

# Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Peachtree City, Georgia

February 1, 2026 8:30 & 11:00 am

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor      Wes Smith, Associate Pastor  
Larry Peterson, Director of Worship and Music

**P** = Pastor      **A** = Assisting Minister      **L** = Lector [reader]      **C** = Congregation  
*ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)*

*Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion. Communion is offered by intinction.  
The prelude is the beginning of the worship service and is a time to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.  
Please be respectful of the worshippers around you who are using this time for that purpose.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## 11:00-CALL TO WORSHIP

*M&Ms Choir*

*Please stand as you are able*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, **+** one God, the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**C** Amen.

**P** Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word  
you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**C** **We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life  
in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

**P** To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## EXCHANGING THE PEACE *We share a sign of God's peace.*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

## GATHERING HYMN *Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table*

*ACS Hymn 977*

**1** **Look who gathers at Christ's table! Hear the stories that they bring.  
Some are weeping; some are laughing; some have songs they want to sing.  
Others ask why they're invited, burdened by the wrong they've done.  
Christ insists they all are welcome. There is room for ev'ryone.**

*Hymn continues next page.*

- 2 Clouds of light surround the table; ancient followers appear,  
saints confessing how they wrestled with their guilt, their doubt and fear.  
Peter tells of his denying Christ was ever in his sight;  
Paul relates his fruitless efforts to obliterate the light.
- 3 Their sad stories are repeated in a thousand different ways,  
but they share one thing in common: they all end in thanks and praise  
for the host who has invited north and south and east and west  
to converge around this table, where all life is fed and blest.
- 4 Bring your joy and bring your sadness, and prepare to be surprised  
by the host whose hands are wounded, who will open wide your eyes  
when he blesses bread and breaks it—truth and manna from above!—  
and then passes wine that wakens in your heart the taste of love.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

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### 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.**

### HYMN OF PRAISE *Glory to God in the highest*

*ELW page 148*

- ☞ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.  
☞ **Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### 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.**

*You may be seated*

**11:00-MUSICAL OFFERING** *I Will Give My Heart to the Lord, Mark Patterson* *M&Ms Choir*

**FIRST READING** *Micah 6:1-8* *see insert page 5*

**SECOND READING** *1 Corinthians 1:18-31* *see insert page 5*

*Please stand as you are able*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Alleluia.* *ELW page 151*

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL** *Matthew 5:1-12* *see insert page 6*

*You may be seated*

**SERMON** *Pastor Wes*

*Please stand as you are able*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Let Streams of Living Justice* *ELW Hymn 710*

*Please use either the red hymnal in the pew rack or the LED projection screens for the music and words.*

## OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

- P** Let us profess our baptismal faith together.
- C** **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.**

*You may be seated*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*When the petition concludes "Merciful God," please respond, "Receive our prayer."  
The prayers are ended with these words, "Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers ... made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior." Please respond, "Amen."*

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

*Link to give:* <https://coslutheran.org/give/>

We now dedicate the financial gifts we offer to the Lord and the Lord's agenda, gifts either already given online, or before or after the service in the offering box. Likewise, we prayerfully consider the ways we offer ourselves to God's kingdom throughout the whole week.



## MUSICAL OFFERING 11:00-Rejoice and Be Glad, Glenn Pickett

*Sanctuary Choir*

*Please stand as you are able*

## OFFERTORY *Come and See*

*ACS Hymn 976*

**What are you looking for? Come, see, come and see.**

**What are you looking for? Come and see. (Come and see.)**

Text: Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962, from John 1:38-39

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## OFFERING PRAYER

- P** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>P</b> The Lord be with you.  | <b>C</b> <b>And also with you.</b>                         |
| <b>P</b> Lift up your hearts.   | <b>C</b> <b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>                  |
| <b>P</b> Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  | <b>C</b> <b>It is right to give our thanks and praise.</b> |
| <b>P</b> It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:  |  |
| <b>C</b> <b>Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.</b> |  |

—ELW page 153

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

- C** **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.**

*You may be seated*

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Please approach the altar using the diagonal aisles and return by the side or middle aisles. You will be offered a wafer, which you may dip in the chalice of wine, or you may also choose a packaged cup with grape juice and a gluten-free wafer. Please indicate to the ushers if you need to have communion brought to you.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

*Lamb of God*

*ELW page 154*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

## COMMUNION HYMN

*O God of Mercy, God of Light*

*ELW Hymn 714*

**1 O God of mercy, God of light, in love and mercy infinite,  
teach us, as ever in your sight, to live our lives in you.**

**2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost world might hear your call;  
oh, hear us lest we stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.**

**3 Teach us the lesson Jesus taught: to feel for those his blood has bought,  
that ev'ry deed and word and thought may work a work for you.**

**4 For all are kindred, far and wide, since Jesus Christ for all has died;  
grant us the will, and grace provide, to love them all in you.**

**5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care, may we each other's burdens share;  
may we, where help is needed, there give help as though to you.**

**6 And may your Holy Spirit move all those who live to live in love,  
till you receive in heav'n above all those who live in you.**

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt. Text is in the public domain.

*Please stand as you are able*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

**P** May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**G** Amen

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**P** 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.

**G** Amen.

## BLESSING

**P** May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise  
✚ bless you now and forever.

**G** Amen.

## SENDING HYMN

*Rise Up, O Saints of God!*

*ELW Hymn 669*

*Please use either the red hymnal in the pew rack or the LED projection screens for the music and words.*

## SENDING

**P** Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

Acknowledgements on page 6.

# THE LESSONS

Sunday, February 1

## FIRST READING *Micah 6:1-8*

☒ The first reading is from Micah the 6th chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says:

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

<sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what 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 now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam 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 mortal, 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?

☒ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God

## SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

☒ The second reading is from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, the 1st chapter.

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness 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.”

*Continues next page.*

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? 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, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human 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, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God

## **GOSPEL**     *Matthew 5:1-12*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter.

**G** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to you, O Christ.

## Acknowledgements

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*Altar Guild: Carol Jesnen-Linton*

*Communion Assistants: (8:30) Shelly Jones, Betty Schmidt, Jaycine Lester     (11:00) Sue & Dave Byers, David Beecher*

*Lector: (8:30) Jaycine Lester     (11:00) Kathie Manes*

*Tech Team: (8:30) Chris Gritti, Davida Kilgore     (11:00) Carol Jensen-Linton, Joni Siepert, Brad Milburn*

*Ushers: (8:30) John Musil, Bob Spruck     (11:00) Mike & Pat Oliver*

*This week's altar flowers are given by Connie Earle in memory of Jim Earle.*