

Morning Worship

Bethesda Lutheran Church – 8:30 AM

Immanuel Lutheran Church – 11:00 AM

February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Before we begin our worship this morning, I acknowledge that Bethesda Lutheran Church/Immanuel Lutheran Church stands on the traditional grounds of the Anishinaabe People, and we honor their elders both past and present. Their presence is imbued in the lands and waters surrounding us. We nurture our relationships with our indigenous neighbors, and the shared responsibilities to their homeland where we all reside today.

HOLY COMMUNION

Prelude

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The assembly stands. 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 fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.
Amen.

We gather at this font, O God,
Creator of oceans and rivers, rain and snow.
We praise you for our great Lake Superior
And for the water you provide us each day.

We praise your spirit, hovering over this font.
We bless you for this cleansing water of rebirth,
This flood of endless mercy,
And for all the baptized around this blue planet.

All the waters are yours, O God,
Even the ice that thickens
And the snow that falls.
Protect those who must travel
Through dangerous conditions,
But assure us of cover for fields and plants.

We ask you, almighty Provider,
To give us the water we need,
And we praise you for the sustenance you grant at this font.
By the water of our baptism empower us
To pour out ourselves for others
And to safeguard the waters of your earth.

To you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Sea of holiness, Spring of salvation, Cloud of mystery,
Be all praise and thanksgiving,
Now and forever.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW #873 “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

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.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen

Hymn of Praise p. 204 - S204a



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

¹ Hear what the Lord says:

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

² 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.

³ "O my people, what have I done to you?
In what 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 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."

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 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?

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 15

Refrain: Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

¹ Lord, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your | holy hill?
² **Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart; R**
³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.
⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those
who | fear the Lord.**
**They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their
word.**
⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take
bribes a- | gainst the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. **R**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸ 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. 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 scholar? 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, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ 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. 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, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation ELW #175 “*Gospel Acclamation*”

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak 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 will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Pastor Connie Monson

Hymn of the Day: ELW #710 “*Let Streams of Living Justice*”

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in you, O God,
who spoke all life into being,
author of heaven and earth,
architect of time,
quilter of the cosmos.
You shape our bodies
from the dust of the ground,
and by your breath we are given life.**

We believe in you, O God,

who became incarnate in Christ Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
truly divine and truly human.
You lived among us
to reveal your justice,
died among us
to break the bonds of sin and death,
and were raised among us
to bring abundant life.

We believe in you, O God,
who transforms us by the Holy Spirit,
draws us into community,
moves us to action,
and inspires us to hope against hope.
You breathe new life
into a fallen world
and equip us to proclaim
the good news of resurrecting love.

All thanks and praise to you, O God, our beginning and our end.
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.

A brief silence.

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may
do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ
crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries
(*faith-based organizations may be named*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We
pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents.
Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Other intercession: Lord, you know the need for healing, comfort, help or resolution for those we name before you today: Myrna & Richard Northrop, Kermit Delmain, Ed DePerry, Lorayne Reedy, Lois Osterberg, Courtney Byerhof, Bill Bodner, Chuck & Marcia Perry, Colleen Nozal, Kelliann Clapero, Rhiannon Tourdot, Holly Tourdot, Bennett Anderson, Jennifer Schlack, Casey French, Donnie Anderson, Jeanna Morshead-Metelica, Marty Burkel, Jaycee Juoni, Gary & Janet Johnson, Britni Zagorski, Luke Gulstrand, Jarrett Waite, Sarah Norton, Darlene Ludwikoski, Patty Anderson, Teresa Weber, Jane Edwards, Jay & Pat Frey, the family of Chad VanderVenter, the family of Joanne Bremer, and those whose names we hold in our heart. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for our migrant neighbors who, like most of us and our ancestors, came to this country for a better life. You who freed the captives, protect them from harm. Help us guard their rights to representation and due process. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. 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.

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Share a sign of God's peace with one another.)

