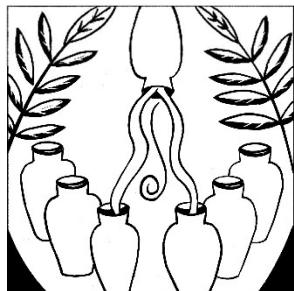


## **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**January 18, 2026 - 8:45 AM**



## **SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**A CONGREGATION OF THE DELAWARE-MARYLAND SYNOD  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

12095 Blades Road, PO Box 368, Cordova, MD 21625

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**The Reverend Jonathon Moyers, Pastor**

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**Julie Hawley, Organist and Choir Director**

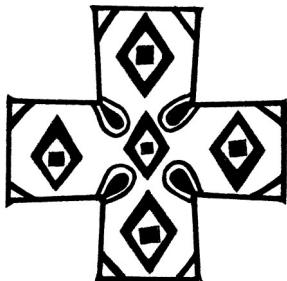
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**Meredith Lewis, Secretary**

Cell: 443-496-0903 – Email: [info@stpaulscordova.org](mailto:info@stpaulscordova.org)

**Vertrau Auf Gott!**

Trust in God!



**WELCOME TO SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH**  
as we gather in person and virtually to  
Worship in the name of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.

**Bold portions** of the bulletin are read by congregation.

### **Our Mission**

We affirm that:

God has planted us in fertile soil;  
Unified us in the waters of baptism;  
Nurtured us with Word and Sacraments;  
And called us to harvest in bountiful faith.

Therefore, the mission of Saint Paul's Cordova is to:

Be led by the Spirit of Jesus;  
Praise and worship the Trinity;  
Grow our membership with faith and love;  
And share our blessings with all God's people.

### **Holy Communion at Saint Paul's**

In the Lutheran tradition we invite persons baptized with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit to come forward to receive Holy Communion. In the mystery of this most Holy Sacrament, we receive the true Body and precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and for eternal life. Please come forward as directed by the ushers. On your way to the altar rail, please pick up a communion cup from the small table.

A note for parents – we also welcome all baptized children, regardless of age, to receive Holy Communion. Some parents wish for their children to wait until a later age to receive. If you do not wish for your children to receive, please make sure the Pastor knows that. It is not Pastor's practice to deny children Holy Communion at the altar, unless parents indicate otherwise. Welcome and hospitality are very important at this altar.

For those who have need of gluten-free hosts or unfermented grape juice, please indicate that to the Pastor and the assistant.

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## Announcements & Prelude

**A Hymn in Procession – “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”**

**Hymnal #310**

## The Invocation

*Celebrant* In the Name of the Father, and of the **†**Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
*People* **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Confession of Sin and Absolution

*Celebrant*  
You who do truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God.

**Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against your holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare those who confess their faults, restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.**

*The Celebrant declares the Absolution.*

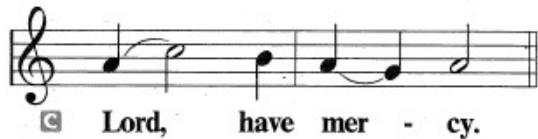
## The Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie Eleison – “Lord, have mercy”

*Celebrant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (Response:**And also with you.**)

*Celebrant* In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
*People*

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

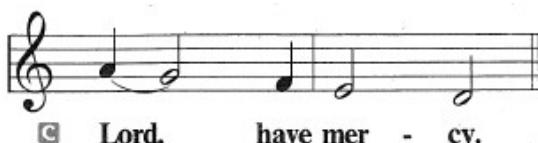
*People*



C Lord, have mer - cy.

*Celebrant* For the peace of the whole world, for the wellbeing of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

*People*



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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

*People*



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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

*People*



C A - men

### **The Canticle – *The Gloria in Excelsis***

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.

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you. *People* **And also with you.** *Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## A Reading of Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.  
You shall no more be termed Forsaken,  
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;  
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,  
and your land Married;  
for the Lord delights in you,  
and your land shall be married.  
For as a young man marries a young woman,  
so shall your builder marry you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,  
so shall your God rejoice over you.

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 36:5-10** *Dixit in justus*

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, \*  
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,  
your justice like the great deep; \*  
you save both man and beast, O Lord.



**How priceless is your love, O God! \***  
**your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.**  
**They feast upon the abundance of your house; \***  
**you give them drink from the river of your de-lights.**

For with you is the well of life, \*  
and in your light we see light.

Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, \*  
and your favor to those who are true of heart.

