

**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 18, 2026**  
**10:30 am**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

*Growing a Christian community where each is valued, accepted, and loved.*  
106 Maple St., Reading, OH 45215 • 513-821-0987 • [stpaulreading.org](http://stpaulreading.org)

# Second Sunday after Epiphany: January 18, 2026

## Prelude

## Gathering

### Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

*Please stand as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\pm$  one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Please kneel or sit as you are able. Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: **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.**

P: 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  $\pm$  Jesus' name.  
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you  
with the gift of peace.

C: **Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### Entrance Hymn #652 (blue hymnal)

“Arise, Your Light Has Come!”

### Greeting

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

C: **And also with you.**

### Kyrie

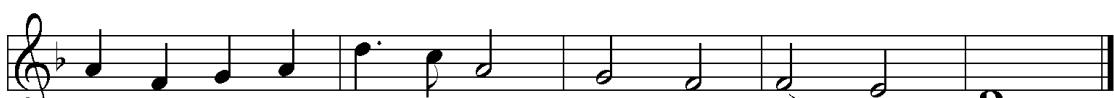
### WOV Setting 5



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:



**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

## Hymn of Praise

## WOV Setting 5



Glory to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glory to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might - y God and Fa - ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



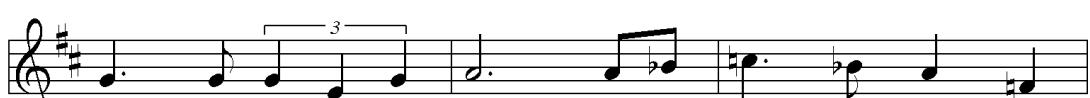
Glory to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glory to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

C Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.

I For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly  
Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.

C Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## **Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

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

C: Amen.

## **The Word**

### **Blessing of the Lector**

P: Marie, may God bless you as you read for us the scriptures. May the word of God dwell in us richly so that everything we do in word or deed will be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

C: Amen.

*Please be seated.*

### **First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant,

    Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

<sup>4</sup> 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."

<sup>5</sup> 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—

<sup>6</sup> 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."

<sup>7</sup> 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.”

The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalmody: “I Waited for the Lord my God” (Ps. 40:1-11)**

*The leader will sing the odd-numbered verses and the congregation will sing the even-numbered verses (words in bold).*

1 I waited for the Lord my God,  
and patiently did bear;  
at length to me he did incline,  
my voice and cry to hear.



2 He took me from a fear - ful pit and from the mir - y clay,



and on a rock he set my feet, es - tab - lish-ing my way.

3 He put a new song in my mouth,  
our God to magnify:  
many shall see it, and shall fear,  
and on the Lord rely.

4 **O blessed are all they whose trust  
upon the Lord relies;  
respecting not the proud, nor such  
as turn aside to lies.**

5 O LORD my God, full many are  
the wonders You have done;  
Thy gracious thoughts to us-ward far  
above all thoughts are gone:

6 **In order none can reckon them  
to Thee: if them declare,  
And speak of them I would, they more  
than can be numbered are.**

7 No sacrifice nor offering  
did You at all desire;  
Mine ears Thou bored: sin-off 'ring Thou  
and burnt did not require:

8 **Then to the LORD these were my words,  
I come, behold and see;  
Within the volume of the book  
it written is of me:**

9 To do Thy will I take delight,  
O Thou my God that art;  
Yea, that most holy law of Thine  
I have within my heart.

10 **Within the congregation great  
I righteousness did preach:  
Lo, You do know, O LORD, that I  
refrained not my speech.**

11 I never did within my heart  
conceal Thy righteousness;  
I Thy salvation have declared,  
and shown Thy faithfulness.

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup> 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:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind <sup>6</sup> just as the testi-

mony of Christ has been strengthened among you <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

**WOV Setting 5**

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G clef, common time, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are integrated into the music. The first staff contains the text 'Al - le - - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?'. The second staff contains 'Al - le - - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.'. The third staff contains 'Al - le - - lu - ia, al - - le - - lu - ia.'

**Gospel: John 1:29-42**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>29</sup> John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he

was before me.’<sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”<sup>32</sup> And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.<sup>33</sup> I 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.’<sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

<sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,<sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”<sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.<sup>38</sup> 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?”<sup>39</sup> 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.<sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.<sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).<sup>42</sup> 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).

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Children’s Sermon**

## **Sermon**

*Silence for reflection and meditation.*

### **Hymn of the Day #494 (green hymnal)**

“Jesus Calls Us; O’er the Tumult”

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **The Apostles’ Creed**

A: Let us confess our common faith with all Christians throughout time and place, using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*After each petition:*

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

*After the last petition:*

A: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

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

C: **And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## Invitation to Offering

A: We now give our offering in order that we might continue to witness in this place and be a light to the nations. (*Is. 49:6*)

### Offering

### WOV Setting 5



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 now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



Lord, and give us a fore- taste of the feast to come.

## Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: **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.**

## The Meal

### Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### Preface

P: 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. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus

## WOV Setting 5

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 he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Thanksgiving at the Table

P: 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**

P:      Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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**

P:      Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

    Come to the table; taste and see.

*Please be seated.*

## Agnus Dei

## WOV Setting 5

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.

## Communion

P: The Body of Christ, broken for you.  
The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

*Those who wish to commune at the communion station in the front of the sanctuary may either bring forward their individual Communion kit, or receive the wafer and wine/grape juice by intinction (dipping) from the Communion Ministers, when they are directed forward. Those who wish to commune in their seat with their individual kit may remain seated. Children may come forward with their family for a blessing.*

## Communion Hymn #128 (maroon hymnal)

“Now Behold the Lamb”

## Table Blessing

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

C: Amen.

## Post-Communion Canticle

WOV Setting 5

Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and  
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks-  
giv - - ing. Al - - le - lu - - ia.

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

**A:** 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.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **Sending**

### **Announcements for God's Mission in the World**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **Blessing**

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

**C:** **Amen.**

## **Closing Hymn #515 (green hymnal)**

“How Marvelous God's Greatness”

## **Dismissal**

**A:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

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### **Worship Leaders**

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor

Kris Keith, Music Director

Kate Wollenburg, Organist

Chet Laine, Assisting Minister

Marie Calhoun, Reader

Carroll Mayhugh, Livestreamer

## Upcoming Events

### **Sunday, Jan. 18: 2 Epiphany**

10:10 am Christian Education  
10:30 am Worship Service

### **Monday, Jan. 19**

7 pm Council Meeting  
\*\*Epistle items due\*\*

### **Tuesday, Jan. 20**

11 am Bible Study

### **Thursday, Jan. 22**

1:30 pm Stewardship Committee

### **Sunday, Jan. 25: 3 Epiphany**

10:30 am Worship Service  
After worship: Annual Meeting

### **Tuesday, Jan. 27**

\*\*No Bible study today—rescheduled date  
TBA\*\*

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