

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

SAT. JANUARY 31 / SUN. FEBRUARY 1, 2026



“BLESSED INDEED”

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.”

WELCOME

¤ PREPARATION ¤

OPENING HYMN “Blessed Jesus, at Your Word” *LSB 904*

[HYPERLINKS](#)

<https://youtu.be/L7bikJOMZPk?si=NRvUNIfXiNNcgZQy&t=21>

1.Blessed Jesus, at Your Word
We are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy,
Drawn from earth to love You solely.

2. All our knowledge, sense, and sight
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till Your spirit breaks our night
With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
You must work all good within us.

3. Gracious Savior, good and kind,
Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind;
Help us by Your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises;
Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

***4. Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord,**
Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word,
Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing Your praises yonder.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 89:1–2, 5, 8, 52; Isaiah 2:5b*

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONFSSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained

servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

¤ WORD ¤

Kyrie



HYMN OF PRAISE “Praise the Almighty” *LSB 797 v. 1, 5*

Praise the Almighty, my soul, adore Him!
Yes, I will laud Him until death;
With songs and anthems I come before Him
As long as He allows me breath.
From Him my life and all things came;
Bless, O my soul, His holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise, all you people, the name so holy
Of Him who does such wondrous things!
All that has being, to praise Hime solely,
With happy heart its amen sings.
Children of God, with angel host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Alleluia, alleluia!

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Micah 6:1–8* (God's people are to come before Him in humility.)

6 Hear what the LORD says:

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

2 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.

3 “O my people, what have I done to you?
How 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 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 righteous 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 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?

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM “This So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”
Stead/Kirkpatrick

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 1:18–31* (Christ is the wisdom and the power of God.)

18 For 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. 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 scribe? 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, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 26 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.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, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Pastor: this is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB p. 205

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 5:1–12* (Jesus teaches about blessed living.)

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

5 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 And 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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

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

HYPERLINKS

<https://youtu.be/1LFe8b2U7wc?si=D7gbd-PmTeImQLP2&t=30>

1.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.

**2. 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.**

**3. 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.**

**4. 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

Rev. Dr. Timothy Oswald

CONFSSION OF FAITH – THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

¤ SACRAMENT ¤

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have had mercy on us and have sent Your only-begotten Son to be our Savior. Grant that we may have a right sense of the joy of His presence in all the seasons of our lives. Grant that we receive the body and blood of our Lord as the guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

SANCTUS “Holy, Holy, Holy” (*LSB 195*)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth:
Heav’n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He
that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “*Take, eat; this is My ~~the~~ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.*”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given

thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “*Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.*”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and Passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

“Lamb of God”

(*LSB 198*)

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen**

+DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION+

By communing, a person says publicly that they -

- are baptized and confirmed*
- believe Christ's words*
- repent of their sins*
- fully agree with all that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod teaches.*

How to receive -

- anyone may come to the altar but keep hands folded if not receiving Communion*
- the center of the tray has a cup with just a drop of wine for those who must minimize alcohol*
- smile, exude your joy, but keep a reverent demeanor as others commune*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray”

LSB 623

HYPERLINK

<https://youtu.be/qoUd0Fl0oJA?si=zKJozW2N1fdKoFsx&t=88>

**1 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray
That we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine
Enrich us with Your grace divine.**

**2 Give us, who share this wondrous food,
Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n,
The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.**

**3 By faith Your Word has made us bold
To seize the gift of love retold;
All that You are we here receive,
And all we are to You we give.**

**4 One bread, one cup, one body, we,
Rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come
To bring Your scattered loved ones home.**

**5 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:
O keep us steadfast till that day
When each will be Your welcomed guest
In heaven's high and holy feast.**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for You have once again fed and nourished us at Your Table through the

body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. As Your pilgrim people, strengthen and support us so that we may continue to proclaim Your love to all the world. In this Epiphany season, keep before us the vision of the brightness of Your glory, and bring us at last to Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Onward, Christian Soldiers” *LSB 662*

HYPERLINK

<https://youtu.be/xwQ9504WGjU?si=V7FxK14FQKpDoH04&t=20>

Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.
Christ, the royal master,
Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle
See His banners go!
Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.

