

# St. Johns Lutheran Church



St. Johns Lutheran Church

3738 Morgan Ford Rd. St. Louis, Missouri 63116

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 1st, 2026

Divine Service Setting 2

LSB 167

## AS WE GATHER

Many of the words that we use on a regular basis in our worship have a rich and meaningful history that is often not well known. The word *blessed* or *blessing* used in the liturgy and hymns of the church is derived from the Old English word *bloedsian*, “to make something sacred.” This word, traced further back to an ancient Germanic dialect, originally meant “to make sacred in marking with blood.” That meaningful linkage is well reflected in the eighteenth-century hymn text by English clergyman Joseph Humphreys, which begins: “Blest the children of our God, They are bought with Christ’s own blood; They are ransomed from the grave, Life eternal they will have” (*LW* 370:1). In his poetic text, Humphreys echoes 1 John, where we read: “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1:7). We are blessed though the blood of Jesus to be the children of God! As we pray with hymnwriter Humphreys: “With them numbered may we be here and in eternity!” (*LW* 370:1).

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELCOME** (Bienvenido, स्वागत छ, Chào mừng, 환영, ようこそ,  
Bienvenue, Karibu, እንኳን ደህና መጡ, Baga nagaan dhufte, Willkommen,  
Benvenuto, 欢迎) **ALL**

We're glad you are here! If you are visiting for the first time, please make it a point to introduce yourself to the pastor. Please take time to fill out an attendance card and drop it in the basket during the offering. Please consider liking us on Facebook (St. Johns Lutheran Church – St. Louis City) and checking out our website (<https://stjohnslutheranstlouis.org/>).

If you have a prayer request that you would like offered during the service, please grab one of the blue sheets of paper next to the bulletins and place it in the basket during offering.

## **PREPARATION**

### **INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES** (*Stand as you are able*)

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;

**with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.**

For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens You will establish Your faithfulness.”

**Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O LORD, Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!**

O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as You are, O LORD, with Your faithfulness all around You?

**Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen. Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious heavenly Father.

**Eternal God, we confess that by nature we are sinful people. We are given to sinful thoughts, sinful words, and sinful deeds. We have transgressed Your law in many ways, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have often been heedless of our calling to follow in Your ways. Because of our sins and our sinfulness, we deserve Your punishment now and for eternity. Gracious God, in Your mercy, forgive our sin and restore us to a full and joyful**

**relationship with You through the merits of Jesus, our Lord. Direct our days by Your Holy Spirit that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments as Your redeemed people, bringing the brightness of Your light to the darkened world.**

In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**HYMN**

**“Dearest Jesus, We Are Here”**

*LSB 592*

**Dearest Jesus, we are here,  
Gladly Your command obeying;  
With this child we now draw near  
In response to Your own saying  
That to You it shall be given  
As a child and heir of heaven.**

**Your command is clear and plain,  
And we would obey it duly:  
"You must all be born again,  
Heart and life renewing truly,  
Born of water and the Spirit,  
And My kingdom thus inherit."**

**Therefore we have come to You,  
In our arms this infant bearing.  
Truly here Your grace we view;  
May this child, Your mercy sharing,  
In Your arms be shielded ever,  
Yours on earth and Yours forever.**

**Gracious Head, Your member own;  
Shepherd, take Your lamb and feed it;  
Prince of Peace, make here Your throne;  
Way of Life, to heaven lead it;  
Precious Vine, let nothing sever  
From Your side this branch forever.**

**Now into Your heart we pour  
Prayers that from our hearts proceeded.  
Our petitions heav'nward soar;  
May our hearts' desires be heeded!  
Write the name we now have given;  
Write it in the book of heaven!**

## **BAPTISM OF SUSANNAH ELAINE MIOSSI**

**KYRIE**      LSB 168

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.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Glory Be to God the Father”

*LSB 506 v. 1,4*

**Glory be to God the Father,  
Glory be to God the Son,  
Glory be to God the Spirit:  
Great Jehovah, Three in One!  
Glory, glory  
While eternal ages run!**

**Glory, blessing, praise eternal!  
Thus the choir of angels sings:  
Honor, riches, pow'r, dominion!  
Thus its praise creation brings.  
Glory, glory,  
Glory to the King of kings!**

## **SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Father of glory, You reveal Your greatness in showing mercy. Keep our focus faithfully on the cross of Christ, where Your mercy was displayed in its fullness, and fill our hearts with thankfulness for Your gift of salvation; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**      *Micah 6:1–8*

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the Lord says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel. <sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you? How 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 what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the 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 man, 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?

