

Christ Lutheran Church

3384 Island Road, Wantagh, NY 11793

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The 4th Sunday After Epiphany (Year A)

The Holy Eucharist ♦ February 1, 2026 ♦ 9:00AM

WELCOME!

It is an honor to have you here for worship. We hope you will feel safe and comfortable in this holy house. A few notes to help you along the way:

- Most of what you will need is printed in this bulletin.
- *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) is the source for hymns which are listed by number in the upper right- or left-hand corner of the page.

PROVIDING FOR THE YOUNGEST SAINTS

Children learn to worship by participating in the liturgy. The worship of the whole community is enhanced by their involvement. Should your little one need a break, please feel free to move about, to step out for a moment, or to make use of the prayer-ground as may be helpful.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

All are welcome to receive the Sacrament. You may commune in either or both elements of bread and wine. The ushers will direct you forward via the center aisle. You have options!

- You may take an empty cup from a tray and hold onto it. You will then be given the bread to consume before approaching a minister who will fill your cup from a pouring chalice. After consuming the wine, please place the cup in the receptacle as you return to your place.
- You may bypass the small cup, receive the bread, then dip it into the chalice before consuming it.
- If you prefer not to receive the Sacrament, please cross your arms before your chest and you will be offered a blessing.

A star () invites you to stand as you are able.*

THE GATHERING RITE

* CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely. Mighty God, lover of justice,

People: 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.

Pastor: 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.

All: Amen.

* GATHERING HYMN #522: AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE

* GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE: NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION (HAUGEN)

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

Refrain

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

Refrain
God; to make all things new.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON: MICAH 6:1-8

Lector: A reading from Micah.

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. 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. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! 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. 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. 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? 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?" 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?

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15

*The psalm will be read responsively; the people will read the **bold** text.*

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,

who speak the truth from their heart;

they do not slander with the tongue, they do not do evil to their friends;

they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

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.

They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

MEDITATION: ALL THINGS BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL ARR. LARRY SUE (BELLS)

THE SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

Lector: A reading from 1st Corinthians.

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. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." 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? 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. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. 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. 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; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: CELTIC ALLELUIA



*** THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:1-12**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

*** HYMN OF THE DAY #710: LET STREAMS OF LIVING JUSTICE**

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition concludes, "Merciful God..." to which the people are invited to respond, "Receive our prayer."

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

THE MEAL

* THE PEACE

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

People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY: LET THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH BY PEPPER CHOPLIN (CHOIR)

* OFFERTORY HYMN: LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL LORD



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Deacon: 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.

All: Amen.

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... 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:

* SANCTUS

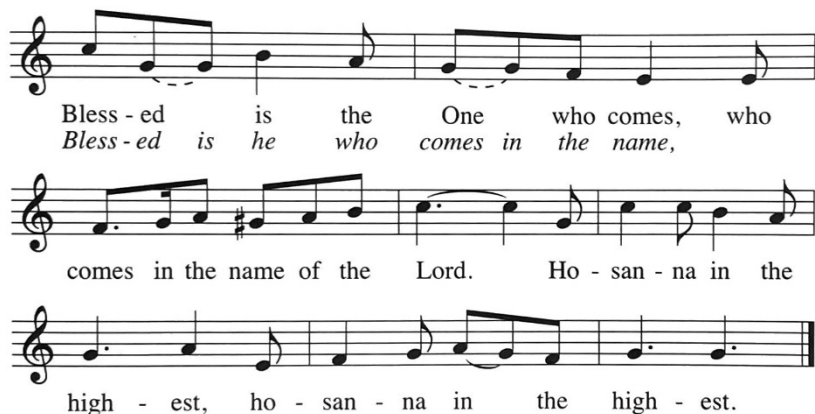
The musical score for the Sanctus is written on three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 6/8 time signature. It contains the melody for the first line of the hymn. Above the staff, the word "All" is written. The second staff continues the melody and includes the lyrics "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,". The third staff continues the melody and includes the lyrics "God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.".

All

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Pastor: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life... In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to the 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. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in Christ's death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.



* THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

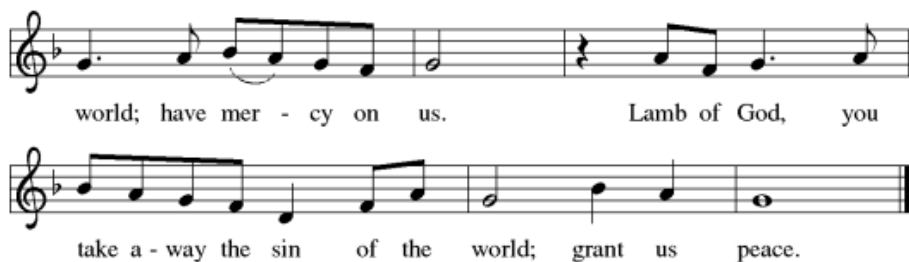
People: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

* LAMB OF GOD





COMMUNION HYMN #496: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

* POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: May this, the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you ever in his grace.

People: Amen.

* SONG AFTER COMMUNION: PRAISE TO YOU, O GOD OF MERCY



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!
thanks be to you for - ev - er!
thanks be to you for -

Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -

mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us. *to stanza 3*

Coda

ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Deacon: 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.

People: Amen.

THE SENDING RITE

* BLESSING

Pastor: *The blessing is pronounced.*

People: Amen.

* SENDING HYMN #669: RISE UP, O SAINTS OF GOD

* DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. Walk humbly with God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Serving Today

Presiding Minister/Preacher: The Rev. Susan F. Sprowls, *Interim Pastor*

Deacon: Roxanne Toomey

Director of Music: Nicole Nicholson

Organist: Kamelija Galijan-Curry

Altar Guild: Regina Coons, Doris Ohlander

Communion Assistant: Barbara Stone

Counters: Robert Ahearn, John Gross, Hans Vogel

Ushers: John Gross and Michael Murphy

Announcements

Due to the severe winter weather, the 2026 Annual Meeting has been postponed to Sunday, February 22nd. Please make every effort to attend. Christian Education classes will not be held on this day.

In February and March, WELCA and Thrivent plan to assemble and ship personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief to help people who are victims of natural disasters or political upheaval. We are looking for members of the congregation to donate bath towels (preferably dark colors), bath-size soap bars (4 to 5 oz. each), adult toothbrushes in original packaging, sturdy, medium to wide-tooth combs and nail clippers. We especially need bath towels. Donated items can be left in the box in the narthex. You can also donate money for this project. Please send checks payable to WELCA to the church office. Thank you for any help you can give to this worthwhile project.

St. John's Food Pantry

As SNAP and other benefits are being reduced or rescinded, donations of food and personal care items are needed now more than ever. Please place donations in the box in Room 2000. Needed items include beef/chicken stew, canned chicken, cooking oil, coffee, corned beef hash, noodles, hot cereal, hot chocolate, ketchup, mustard, pancake mix & syrup, toilet paper, peanut butter & jelly, salad dressing, birthday cake items, shelf-stable milk, facial tissue, paper towels, shampoo, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene items. *Please check the expiration dates before donating.*



We Remember Those on the Prayer List

Judy Angeloch, Kathleen Cardone, Becky Carlson, Regina Coons, Sal and Sue Costanzo, Alison Daurio, Joan Drake, Kelly Dempsey, Lynn Deere, Logan Dunne, Betty Gibberman, Bill Gilmor, Emmy Grenzig, Barbara Grieser, Theresa Heenan, Anya Hixson, Arnold Howard, Ruth Kollar, Susan & George Kremer, Jean Leib, Chris Mantay, Mary Ellen Massaro, Janet and William McShea, Marilyn Miller, Lilly Ann Munnich, John Nittoli, James Pallas, Joy Polet, Barbara and Gary Proce, Catherine, Terri and Della Rao, John Reardon, Emmett and Rose Reilly, Ann and Barbara Reimer, Della Dorn Rice, Bob Rimbo, Kay Riese, Anne Scheirer, Joseph Arthur Skorupski, Donna Smith, Natalie Stone, James Toomey, Nancy Valenti, Laura Vogel. To update a name on the prayer list, please contact the church office.

Congregation Council

The Reverend Susan F. Sprowls, *Interim Pastor*

Matt Murphy, *President* • Kirsten Duprez, *Vice President*

Claudia Gross, *Secretary* • Robert Ahearn • George Balduf

Regina Coons • Jeri Hallgren • Roxanne Toomey