

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1 and 2, 2026



Jesus Calls You Blessed

Welcome to Worship

Thank you for joining us for worship today! We are honored that you are with us. We pray that the Word of God you hear will strengthen your faith and increase your love for the Lord! Please fill out a “Welcome to Worship” card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in an offering plate, located near the sanctuary doors, as you leave worship. If you are a guest, know that we are thankful you have joined us and hope that you will join us again soon.

Prepare for Worship

To prepare for worship, read through the service focus and the Scripture readings. Ponder the words of the Psalm of the Day. Spend time in prayer, using the prayers on the inside cover of the hymnal or on pages 255-258. For those intending to receive the Lord’s Supper, read through the “Christian Questions” on pages 295-296. Consider reading through portions of the Small Catechism on pages 286-293.

Today's Focus for Worship – Jesus Calls You Blessed

You may not feel blessed when you are hungry or insulted or mourning the death of a loved one. You may not be in the mood to boast when you feel foolish, weak, or lowly. But knowing your difficulties, Jesus still chose you to be his own. He gives you many gifts, and he calls you blessed.

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Kirk Lahmann

Preacher: Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

Accompanist: Brenda Hafeman

Acknowledgments

Today's service is adapted from *Christian Worship: Hymnal*, © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House – “The Service, Setting Five” (available through *Service Builder*). Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by *Christian Worship: Service Builder* © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. The Prayer of the Church is reprinted from *Praying with the Readings...* © Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission. The Closing Collect is reprinted from *Now and Forever: Contemporary Collects...*, © Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission. Artwork by Ed Riojas, © higherthings.org.

The Service

Setting Five



Opening Hymn

How Truly Blest Are They | Psalm 1-B

Please stand to sing the final stanza.

1 How tru - ly blest are they who shun the
2 But make the law of God their stud - y
3 They like a tree shall thrive with wa - ters
4 The wick - ed are not so! They no such

A musical staff in treble clef, common time, and one sharp key signature. It features seven notes: a dotted half note, a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, and a half note.

sin - ners' ways, a - mong their coun - sels
and de - light a - mid the la - bors
near the root. Fresh as the leaf their
bless - ing find. Their hopes shall flee like

nev - er stand, nor take the scorn - ers' place,
of the day and watch - es of the night.
name shall live; their works are heav'n - ly fruit.
emp - ty chaff be - fore the driv - ing wind.

5 How will they bear to stand
before that judgment seat
where all the saints at Christ's right hand
in full assembly meet?

6 God knows and he approves
the way the righteous go,
but sinners and their works shall meet
a dreadful overthrow.

Invocation

Matthew 18:20; 28:19-20

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 32:1-2; Romans 4:25; 5:1

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy Kyrie

Matthew 15:22; 17:15; Mark 10:47

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.

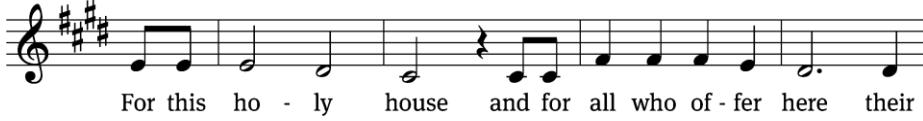


Lord, have mer - cy.

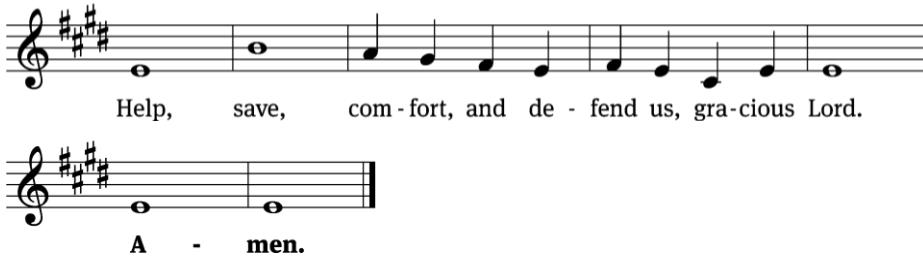


and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Glory Be to God *Gloria in Excelsis*

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



Glo-ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high-est! Glo-ry, glo-ry to God, and peace to his people on earth. 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. Glo-ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the

high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and peace to his
people on earth. 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, have mer - cy on us.
You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.
Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the
high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and peace to his
people on earth. For you a - lone are the

Hol - 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.

Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the

high - est! Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, and

peace to his peo - ple on earth.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Zephaniah 2:3, 3:11-13

³ Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.

¹¹ On that day you, Jerusalem, will not be put to shame for all the wrongs you have done to me, because I will remove from you your arrogant boasters. Never again will you be haughty on my holy hill. ¹² But I will leave within you the meek and humble. The remnant of Israel will trust in the name of the LORD. ¹³ They will do no wrong; they will tell no lies. A deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouths. They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Blessed Are They | 1-A

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 5:3

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Refrain

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,² and he began to teach them. He said:

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 be shown 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 because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Blest Are They | 690

Sermon

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

God Is Enough

Stand

Apostles' Creed Credo

Matthew 16:15; Luke 12:8; 2 Corinthians 4:13

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated



O Lord, make your teachings our delight. Keep us on the path of life that we may prosper with your blessing.

Lord, give strength to your people. Lord, bless your people with peace.

In your grace you have chosen us to be your own. Bless us with daily bread. Feed our souls with your Word. Deliver us from every trouble.

Lord, give strength to your people. Lord, bless your people with peace.

Rescue those who walk in darkness and turn them from wickedness and destruction. As we share your gospel with them, plant the seed of your Word in their hearts. Make their faith grow, prosper and bear fruit to your glory.

Lord, give strength to your people. Lord, bless your people with peace.

You give your blessing to those who are merciful. Have mercy on those who help us in our physical needs: doctors, nurses and others who work in health care. Do not let them become weary in doing good but strengthen and encourage them as they reflect your love in caring for others.

Lord, give strength to your people. Lord, bless your people with peace.

Continue to bless your people who are in their advanced years, just as you blessed Simeon and Anna as they waited for the promised Savior. Increase their faith and use them to declare your faithfulness to the next generation.

Lord, give strength to your people. Lord, bless your people with peace.

You give your blessings also to those who mourn, hunger and thirst. Have mercy on all who suffer sadness, hunger, thirst, or pain. Give them your comfort. Satisfy their hunger and thirst. Relieve their pain and give healing as it pleases you.

Lord, give strength to your people. Lord, bless your people with peace.

O God, you are life, wisdom, truth, bounty and blessedness, the eternal, the only true good, our God and our Lord, our hope and our heart's delight. Lord, teach us to know you aright and let us grow under your blessing day by day until all is fulfilled in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Offering

2 Corinthians 9:7

Offerings given in thanks to the Lord are brought to the Lord's altar. We ask all worshipers to fill out a "Welcome to Worship" card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in the offering plates at the sanctuary doors following the service.

Hymn

I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus | 816



1 I am trust - ing you, Lord Je - sus, trust - ing on - ly you;
2 I am trust - ing you for par - don; at your feet I bow,
3 I am trust - ing you for cleans - ing in the crim - son flood;
4 I am trust - ing you to guide me; you a - lone shall lead,



trust - ing you for full sal - va - tion, free and true.
for your grace and ten - der mer - cy trust - ing now.
trust - ing you to make me ho - ly by your blood.
ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing all my need.

5 I am trusting you for power;
you can never fail.

Words which you yourself shall give me
must prevail.

6 I am trusting you, Lord Jesus;
never let me fall.

I am trusting you forever
and for all.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Tune: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Closing Collect

Heavenly Father, we are most blessed because in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have adopted us as your own. May we never boast of anything but Jesus Christ who was crucified, because he is our Savior, and the Savior of the whole world; he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer *Pater Noster*

Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing *Aaronic Benediction*

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me | 849



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me up - on life's way;
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear;
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en and night has come,



di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me from day to day.
for you, the Rock of Ages, are al - ways near.
I know that you will strength - en my steps toward home.



With - out your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
Close by your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
Then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend;



Text: Julie K. Hausmann, 1825-1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

Tune: P. Friedrich Silcher, 1789-1860

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709159

Tune: Public domain