February 1st, 2026

St. Paul's Lutheran Family

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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.

PRELUDE

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus by William H. Parker

WELCOME

The Assembly Stands

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.

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

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #522 As We Gather at Your Table

1 As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.

2 Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.

There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.

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

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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.

The Assembly is Seated

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of
all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the
Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**Power and riches and wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God

and join in the hymn of all creation:

**Blessing and honor and glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.**

Alleluia. Alleluia.

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.**

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

A reading from Micah.

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?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 15

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

¹ Lord, who may dwell in your ^l tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your ^l holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do ^l what is right,
who speak the truth ^l from their heart; R**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil ^l to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- ^l on a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who ^l fear the Lord.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take ^l back their word.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- ^l gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be ^l overthrown. **R**

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

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

A reading from First Corinthians.

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.

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.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God.

The Assembly Stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:1-12

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The Assembly is Seated

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE
CHILDREN’S SONG**

Traci Angel

SERMON

Pastor Paul Larson

The Assembly Stands

HYMN OF THE DAY

1 Let streams of living justice
flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives,
let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading,
the workers claim their rights,

ELW # 710 Let Streams of Living Justice

the mourners long for laughter,
the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon,
strike down the iron pow'r;
abolish ancient vengeance:
proclaim your people's hour.

2 For healing of the nations,
for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers,
God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together;
knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us
till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric,
bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance,
light our colors with your sun.

3 Your city's built to music;
we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language;
we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service,
our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor;
our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice;
your way—the path untried;
your truth—the heart of stranger;
your life—the Crucified.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934

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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 Assembly is seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. 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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please Share a Sign of Peace with one another

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING HYMN

ACS #976 Come and See (3x)

What are you looking for?
Come, see, come and see.
What are you looking for?
Come and see, come and see.

Text: Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962, from John 1:38-39

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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 Assembly Stands

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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 Assembly is Seated

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

1 O God of mercy, God of light,
in love and mercy infinite,
teach us, as ever in your sight,
to live our lives in you.

2 You sent your Son to die for all,
that our lost world might hear your call;
oh, hear us lest we stray and fall!
We rest our hope in you.

3 Teach us the lesson Jesus taught:
to feel for those his blood has bought,
that ev'ry deed and word and thought
may work a work for you.

ELW #714 O God of Mercy, God of Life

4 For all are kindred, far and wide,
since Jesus Christ for all has died;
grant us the will, and grace provide,
to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
may we each other's burdens share;
may we, where help is needed, there
give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heav'n above
all those who live in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.

1 To be your presence is our mission
here,
to show compassion's face and list'ning
ear,
to be your heart of mercy ever near,
alleluia!

2 To be your presence is our mission
bold,
to feed the poor and shelter homeless
cold,
to be your hands of justice, right uphold,
alleluia!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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ELW #546 To Be Your Presence

3 To be your presence is our mission blest,
to speak for all the broken and oppressed,
to be your voice of hope, your love
expressed,
alleluia!

4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands
and voice,
to serve your people is our call and choice,
and in this mission we, the church, rejoice,
alleluia!

Refrain

Eat this bread, drink this cup.
Taste and see the goodness of God.
Bread of life, cup of love,
we rejoice in your presence.

3 Angels fold their wings around us,
guard through good and ill.
Those who seek the Lord will lack nothing;
taste, and have your fill. **Refrain**

1 I will bless the Lord at all times,
praise with heart and voice;
in my God I glory forever:
listen and rejoice! **Refrain**

4 Saints of God, bow down and worship,
bless the holy name.
Rise to tell God's greatness forever,
wondrous deeds proclaim! **Refrain**

2 Look upon the Lord, be radiant, never
turn away.
God will save in ev'ry affliction,
hear us when we pray. **Refrain**

Text: Jeremy Young, b. 1948, refrain; With One Voice, stanzas, based on Ps. 34

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The Assembly Stands

COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his peace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

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.

BLESSING

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.

The Assembly Seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

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

The Assembly Stands

SENDING HYMN

ELW #551 The Spirit Sends us Forth to Serve

1 The Spirit sends us forth to serve;
we go in Jesus' name
to bring glad tidings to the poor,
God's favor to proclaim.

3 We go to be the hands of Christ,
to scatter joy like seed
and, all our days, to cherish life,
to do the loving deed.

2 We go to comfort those who mourn
and set the burdened free;
where hope is dim, to share a dream
and help the blind to see.

4 Then let us go to serve in peace,
the gospel to proclaim.
God's Spirit has empowered us;
we go in Jesus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ELW #313 O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

Sermon Reflection Questions

Where did you hear God's grace speaking to you in today's Word?

How might today's message shape the way you live out your faith this week?

What is the Good News you are taking with you into the world today?