**A Reading of 1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel Acclamation

Hymn #308 vs 3

*Lord, when you look on us in love,  
at once there falls from God above  
a ray of purest pleasure.  
Your word and Spirit, flesh and blood  
refresh our souls with heav'nly food.  
You are our dearest treasure!  
Let your mercy warm and cheer us!  
Oh, draw near us!  
For you teach us  
God's own love through you has reached us.*

## A Reading of the Gospel according to John 2:1-11

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Alleluia!  
*People* **Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
*Celebrant* Jesus revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.  
*People* **Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

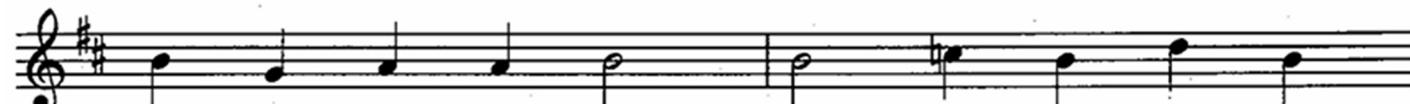
## The Sermon

*The Reverend Jonathon Moyers, S.T.M.*

A Hymn — *When Christ's Appearing Was Made Known'*



1 When Christ's ap - pear - ing was made known, King He - rod  
2 The east - ern sa - ges saw from far and fol - lowed  
3 With - in the Jor - dan's sa - cred flood the heaven - ly  
4 Oh, what a mir - a - cle di - vine, when wa - ter  
5 All glo - ry, Je - sus, be to thee for this thy



1 trem - bled for his throne; but he who of - fers  
2 on his guid - ing star; by light their way to  
3 Lamb in meek - ness stood, that he, to whom no  
4 red - dened in - to wine! He spoke the word, and  
5 glad e - piph - a - ny: whom with the Fa - ther



1 heaven - ly birth sought not the king - doms of this earth.  
2 Light they trod, and by their gifts con - fessed their God.  
3 sin was known, might cleanse his peo - ple from their own.  
4 forth it flowed in streams that na - ture ne'er be - stowed.  
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Ghost for ev - er - more.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father.\*  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the ✕ resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

\* *The original Nicene Creed does not contain the words “and the Son” here. That was a later addition by the Roman Church.*

### Prayers of Intercession

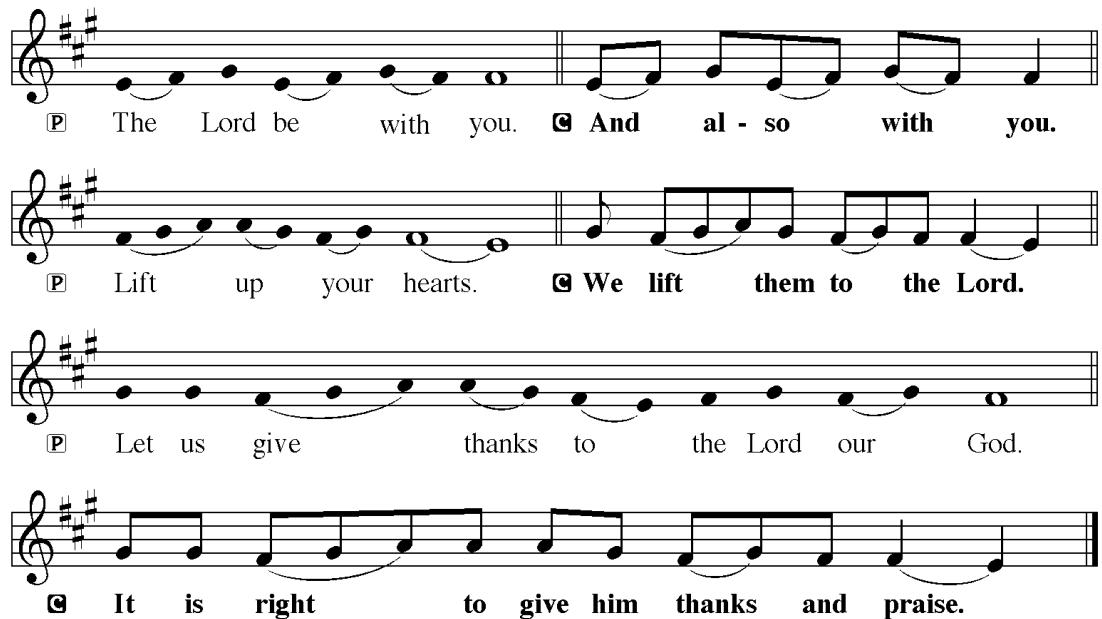
*After each petition, (God of grace) the congregation responds: Hear our prayer.*