**2 Like a mighty army
Moves the Church of God;
Brothers, we are treading
Where the saints have trod.**

**We are not divided,
All one body we,
One in hope and doctrine,
One in charity.
Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.**

**3 Crowns and thrones may perish,
Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus
Constant will remain.
Gates of hell can never
'Gainst that Church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise,
And that cannot fail.
Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.**

**4 Onward, then, ye faithful,
Join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices
In the triumph song:
Glory, laud, and honor
Unto Christ, the king;
This through countless ages**

Men and angels sing.
Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT: “Dedicated to knowing Christ and making Christ known to others”

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.
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- **Preacher:** **Rev. Dr. Timothy Oswald**
- **Liturgist (Sun.):** **Rev. Maurice Lind, Pastor Emeritus**
- **Sat. Organist:** **Lina Schaal**
- **Sun. Organist:** **George Kelm**
- **Choir Director:** **Gail Feick**
- **A/V Team:** **Brian & Amanda Larie,
Stan & Cheryl Grey, Dawn Oswald**
- **Please call (757-831-6948) or e-mail Pastor Oswald
(oswald1@charter.net) with your prayer requests.**
- **Kindly turn off your cellphone prior to Divine Worship.**
- **PASTOR'S NOTE ON COMMUNION:** **Just a loving reminder that taking Holy Communion together, is among other things, a public declaration of common faith.**
(I Cor 10¹⁷ Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. ¹⁸ Consider the people of Israel:

are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar?

Acts 2⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers . . . ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together . . .)

So the expectation is that communicants have been taught what Lutherans believe, especially about this sacrament, that they believe it themselves, and that their intent is eventually to be in full fellowship by joining The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. If you have questions or discussion, please ask pastor.

- **HOPE APPAREL** We will be placing an order for Hope apparel in late February. Please see Peter Voigt for more details if you'd like to order items with Hope's logo on them.
- **LENTEN SUPPERS** will begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18th at 6 pm and be every Wednesday through March 25th. If you would like to host all or part of a supper, there are sign up sheets on the table in the narthex.
- **WOMEN OF HOPE** meets Tuesday, February 3 at 4:30pm, church lower level. All ladies are welcome. We want suggestions of areas where you would like to participate. Please join us, Sisters in Christ. We will briefly talk about Hope's Easter Egg Hunt, Ladies Luncheon at Hope Church in the Fall, and Trees on Parade updates. Dates for monthly Brat Frys will come out later.
- **MONTHLY MITES** collection will be on February 7/8. A large Mite box will be on our table in the narthex for your donations. Thank you!

- **TIJUANA MISSION TRIP --TRIVIA NIGHT Friday, February 6, 7:00 pm Immanuel, Crystal Lake, IL.** Proceeds will support this trip. Come join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. Doors open 6:00 pm and Trivia begins promptly at 7:00 pm. Call Paul 262-351-6577 or Beth 262-351-6578 for any questions. Carpooling available if needed.
- **LADIES LUNCHEON at Local Folks in Slades Corner on Tuesday February 10 at 11:30 am.** All Ladies at Hope and friends are welcome. We enjoy our monthly lunches! We have drivers willing to pick you up if you need a ride.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY

Reader: Jim Tonkinson
Communion: Paul Trettin
Ushers: William & Susan Keating
Fellowship: Peter & Tami Voigt
Altar Guild: Phyllis Klen

NEXT WEEK

Reader: Peter Voight
Communion: Paul Trettin
Ushers: John & Peggy Tueting
Fellowship: Phyllis Klen
Altar Guild: Phyllis Klen

BIRTHDAYS

2/2	Nadine Kelm
2/2	Kathleen Blume
2/2	Elijah Walton
2/3	Adeline Wachholder
2/6	Carol Johnson

Calendar of Events This Week

2/2/26 – 02/08/26

Monday:	11:00pm	Twin Lakes Seniors
Tuesday:	4:30pm	Women of Hope
Wednesday:	6:00pm	Bible Study-“Differences Between the Lutherans”
Thursday:	8:00am	Men’s Breakfast/ Elders’ Meeting
	6:00pm	AA Meeting
Saturday:	9:30am	Worship Service
Sunday:	8:15am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00am	Worship Service
	10:20am	Bible Study & Children’s Sunday School
	5:00pm	Bowling at Town & Country Lanes
	7:00pm	AA Meeting