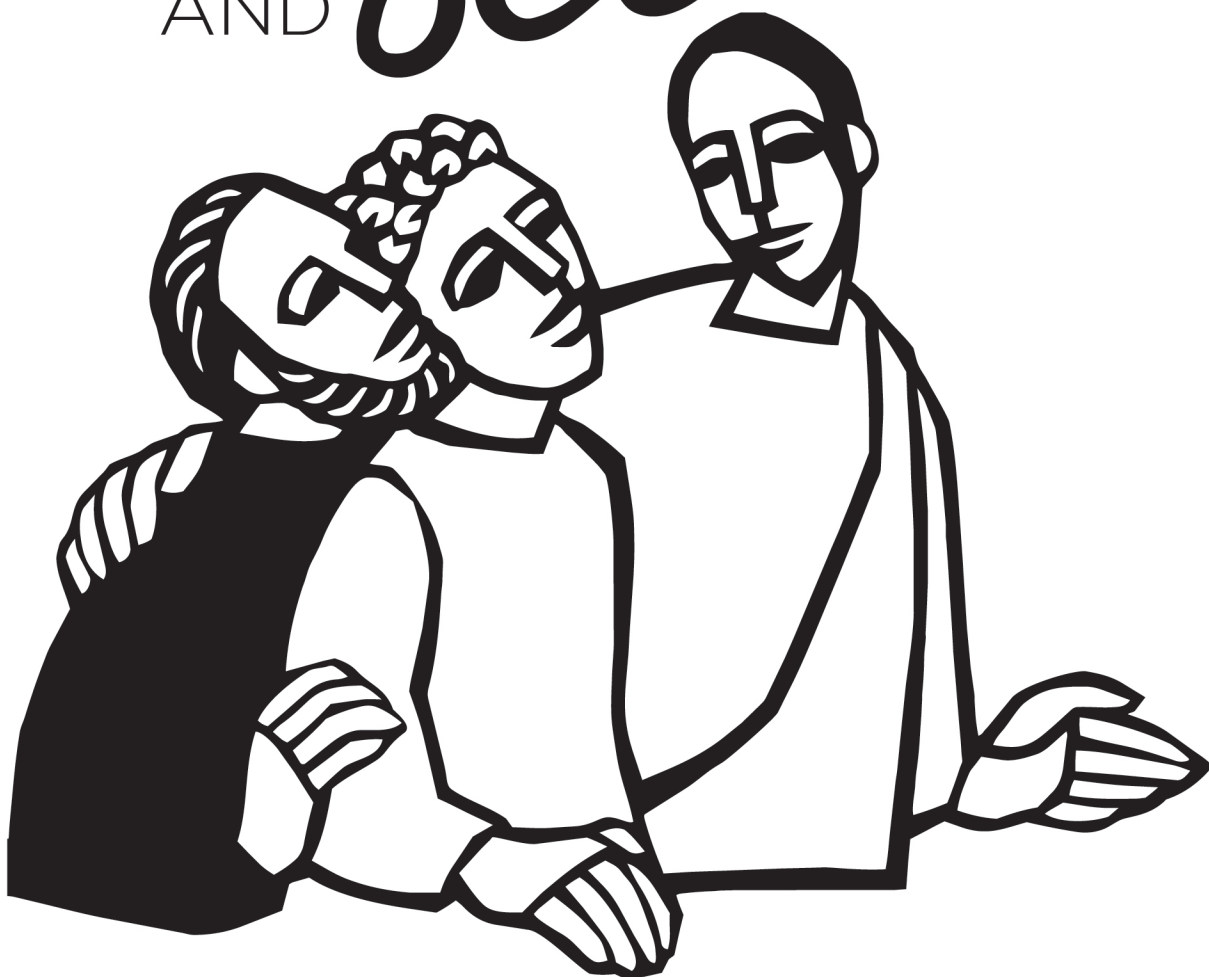


OUR WORSHIP SERVICE
JANUARY 18, 2026



COME
AND *see*

John 1:29-42



american

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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volunteer

Select a Sunday.
Select a Role.

BE OF SERVICE.



OUR MISSION

We are people who worship Jesus Christ, reaching out to teach and share his love for people. We believe through the Holy Spirit, God has empowered us to worship Jesus Christ through music, Word and Sacrament; To Teach the gospel through Sunday School, confirmation, Bible Study and Youth Ministry. To share the gospel and reach out through Fellowship, Evangelism and Ministry to all in need.

