



**HOLY COMMUNION  
JANUARY 18, 2026  
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY  
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY  
THE CONFESSION OF PETER**

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

**PRELUDE AND PREPARATION** *During the prelude, prepare your heart for worship, read the introduction, look up the Scripture readings, and pray: Direct and control us, O Lord, always and everywhere with heavenly light. May we discern with clear vision and effectively share the Mystery which You have willed us to partake: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**CHILDREN** *of all ages are welcome! The Children's Library is available if a child needs a break during the service.*

**LISTENING DEVICES** *for the hearing impaired are available at the sound board (back of the sanctuary).*

**INTRODUCTION** *Today's Gospel further reflects on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world, the One anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy Christ is revealed among us in word and meal. We invite others to come and worship the Holy One, and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.*

**COMMEMORATION Confession of Peter - The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is framed by two commemorations, the *Confession of Peter* (a relatively recent addition to the calendar) and the older *Conversion of Paul*. These two days give us an opportunity to focus on key events in each of their lives. Today we remember that Peter was led by God's grace to acknowledge Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God' (Matt. 16:16). This confession is the common confession that unites us with Peter and with all Christians of every time and place.

## WELCOME AND MEDITATION

(Please rise.)

**GATHERING GOSPEL** ....Matthew 16:13-19 ..... p. 1524

## GATHERING HYMN

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” (WOV # 747)

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and  
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of  
 3 Grant, we pray, to all your faith - ful all the gifts they  
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,  
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,  
 ask to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er  
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's  
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est  
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter  
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.  
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.  
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.  
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
 Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659–1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802–1868

## **INVOCATION** ( = *All may make the sign of the cross.*)

P: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**C: AMEN.**

## **CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS**

P: As God's beloved children, let us call to mind our sin and our need for reconciliation with God and one another.

*(Please kneel. Silence is kept for reflection.)*

P: Strong and faithful God,

**C: We confess that we have not lived as Your holy people in the world. We have closed our hearts to Your love. We have resisted Your light. We have failed to proclaim Your mercy. Forgive what we have done and what we have left undone, heal us with Your abundant grace, and help us walk as children of the light. AMEN.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: AMEN.**

## **GREETING** (*Please rise.*)

P: Arise, shine; for your light has come. 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.**

## **WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME**

### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

*“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds” (Maj # 12)*

John Newton

ST. PETER  
Alexander Reinagle

1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds In a be - liev - er's ear!  
2 Dear name! the rock on which I build, My shield and hid - ing place,  
3 Je - sus, my Shep-herd, Broth - er, Friend, My Proph - et, Priest, and King,  
4 Weak is the ef - fort of my heart, And cold my warm-est thought;  
5 Till then I would Thy love pro-claim With ev - ery fleet - ing breath;

1 It soothes his sor - rows, heals his wounds, And drives a - way his fear.  
2 My nev - er - fail - ing treas - ury, filled With bound-less stores of grace.  
3 My Lord, my life, my way, my end, Ac - cept the praise I bring.  
4 But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.  
5 And may the mu - sic of Thy name Re - fresh my soul in death.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you! C: And also with you!

L: Let us pray together: C: 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. AMEN.

## RESPONSIVE READING....Psalm 18:1-6, 16-19

*(congregation reads indented)*

I love you, O LORD, my strength.

**The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;**  
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.

**He is my shield and the horn of my salvation,**  
**my stronghold.**

I call to the LORD, Who is worthy of praise,  
**and I am saved from my enemies.**

The cords of death entangled me;  
**the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.**

The cords of the grave coiled around me;  
**the snares of death confronted me.**  
In my distress I called to the LORD;  
**I cried to my God for help.**  
From His temple He heard my voice;  
**my cry came before Him, into His ears.**  
He reached down from on high and took hold of me;  
**He drew me out of deep waters.**  
He rescued me from my powerful enemy,  
**from my foes, who were too strong for me.**  
They confronted me in the day of my disaster,  
**but the LORD was my support.**  
He brought me out into a spacious place;  
**He rescued me because He delighted in me.**

## PRAISE SONG *(Please sit.)* “Love Lifted Me”

(Maj # 642 - favorite - Text: James Rowe; Tune: Howard E. Smith)



1 I was sink-ing deep in sin, far from the peace-ful shore, ver - y deep-ly  
2 All my heart to him I give, ev - er to him I'll cling, in his bless-ed  
3 Souls in dan-ger, look a-bove, Je-sus com-plete- ly saves; he will lift you



stained with-in, sink-ing to rise no more; but the mas-ter of the sea  
pres - ence live, ev - er his prais-es sing; love so might-y and so true  
by his love out of the an - gry waves; he's the mas-ter of the sea,



heard my de-spair-ing cry, from the wa-ters lift - ed me, now safe am I.  
mer - its my soul's best songs; faith-ful lov-ing ser-vice, too, to him be - longs.  
bil - lows his will o - bey; he your Sav-ior true will be: be saved to - day.



Love lift - ed me! Love lift - ed me! When noth - ing



else could help, love lift - ed me. love lift - ed me.

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

**FIRST LESSON** ....Isaiah 49:1-7.....Pg. 1138

P: Word of God, Word of Life.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND LESSON** ....Acts 4:8-13 .....Pg. 1696

P: Word of God, Word of Life.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

**THIRD LESSON** ....2 Peter 1:1-15 .....Pg. 1893

P: Word of God, Word of Life.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

### **COLLECT FOR CHILDREN** (*If children are present.*)

P: As we dismiss for Children's Church, let us pray the Collect for Children together: **C: Heavenly Father, You have blessed our congregation with the joy and care of children. Give us courage, patience, and wisdom, as we bring them up in the faith, that they may never know a day apart from Your love and care; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**AMEN.**

*(Please rise. Young children may go to Children's Church)*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** “*Lamb of God*” verse 1

*(Maj # 232)*

Twila Paris

1 Your only Son no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side.  
3 I was so lost I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side.

