



Christ Lutheran Church
3384 Island Road, Wantagh, NY 11793
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The 2nd Sunday After Epiphany (Year A)
The Holy Eucharist ♦ January 18, 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 #314: ARISE, YOUR LIGHT HAS COME

*** 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.

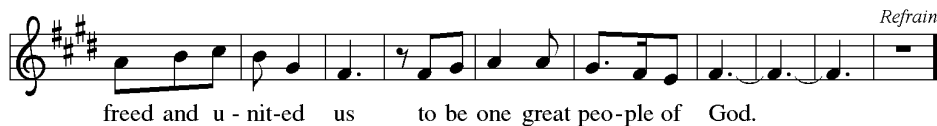
People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

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

People: **Amen.**

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



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: ISAIAH 49:1-7

Lector: A reading from Isaiah.

Listen 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. He 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. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But 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." And 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— he 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.” Thus 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.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 40:1-11

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

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

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

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

Great 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.

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

And so I said, "Here I am; I come. In the scroll of the book is written of me:
'I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep within me.'"

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

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 assembly.
You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me;

may your steadfast love and truth continually keep me safe.

MEDITATION: BRIGHTEST AND BEST OF THE STARS (BELLS)

THE SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9

Lector: A reading from 1st Corinthians.

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

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: CELTIC ALLELUIA**



*** THE GOSPEL: JOHN 1:29-42**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel According to St. John, the 1st chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

[John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 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.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” 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. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.

He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). 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).

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

* **HYMN OF THE DAY #696: JESUS CALLS US; O’ER THE TUMULT**

* **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: BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD BY MARTIN WILLETT (CHOIR)

*** OFFERTORY HYMN: GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE (VERSES 2&3)**



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*** 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

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.

Bless - ed is the One who comes, who
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name,

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est, 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**

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN #629: ABIDE WITH ME

*** 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.

⌘ 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 #830: HOW MARVELOUS IS GOD'S GREATNESS**

*** DISMISSAL**

Deacon: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

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: Elaine DiChiara, June Fahey, Emmy Grenzig, Barbara Rath

Communion Assistant: Elaine DiChiara

Counters: Jan and John Eastlund, Hans Vogel

Ushers: Robert Ahearn and John Gross

Coffee Hour Hosts: Jan and John Eastlund, Claudia & John Gross

Today's altar flowers are given in loving memory of Jerry Cardone on his birthday anniversary by his wife and family. The worship bulletin is given in loving memory of Robert E. Freyer by his wife, Eleanor, and family.

Announcements

The Church office will be closed tomorrow in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. 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.

Council Highlights: January 2026

Electronic copies of the proposed revisions to the CLC constitution have been distributed to church members. We will offer an opportunity to review and discuss the proposed constitution following worship today. Kirsten Duprez, Claudia Gross, and Pastor Sprowls will be happy to share this time with you.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. Service will be held at 7:30PM. We hope to see you there.

The 2026 Annual Meeting

Save the date! The 2026 Annual Meeting will be held after 9AM worship service **next Sunday, January 25th**. In order to hold the Annual Meeting, at least **ten percent** of the church's voting members must be in attendance in order to constitute a quorum. Christian education classes will not be held on this day. Please do all you can to be available.

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