

# FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY



**FEBRUARY 1, 2026**

**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)**

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**AS WE GATHER-GOD MANIFESTS HIS GLORY IN THE HUMILITY AND WEAKNESS OF CHRIST CRUCIFIED-** The Lord tells His people, “I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery” (Micah 6:4). By the sacrifice of His beloved Son, He has redeemed us from our slavery of sin and death; He has forgiven our transgressions by the shedding of His blood. His great mercy and salvation lead us “to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly” with our God (Micah 6:8). We boast only in the incarnate and crucified Lord Jesus. He is “the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Cor. 1:24). He is our life and salvation, our “wisdom” and “righteousness and sanctification and redemption” (1 Cor. 1:30). Now He opens His mouth and teaches us His wisdom. By His cross and Passion, the kingdom of heaven is ours. We receive mercy and are satisfied; we see God and are called sons of God in Christ. “Blessed are you,” therefore, “when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely” on account of Christ (Matt. 5:11).

### **DIVINE SERVICE SETTING III      P. 184-202**

**OPENING HYMN                      “BLESSED JESUS, AT YOUR WORD”                      904**

**✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠                      P. 184-185**

### **✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠**

**INTROIT    PSALM 1:1-5; ANTIPHON: V. 6**

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

**Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,**

**nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;**

but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.

**He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.**

**In all that he does, he prospers.**

The wicked are not so,

but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**

## GLORIA PATRI

P. 186



**C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

## KYRIE

P. 186

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

P. 187-189

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT

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?

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

**GRADUAL**

**PSALM 117:1-2A, 96:8**

**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."

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

**ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

**P. 190**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

**MATTHEW 5:1-12**

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

**C** **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

1Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2And he opened his mouth 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 shall be comforted. 5“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. 8“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise be to Thee, O Christ**

**APOSTLE’S CREED**

**P. 192**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“SON OF GOD, ETERNAL SAVIOR”**

**842**

**SERMON**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P** Lord, in your Mercy,

**C** **Hear our Prayer.**

<b><u>In Our Prayers:</u></b>	
+ Scott Christenson	+ Darian Litzau
+ Andy Birkholz	+ Robin Lueck
+ Dan Gueningsman	+ Karen Strei
+ Maya Radtke	+ Hillard Klaustermeier
+ Jeremy Radtke	+ Angela Litzau
+ Call Process for Associate Pastor	

**OFFERING**

**✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠    p. 194-199**

The Sacrament is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine, but His true body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation, to repentant, reconciled believers in Christ. Our Lord Jesus invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us (Matt. 26:26-28; 1Cor. 11:23-29; Matt.6:15).

We practice closed communion. Why? (1 Cor. 10:16-17). Because our Lord says those who eat and drink His body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm. If not yet instructed, in doubt, or holding a confession differing from that of the LCMS, you are lovingly asked not to commune at this time. Pastor is happy to make an appointment to discuss adult catechesis or questions you have regarding the Sacrament of the Altar.

**Examination Questions:** Please prepare by asking yourself — Am I sorry for my sins? Do I believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior from sin? Do I believe that I am receiving the body and blood of Christ along with the bread and wine? Will I try, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live a more God-pleasing life?

Prayers for “Before communing” and “Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament” are printed on the front cover of the hymnal.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

<b>“PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY”</b>	<b>790</b>
<b>“LORD JESUS CHRIST, WE HUMBLY PRAY”</b>	<b>623</b>
<b>“IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY”</b>	<b>427</b>
<b>“LORD OF GLORY, YOU HAVE BOUGHT US”</b>	<b>851</b>

**NUNC DIMITTIS** **p. 199**

**COLLECT/SALUTATION** **p. 201**

**BENEDICTION** **p. 202**

**CLOSING HYMN      “SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE”      394**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### Attendance Last Week

Sunday: 159

Sun School/Youth: 32

Bible Study: 28

### Organist:

Jane Holasek

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**1. YOUTH MISSION TRIP** -If you are interested or want to learn more about our youth mission trip to Camp Lutherhaven, please attend a meeting on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Mission trip dates July 11 – 18<sup>th</sup>.

