

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026

PRELUDE

Becky Retherford

Gathering

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 #715 - vs. 1, 2, 5

"Christ Be Our Light"

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain Christ, be our light!
 Shine in our hearts.
 Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light!
 Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
 Longing for hope, many despair.
 Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
 Make us your living voice. **To Refrain**

5 Many the gifts, many the people,
 many the hearts that yearn to belong.
 Let us be servants to one another,
 signs of your kingdom come. **To Refrain**

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.**

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.**

Word

BIBLE READING Micah 6:1-8

BIBLE READING 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #510- vs. 3 "Word of God, Come Down to Earth"

3 Word that speaks God's tender love,
 one with God beyond all telling,
 Word that sends us from above
 God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
 Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
 Word of life, with one bread feed us.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

SERMON

“More Than Admiring Jesus”

Pastor Julie Brenden

HYMN OF DAY

“How Blest Are Those”

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

- 1 How blest are those who humbly see how much they need the Lord.
How blest are those who deeply grieve the suffering in this world.
How blest are those who find God’s strength in gentleness and grace.
How blest are those who long for truth and seek God’s loving ways.
- 2 What joy! When mercy fills our lives - when kindness is our style.
What joy! When - pure in heart - we strive to do what is worthwhile.
What joy! When people work for peace -for justice in this land.
What joy! When whole communities seek goodness, hand in hand.
- 3 When thousands join in peaceful song; when hundreds kneel and pray;
When one, alone, stands up to wrong; when love becomes our way.
When neighbors, by the things they do, reach out to those in pain;
Lord Jesus, may we learn anew the blessings of your reign.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

Responses: 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.**

Meal

OFFERING & HYMN

TFF #292 "Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
 give thanks to the Holy One,
 give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.
 Give thanks with a grateful heart,
 give thanks to the Holy One,
 give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
 let the poor say, "I am rich,"
 because of what the Lord has done for us.
 And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
 let the poor say, "I am rich,"
 because of what the Lord has done for us.
 Give thanks!

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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

COMMUNION & HYMN ELW #492 "Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup"

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.**

- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times,
praise with heart and voice;
in my God I glory forever:
listen and rejoice! **To Refrain**
- 2 Look upon the Lord, be radiant,
never turn away.
God will save in ev'ry affliction,
hear us when we pray. **To Refrain**
- 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. **To Refrain**
- 4 Saints of God, bow down and worship,
bless the holy name.
Rise to tell God's greatness forever,
wondrous deeds proclaim! **To Refrain**

COMMUNION BLESSING

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.

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

May the triune God,

who has put a new song in your mouth

and tuned your heart for praise

✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW #545

“Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing”

- 1 Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,
trav'ling through this wilderness.
- 2 Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.
- 3 Savior, when your love shall call us
from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us,
glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
reign with you in endless day.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.