### The Offertory Prayer

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

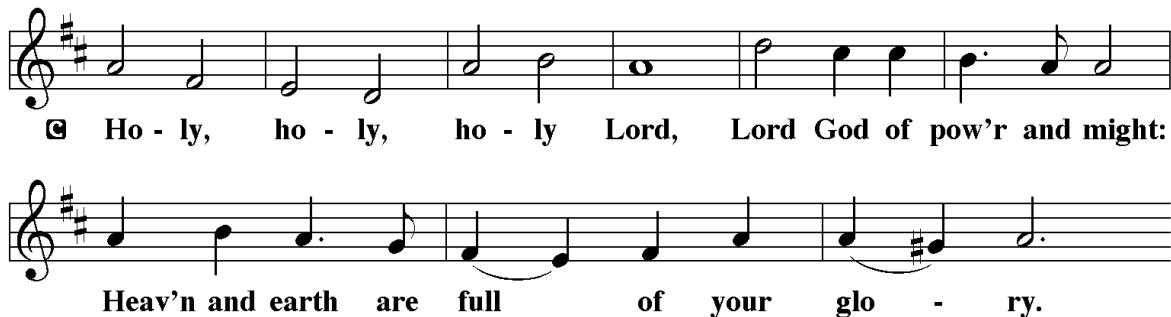


The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff contains the text: "P The Lord be with you. C And al - so with you." The second staff contains: "P Lift up your hearts. C We lift them to the Lord." The third staff contains: "P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff contains: "C It is right to give him thanks and praise." The notation uses a mix of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes connected by beams.

### *The Celebrant continues*

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with angels and archangels, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### *The Celebrant and People together*



The musical notation consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff contains the text: "C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:" The second staff contains: "Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry." The notation uses a mix of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes connected by beams.

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.

*The Celebrant continues*

We give thanks and praise to you, God, Father Almighty, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. You created heaven and all its powers, the earth and all that is upon it. You give us life and breath and satisfy us daily with your fullness. You set us free from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your beloved Son.

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.

We remember with thanksgiving his bitter suffering and death, his victorious resurrection and ascension, and we look for his coming in glory. With this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, with this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*The Celebrant and People*

**We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We pray you: Send your Holy Spirit upon us and this holy meal. Grant that we receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and so share in the fullness of his sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins and for eternal life.

Mighty Lord, by your grace, you are present among us with all the richness of your love. Cleanse us from sin and strengthen us that you may dwell in our hearts by faith. Make us firm in the hope of eternal life. Grant that we grow in love, so that we, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, \_\_\_\_\_, and all the faithful, may be gathered into your holy church when it is perfected in your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

By him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Celebrant* Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

*The Celebrant and People together*

**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 Agnus Dei – “Lamb of God”**



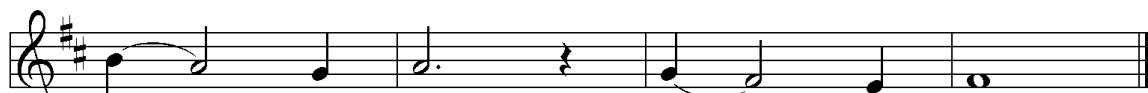
**C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer- cy on us.**



**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, grant us peace.**

### **Invitation to Holy Communion**

*Celebrant* Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his Supper.

*People* **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you. But only say the word and I shall be healed.**

## The Distribution of Holy Communion

### Post-Communion Prayer

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Celebrant and People together*