JOIN US for Worship, Fellowship & Sunday School each week!

- * Worship begins @ 9 am * Fellowship @ 10 am
- * Sunday School @ 10 am (September - May)

Welcome to Worship

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

INTRODUCTION

Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

(Congregation, please stand)

****All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.**

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.

(Acolytes come forward to light the candles once the congregation has started to sing our gathering hymn.)

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #314 Arise, Your Light Has Come

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.**

KYRIE

ELW pg. 184 (*Kyrie*); pg. 185 (*Glory to God*)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, **our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**
Amen.

(Congregation, please be seated)

FIRST READING

Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission.

Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel.

The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.

Isaiah 49:1-7

¹Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. ²He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away.

³And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God."

⁵And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength— ⁶he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

⁷Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

I love to do your will, O my God. (Psalm 40:8)

Psalms 40:1-11

¹I waited patiently upon the Lord, who stooped to me and heard my cry.

²**The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

³The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.

⁴**Happy are they who trust in the Lord! They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.**

⁵Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God! In your plans for us, none can be compared with you! Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.

⁶**Sacrifice and offering you do not desire; you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.**

(Psalm continued on page 5)

⁷And so I said, “Here I am; I come. In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

⁸**‘I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep within me.’”**

⁹I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly; I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, you know.

¹⁰**I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.**

¹¹You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me; may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

SECOND READING

Though God’s church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

¹Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(Congregation, please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL John 1:29-42

John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him." ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"

³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?"

(Gospel continued on page 7)

They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Congregation, please be seated)

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #696 Jesus Calls Us; o’er the Tumult

(Congregation, please stand)

THE 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

Petitions end “Merciful God.” Congregation responds, “Receive our prayer.”

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(Congregation, please be seated)

OFFERING

(Congregation, please stand)

OFFERTORY **ELW #302** As with Gladness Men of Old *(verse 4)*

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way; and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

OFFERING PRAYER

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 LORD’S PRAYER

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

(Congregation, please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

ELW #494 For the Bread Which You Have Broken
ELW #487 What Feast of Love

(Congregation, please stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

BLESSING

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 #539 Abide, O Dearest Jesus

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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prayer journal

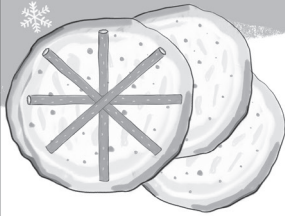
“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” -- Philippians 4:6-7

GOD, I THANK YOU FOR...

MY THOUGHTS, PRAYERS + HEART

[illegible]

Snowflake SNACK CAKES



Celebrate the beauty of winter with these fun snowflake-inspired treats!

What you need:

- Graham cracker squares or sugar cookies
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Pretzel sticks (snowflake arms)
- Shredded coconut or white sprinkles
- Mini marshmallows or candy pearls



What you do:

1. Frost each cracker or cookie.
2. Arrange pretzel sticks in a crisscross for the snowflake base.
3. Sprinkle with coconut or sprinkles for snow.
4. Add marshmallows or candy pearls to the ends for detail.

Lesson tie-in:

Remind kids that God made each of us unique—just like no two snowflakes are alike!
(Psalm 139:14, KJV)

John 1:29-42

THE Lamb of God

LOOK! THROUGH JESUS, GOD
LIVES AMONG, TEACHES, AND
SAVES US.

After reading this week's bible story, ask each other what you remember about:

- * Lamb
- * Reveal
- * Dove
- * Testify
- * Anointed
- * Spirit
- * Rabbi

Jesus may be called the Lamb of God as a reference to Isaiah 53:7 in which an innocent servant dies without complaint and atones for the sins of others.

family PRAYER

Dear God, despite causing a stir and gaining a following, John the Baptist did not lose focus. He did not give into self-importance but continue to prepare the way for and direct the crowd's attention to Jesus. Help us to follow John's example. Help us live our lives in a way that will direct others to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

family ACTIVITY

Pick a family story to act out — one in which everyone has a role to play. Act it out as you remember it. Now imagine how the story might change if Jesus had a central role. Can you act it out again with someone playing Jesus?

When we deliberate,
God reigns,
When we decide wisely,
God reigns;
When we decide foolishly,
God reigns;
When we serve God in humble loyalty,
God reigns;
When we serve God self-assertively,
God reigns;
When we rebel and seek to withhold our service,
God reigns —

The Alpha and the Omega, which is, and
which was which is to come, the Almighty.

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS,



God reigns.