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GRADUAL**      *Psalms 117:1–2a; 96:8 (Spoken)*

Praise the LORD, all nations!

**Extol Him, all peoples!**

For great is His steadfast love toward us,

**and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;  
**bring an offering, and come into His courts!**

**EPISTLE**      *1 Corinthians 1:18–31*

<sup>18</sup>The word of the cross is folly 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 scribe? 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, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. <sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly 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, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**      *LSB 173 (Stand as you are able)*

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

**HOLY GOSPEL**      *Matthew 5:1–12*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.  
**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>And he opened his mouth 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 shall be comforted. <sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. <sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. <sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. <sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when others 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 so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE** (*Sit*)

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Son of God, Eternal Savior” *LSB* 842

**Son of God, eternal Savior,  
Source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us  
Hallows all our human race,  
You our Head, who, throned in glory,  
For Your own will ever plead:  
Fill us with Your love and pity,  
Heal our wrongs, and help our need.**

**As You, Lord, have lived for others,  
So may we for others live.  
Freely have Your gifts been granted;  
Freely may Your servants give.  
Yours the gold and Yours the silver,  
Yours the wealth of land and sea;  
We but stewards of Your bounty  
Held in solemn trust will be.**

**Come, O Christ, and reign among us,  
King of Love and Prince of Peace;  
Hush the storm of strife and passion,  
Bid its cruel discords cease.  
By Your patient years of toiling,  
By Your silent hours of pain,  
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,  
Stem our selfish greed of gain.**

**Son of God, eternal Savior,  
Source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us  
Hallows all our human race:  
By your praying, by Your willing,  
That Your people should be one,  
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition;  
Here on earth Your will be done.**

## **SERMON**



### **OFFERING** *(Sit)*

*(Scan this code with your phone if you would like to give online)*

## **OFFERTORY**

LSB 176

**What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** *(Stand as you are able)*

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs: Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church, the Bride of Christ, that through her the message of salvation be proclaimed and the gifts of God be shared. We pray this

day for all nations of the world, that there be an end to hostilities and that times of peacefulness prevail everywhere. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for our families and our neighbors. Move us to reach out in every direction with the joyful news of the Gospel, that people may become part of the kingdom of God now and forever. We pray for all people in various conditions, especially for the hospitalized and those who are homebound during this season. We pray for the unemployed, those who are downcast or grieving, and for all those for whom our petitions are desired, [including . . .]. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We remember those who have shared the faith with us and now have departed this life in joyful hope. Confidently, we await the time when we shall rejoice together with them eternally along with saints and angels and all the company of heaven.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Special Petitions....Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

**Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**      *Numbers 6:24–26*      LSB 183

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**HYMN**      “O God of God, O Light of Light”      LSB 810

**O God of God, O Light of Light,  
O Prince of Peace and King of kings:  
To You in heaven's glory bright  
The song of praise forever rings.  
To Him who sits upon the throne,  
The Lamb once slain but raised again,  
Be all the glory He has won,  
All thanks and praise! Amen, amen.**

**For deep in prophets' sacred page,  
And grand in poets' winged word,  
Slowly in type, from age to age  
The nations saw their coming Lord;  
Till through the deep Judean night  
Rang out the song, "Good will to men!"  
Sung once by first-born sons of light,  
It echoes now, "Good will!" Amen.**

**That life of truth, those deeds of love,  
That death so steeped in hate and scorn--  
These all are past, and now above  
He reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.  
Lift up your heads, O mighty gates!  
So sang that host beyond our ken.  
Lift up your heads, your King awaits.  
We lift them up. Amen, amen.**

**Then raise to Christ a mighty song,  
And shout His name, His mercies tell!  
Sing, heav'nly host, your praise prolong,  
And all on earth, your anthem swell!  
All hail, O Lamb for sinners slain!  
Forever let the song ascend!  
Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign,  
All glory, pow'r! Amen, amen.**

Preacher	Pastor Ben Wescoatt
Liturgist	Pastor Ben Wescoatt
Lector	Ray Gluesenkamp
Elder	Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli
Children's Message	Pastor Ben Wescoatt
Bible Class	Michael Felten

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# Announcements

## Saved to Share Called to Care

**Our Response to God's Love Two Weeks Ago:**

9:00 Attendance/10:30 Attendance: 30/53

Offering: \$16,226.50

### **SCHOLARSHIP FUND REQUEST**

Our Scholarship Fund is in need of a boost. This fund is used to help cover the cost of our young members to attend Lutheran Schools. Please consider giving a donation to this fund so that we can continue to support our youth. Thank you for your help.