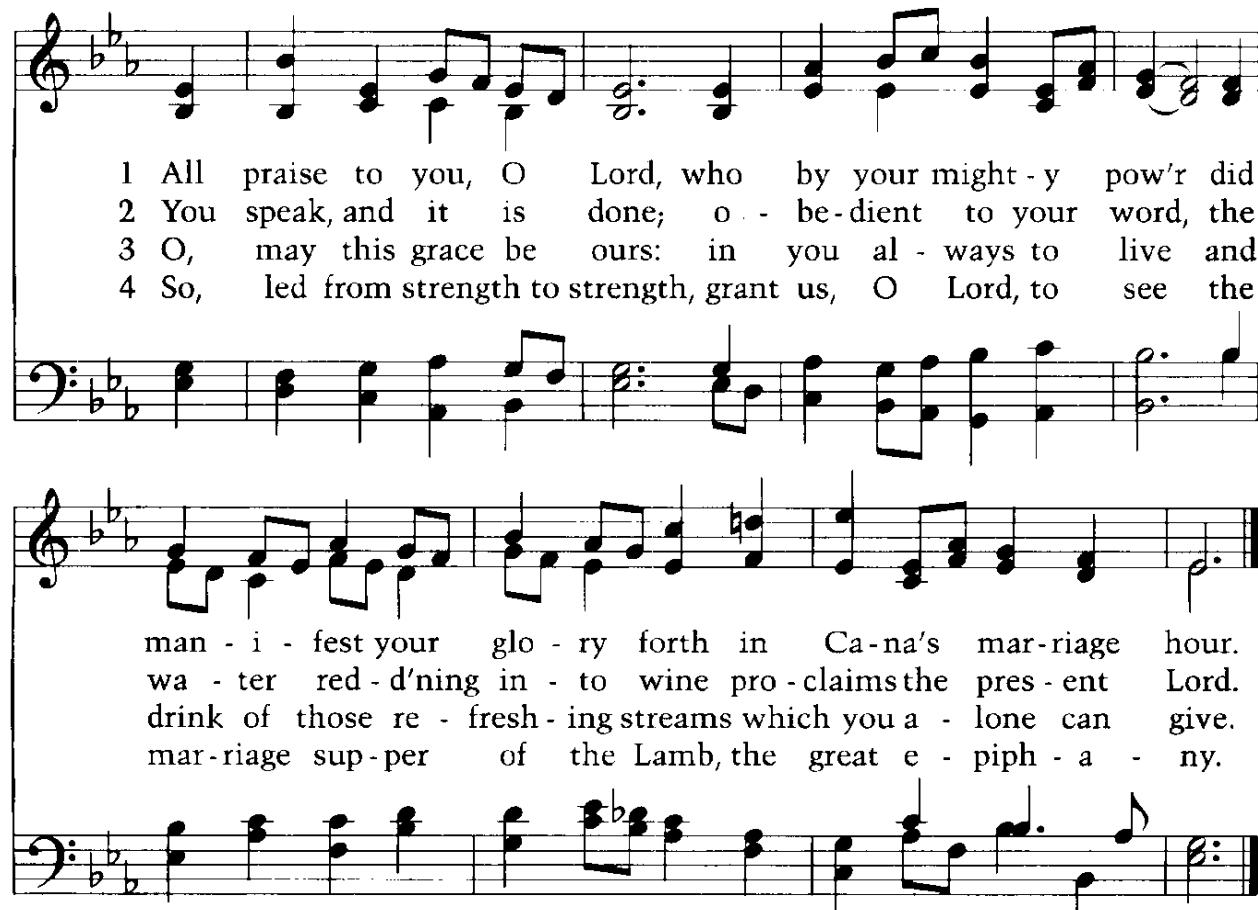
Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### The Blessing

*The Celebrant*

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the Name of the Father, and of the **†** Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### The Final Hymn – “All Praise to You, O Lord”



1 All praise to you, O Lord, who by your might - y pow'r did  
2 You speak, and it is done; o - be - dient to your word, the  
3 O, may this grace be ours: in you al - ways to live and  
4 So, led from strength to strength, grant us, O Lord, to see the

man - i - fest your glo - ry forth in Ca-na's mar-riage hour.  
wa - ter red - d'ning in - to wine pro - claims the pres - ent Lord.  
drink of those re - fresh - ing streams which you a - lone can give.  
mar-riage sup - per of the Lamb, the great e - piph - a - ny.

## The Dismissal

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God!**

### This Week

Ushers & Tellers: Henry and Lyn Hollingsworth

Lector, Communion Assistant and Acolyte: Declan Corley

### Next Sunday

Ushers & Tellers: Lee Heinsohn and Lee Moore

Lector: Beth Roesel, Communion Assistant: Tom Roesel and Acolyte: Henry Callahan

**Today's altar flowers are given in celebration of Henry's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday by Rosemarie and family.**

Our annual meeting will be held next Sunday, January 25, 2026, at 10:30 am following the morning worship service. It is the right and privilege of all voting members (confirmed members of St. Paul's who have communed and made a contribution of record in the last year), to attend and participate.

The 2025 report packets are available for anyone interested in reviewing the packet in advance of the meeting.

**Join us on Sunday, February 1 at 4 pm at Grace Lutheran for WinterSong: A Winter Festival of Scripture, Music and Hymnody**

## Daily Discipleship

**Transfiguration of Our Lord (A) – Matthew 17:1-9**

**Discipleship: Following God's Beloved**

**Focus Question: How can a person show love towards God's Beloved?**

**word of life**

**“While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with him I am well pleased; listen to him!’” Matthew 17:5 (NRSV)**

Read Matthew 17:1-9

The text for Transfiguration Sunday describes the transformation of the human figure of Jesus while on the mountaintop. Jesus is not alone when this happens. He has taken the inner core of his disciples – Peter, James, and John.