Offering

Immanuel offertory: "*I am a Child of God*" —Paulann & John Frederick and Rhiannon Tourdot

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.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

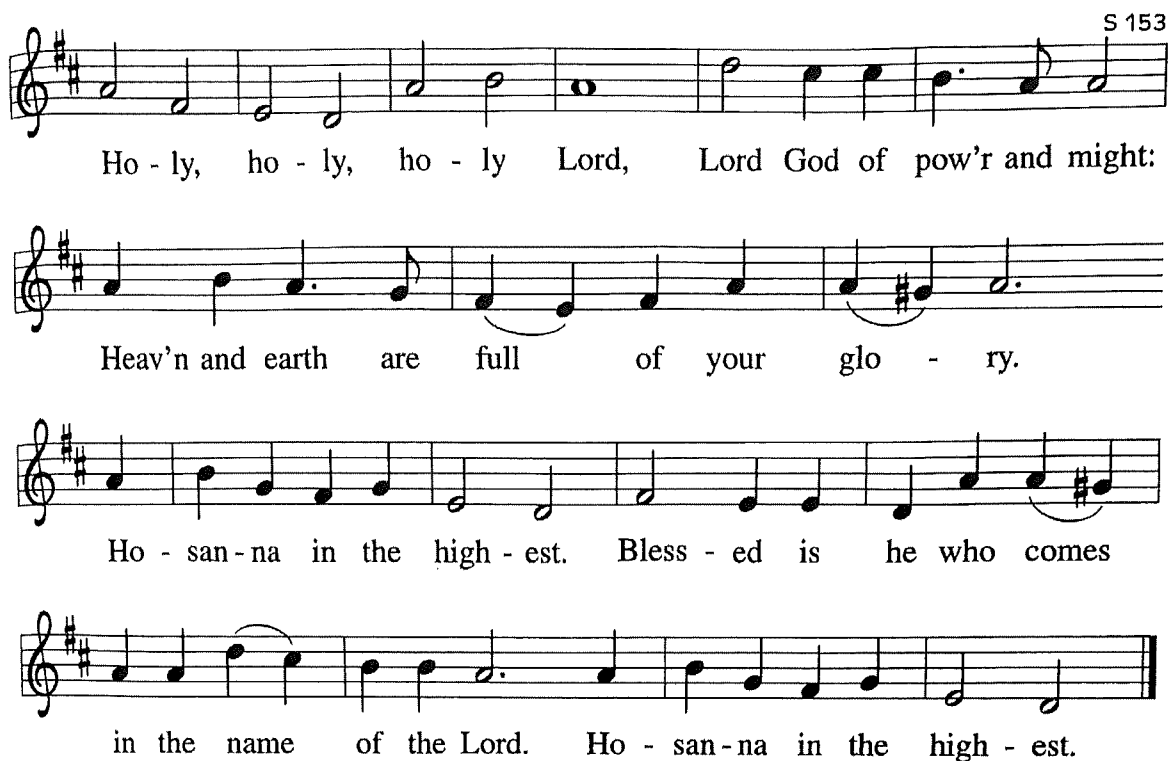
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you

and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to Communion

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

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

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.

Communion Hymn ELW #522 “As We Gather at Your Table”

Announcements:

Sunday AA 7 pm at Immanuel
Monday South Shore Quilters 9 am at Immanuel; Book Study on Zoom 1 pm; Dave Judd's birthday; Lois Osterberg's birthday
Tuesday Brunch Bunch 10 am at Bethesda; Bible Study Immanuel & Zoom 2 pm
Wednesday South Shore Quilters 9 am at Immanuel; Midday Prayer 12 pm at Bayfield Presbyterian; Gary Benzschawel's birthday
Thursday Juliet Group 9:00 am, Cornucopia Coffee Club;
Friday ROMEO 8:15 am at Siskiwit Farmhouse; Knit Wits 1 pm at Immanuel

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 #669 *"Rise Up, O Saints of God"*

Dismissal

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

Postlude**Reconciling in Christ Statement**

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free,
there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*
Galatians 3:28

We welcome YOU to Bethesda and Immanuel to participate fully in our congregational life. You who may have experienced exclusion, injustice or racial inequity; You who are young, old,

rich, poor; You of all abilities; You from all nations and ethnic backgrounds; You of all sexual orientations, gender identities or gender expression.

We are committed to racial equity, economic equity, gender equity, sexual equity. We are committed to learn, celebrate, advocate and welcome everyone through a series of forums and educational opportunities. May we grow in acceptance and become a voice for inclusion, equity and justice.

No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.