### **SUBSTITUTE GROUP MENTOR POSITION**

Compass is looking to hire a part time substitute group mentor. The substitute would fill in for a mentor if he/she is absent. Whenever possible, advance notice will be given when services are needed. Requirements for this position include creating a safe space for children, and implementing the lesson plans that the mentor has created. If you are interested, please email your resume to Jaylynn Mennel at [atcestjcompass.afterschool@gmail.com](mailto:atcestjcompass.afterschool@gmail.com) For more information, contact Compass Director Jaylynn Mennel at (314)-791-5820.

**GRIEF SHARE GROUPS** Do you need help dealing with grief? GriefShare Grief & Loss Support Groups are here for you. To find the in person or online group that is best for you, visit [griefshare.org/findagroup](http://griefshare.org/findagroup) where you can register for groups and events.

### **SANCTUS WINDS UPCOMING CONCERT "Go, My Children"**

*Sunday, February 1, 2026 \ 4:00pm Zion Lutheran Church (3866 Old Hwy 94 S, St Charles, MO 63304)*

#### **Works Include**

Children's March – Percy Grainger

Watchmen Tell Us of the Night – Mark Camphouse

Seal Lullaby – Eric Whitacre

Third Suite – Rober Jager

**SAUSAGE DINNER AT SALEM (AFFTON)** The members of Salem Men's Club are proud to announce their **ANNUAL ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT**

**SAUSAGE DINNER Sunday, March 1, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Salem Lutheran School cafeteria (5025 Lakewood Ave., 63123)** Adults \$14.00 / Children (age 5-12) \$6.00 / Kids (age 4 and younger) eat free! Desserts \$1.00 each / Beverages included with dinner Carry-outs available / Cooked Sausage for sale

Make checks payable to Salem Men's Club.

For more information, visit <https://slcas.org/church/mens-club/sausage-dinner/>.

## Prayers

Prayers for Health –for President R. Lee Hagan, Richard, Bob, Jessica, Kate, Mary, and Cat; **Sandy Key** who has cancer;

Area Ministry – Word of Life Lutheran School

Shut Ins – Debra Frerichs, Carolyn Dickhoener, and Ruth Trauth (Sherbrooke)

Special Prayer Petitions –**For** those displaced from home and church;

**Melba** that her walking ability may improve so that she can return to church; **Evangelist** Idonis King; **Compass Director** Jaylynn Mennel;

**Our Associate Pastors** Nabin & Ratna; **Momentum Academy and All Schools; The Food Pantry and those who receive food: Compass;**

**Our Field-Workers** Michael and John; **For** those traveling;

**Missionaries** Zach Barz (for life & ministry) and Erin Mackenzie;

South City Circuit Prayers Mark Larson, David Corson, Nabin Samal, David Dittmar, Matt Kosby, Ron Rall, and President Harrison and all Synod officers and staff

## Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week February 1 – February 8

Sunday	<b><u>9:00am</u> Worship / <u>10am</u> Fellowship</b> <b><u>10:30am</u> Bible Study / <u>10:30am</u> Nepali Worship</b> <b><u>NO</u> Sunday School</b> 12:30pm Abundant Grace Chapel Worship <b><u>1pm-4pm</u> Tower Grove Soccer Club / <u>6pm-8pm</u> Nepalese Volleyball</b>
Monday	8am-12pm Office Open / <b><u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass</b> <b><u>6pm</u> Ladies Exercise</b>
Tuesday	<b><u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass</b>
Wednesday	<b><u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>9am</u> Midweek Bible Study</b> <b><u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass</b>
Thursday	<b><u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass</b> <b><u>3:25pm</u> Compass Chapel / <u>5:30pm</u> Pizza &amp; Prayer</b>
Friday	8am-12pm Office Open / <b><u>2pm-6pm</u> Compass</b>
Saturday	<b><u>8:30am</u> Food Pantry</b> 6pm-8pm Abundant Grace Choir Practice 6pm-8pm Nepalese Volleyball
Next Sunday	<b><u>9:00am</u> Worship w/ Communion / <u>10am</u> Fellowship</b> <b><u>10:30am</u> Bible Study / <u>10:30am</u> Nepali Worship</b> <b><u>NO</u> Sunday School</b> 12:30pm Abundant Grace Chapel Worship <b><u>1pm-4pm</u> Tower Grove Soccer Club / <u>6pm-8pm</u> Nepalese Volleyball</b>