Mountains in the Old Testament are the place where people encounter the presence of God. Perhaps the best known example is Moses receiving the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai. (Exodus 24:12-18) Thus, for Peter, James, and John to be taken along with Jesus to the mountain

is quite impressive. They witness Jesus being transfigured. His face shines like the sun and his clothing becomes white. But more than that, Moses and Elijah appear.

1. *Describe this scene in your own words.*
2. *What would it have been like to be with Peter, James, and John to witness this?*

Moses and Elijah are two of the most well-known persons from the Old Testament, representing the law and the prophets. Peter does not know what to do, so he speaks. It might have been a better option to be quiet and humbly witness this scene. But Peter is known for jumping into a situation and blurting out his first thoughts. He states how good it is for all of them to be there and proposes to make shelters for Moses, Elijah and Jesus. Peter thinks they will remain on the mountaintop for a while.

Instead, the situation builds to a greater climax as God's voice is heard. The words are similar to those spoken at the baptism of Jesus. (Matthew 3:13-17) Jesus affirms the identity of Jesus as God's own Son and the Beloved. God is still well-pleased with Jesus, but God adds something new. God instructs those disciples on the mountain and disciples of all times to listen to Jesus.

3. *How does repeating these words reinforce the words spoken at baptism?*
4. *What is the impact of adding new words?*

It is not surprising for the disciples to be overcome with fear, but Jesus attempts to calm them by offering these words, "Get up and do not be afraid." (Matthew 17:7 NRSV) By the time they look around, they see only Jesus. It is unclear how much time the disciples spent prostrate on the ground.

5. *What might have gone through the minds and hearts of the disciples?*
6. *How did fear block their experience?*
7. *Is there anything the disciples could have done once they were filled with fear?*

When they came down from the mountain, Jesus instructs the disciples not to tell anyone about the events they witnessed until after the Son of Man has been resurrected. That is quite a request. Some people need to talk about their experiences to find meaning and a certain level of understanding, yet Jesus knows none of these events will make sense until after he has been crucified and raised from the dead.

Timmy never thought he would get married. He would date someone and find himself bored in the relationship. It made him quite sad, but Timmy realized it was his own problem. He knew these women were fantastic. At some point, he gave up searching for the perfect love of his life and devoted himself to his work. He knew his work would never fail to intrigue him.

Then one day he met Claire. She seemed to sparkle. They began to date and to build a relationship. This time Timmy made more of an effort, but one day he realized being with Claire took no effort. He waited for that awful feeling of boredom to descend, but it never came. Timmy knew he had found something very special and would not take their relationship for granted. He treated their relationship with tender care and acknowledged Claire as a rare gift in his life. In fact, he often referred to Claire as "my beloved" and continuously sought ways to share his love with her.

1. *What does it feel like to be the object of someone's love?*
2. *Is it comfortable for you to be the object of someone's love? How so?*

As long as Suzie could remember, she always wanted a Mustang convertible. Finally, she could afford to buy one. That car became “her beloved.” She hung pictures of the car in her office and spent most of Saturday keeping it cleaned and polished.

3. *What other objects can become the focus of love?*
4. *What would you want to say to Suzie?*

God makes it clear about the object of God’s love. God loves Jesus, regarding him as God’s Beloved. Simply put, God is well pleased with Jesus. God wants people to know Jesus and especially to listen to him. God is quite direct. “Listen to him!” (Matthew 17:5 NRSV) Those direct words spoken by God become an important reminder about setting priorities. God desires people to know Jesus, the one whom God loves and with whom God is well-pleased. In a world filled with distractions, it is helpful to be reminded of this One worth listening to.

5. *How might we listen to Jesus through worship?*
6. *How might we listen to Jesus in our personal devotions and prayer?*
7. *How might we listen to Jesus through the conversations with others?*

It is not always easy for a parent to let go of a beloved child as the child encounters new experiences such as first grade, high school, or college. Hopefully the parent’s love grounds their beloved child and helps guide them in making wise decisions. As a loving parent, God sent Jesus into our world, knowing it would be a difficult journey. God supported Jesus as he lived among us, encountered rejection, and even as he faced death on the cross. God’s love for Jesus did not waver. Through God’s love for Jesus, we encounter God’s love for us.

8. *How do you show love towards God’s Beloved?*
9. *How else might you do so?*

### **Prayer**

Christ, help me to listen to you. Continue to claim me and keep me close. Help me to show my love toward you in all that I do and am. Amen

### **Dig Deeper**

Exodus 24:12-18

### ***last word***

Today, find a way to show your love towards God’s Beloved.