**2. THANK YOU** to everyone who has served in our scripture reader program at St. Paul. We appreciate your willingness to share your time and talents with the congregation. After reviewing the program, the decrease in the number of people willing to serve, and in light of calling an associate pastor, we have decided to bring the scripture reader program to a close. We are filled with hope and look forward to what God is doing among us.

**3. 2026 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:** Details for the 2026 scholarship program are being reviewed. Please watch for more information in the lamplighter and church bulletins.

**4. MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER-** Last day to order pizzas from the ACT Fundraiser is TODAY February 1<sup>st</sup>. Pizzas will be delivered Sun., February 8<sup>th</sup>.

**5. POTLUCK UPDATE-** We made a major fumble! Due to a national event involving football, snacks, and loud cheering, our church potluck has been rescheduled to Sunday, February 8 at 11:30 (after second service). Ovens will be on warm if you would like to drop food before attending service. Tableware and drinks will be provided, so just bring your favorite dish to share. We look forward to a time of good food, great conversation, and meaningful fellowship—we hope you'll join us.

**6. LWML PRAYER SERVICE-** The congregation is invited to the LWML Prayer Service, P.R.A.Y.E.R. (Praise, Remember, Ask, Yield, Excitement, Rejoice), on February 2 at 6:30 p.m. This service is dedicated to Shirley Dibb who served the Lord with unwavering faith and a devoted heart.

**7. PRE-SCHOOL MUSIC CLASS** will be held ALL THURSDAY evenings in February from 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the St. Paul's music room. Please join us for some music-making fun, and invite a family from the area

to join us too! Babies through age 5 are welcome! Questions? Contact Jane Holasek.

**8. MEAL TRAIN-** A meal train has been set up for the Schulteis Family. What is Meal Train? There are times in our lives when friends and family ask, "What can I do to help out?" The answer is usually to help them with a meal. When many friends provide support through a meal, Meal Train keeps everyone organized. Please use this link to visit the meal train sign up for the Schulteis family:  
<https://mealtrain.com/8nzeq4>

**9. DIRECT DEPOSIT OPTIONS-**The church web site [stpaulip.org](http://stpaulip.org) has an online giving tab with 3 options for direct deposits. \*Online giving for a one-time donation \*Mobile app giving where regular account withdrawals can be set up from your account \*Direct deposit form - print, complete and return to Amanda for direct deposits. On this form is an option to no longer receive a box of envelopes.

**10. SCHEDULE-** *February 8:* Ushers: 1<sup>st</sup> Service- Peter Feltmann, Cameron Mogenson, Duane Litzau; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Joey Schauer, Jack Schauer, Carolyn Toenies, Brandon Schmidt; Acolytes: 1<sup>st</sup> Service- E. Novotny, B. Peterson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: M. Schauer, W. Schauer; Greeters- 1<sup>st</sup> Service: Ralph, Donna, Kori Machemehl; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Brett & Darlene Schmidt; Flowers: Patsy Schauer; Altar Guild: Angela Christen/Debbie Bahr; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

### ***Calendar of Events***

<b>Sun. Feb 1</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b> <b>9:15 a.m.</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION</b> Sun. School/Adult Bible Study/ACT <b>WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION</b> Last day to order pizzas for ACT
<b>Mon. Feb 2</b>	<b>3:00 p.m.</b> <b>6:30 p.m.</b>	Release Time Classes Anchor Point (Gr. 7-12) LWML Prayer Service
<b>Tues. Feb 3</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	Dartball Away vs. Waconia
<b>Wed. Feb 4</b>	<b>Noon</b> <b>5:00 p.m.</b>	Deadline for Bulletin Release Time/Confirmation Classes Call Committee Meeting
<b>Thur. Feb 5</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	Music Class
<b>Sun. Feb. 8</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b> <b>9:15 a.m.</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b> <b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM.</b> Sun. School/Adult Bible Study/ACT <b>WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM.</b> Congregational Potluck ACT Pizzas ready for pick-up