1 side To walk up - on this guilt - y sod And to be led by Your staff and rod, And to be

3 side To be

1 come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God.  
 3 called a lamb of God. God. God.

God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. O wash me in His pre-cious blood, (3) My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God. God. God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter.

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

**GOSPEL** ....John 1:29-42 ..... p. 1647

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *verse 3*

**SERMON** (*Please sit. See outline in Announcements insert.*)

## WE RESPOND IN FAITH

**HYMN OF THE DAY** (*Please rise.*)

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (Maj # 519 - favorite)

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960 Music: FAITHFULNESS. William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Please kneel.)*

*(Response: L: Lord, in Your mercy; C: hear our prayer.)*

### A LITANY FOR LIFE

P: O God, in Whom we live and move and have our being:

**C: Have mercy on us.**

L: O God, You are the author of life:

**C: Grant that all may respect the sanctity of the gift of life**

P: O God, Your gift is not diminished by change or circumstance:

**C: Help all people to see the value of human life and that we are all equal before You.**

L: O Giver of Life, in mercy grant repentance to those who wrest life from the womb:

**C: Father, for the sake of Christ, forgive them, for they know not fully what they do.**

P: Father, to those who are troubled by a haunting sense of guilt:

**C: Bring them the freeing, healing love of Christ.**

L: Father, You have freed us from a life of death and despair:

**C: By the power of Christ's resurrection help us to live a life of faith and love.**

P: Compassionate Christ, grant all a sincere concern for the unborn, the developmentally disabled, the aged and all the vulnerable in need of love and protection:

**C: May we love them as You do.**

L: Gracious Father, turn the hearts of all people to You and to respect for the wondrous mystery that is the gift of life.

**C: Help us to see that there are no men or women, none old or young, none healthy or incapacitated that You do not sustain and whom we should not protect.**

P: Take away callousness, impatience, greed, and indifference from our people that the church may unite with all people of noble mind to care for those who experience life as a burden, to work for justice that all life may be protected by civil government, and to pray for mercy in the face of all the lives that have been lost.

**C: Compassionate Christ, grant that we may all be channels of Your saving, seeking love. Amen.**

**OFFERING** *Please place your offering and your Communication Card in the plate (back of the center aisle) as you come in or go out. Thank You!*

## **WE COMMUNE WITH CHRIST**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** *(Please rise.)*

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.**

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: (*WOV p 36*)



© 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.

## PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Blessed are You, O holy God: You are the Life and Light of all. By Your powerful Word You created all things. Through the prophets You called Your people to be a light to the nations. You sent the Living Word, Jesus, Your Son. He is Your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us Your mercy and might.

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.

Remembering, therefore, His preaching and healing, His dying and rising, and His promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in Your holy and life-giving light. By Your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of Your Son. Through Him all glory and honor is Yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in Your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (*sung*)

**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 congregation may bow in reverence and wonder at the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.)*

## COMMUNION (*Please be seated*)

*All who are baptized and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior may partake. Please fill out a Communication Card and hand it to the usher. For a gluten-free rice wafer say "Rice." Grape juice is in the pre-filled glasses. Those not ready to receive communion may come for a blessing.*

## LAMB OF GOD (*WOV p 39*)

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.

## COMMUNION HYMNS (*sung while others are receiving.*)

### 1. "Just As I Am, without One Plea" (Maj # 497 - favorite)

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
 2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of  
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,  
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch-ed, blind; sight, rich - es, heal - ing

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
 one dark blot, to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
 man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
 of the mind, yea, all I need in thee to find,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
 wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
 because thy promise I believe,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown  
 has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
 now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871    Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

### 2. "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

(Maj # 642 - favorite - Text: James Rowe; Tune: Howard E. Smith)

1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;  
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,  
 could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
 Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help-less, look to thee for grace;  
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg-ment throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
 all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
 foul, I to the foun-tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778      Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

## WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER** *(Please rise.)*

L: Let us pray together: **Lord, we have tasted Your glory in this holy meal. As we go out from here, open our eyes to see Your face shining in every person, and send us to be Your servants in every place, for You are the life and light of all, both now and forever. AMEN.**

### **BLESSING**

P: God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever. **C: AMEN.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

*“Savior Again” (ELW # 534 - favorite)*



1 Sav - ior, a - gain to your dear name we raise  
2 Grant us your peace up - on our home-ward way;  
3 Grant us your peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;  
4 Grant us your peace through - out our earth - ly life,



with one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;  
with you be - gan, with you shall end the day;  
for us trans - form its dark - ness in - to light.  
our balm in sor - row, and our stay in strife;



once more we bless you ere our wor - ship cease,  
guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
Keep us from harm and dan - ger till the dawn;  
then, when your voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



then, low - ly bend - ing, wait your word of peace.  
that in this house have called up - on your name.  
your eve - ning pres - ence prom - ise to your own.  
call us, O Lord, to your e - ter - nal peace.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–1893, alt.

Music: ELLERS, Edward J. Hopkins, 1818–1901; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

## PASSING THE PEACE

**L:** As we leave to serve the Risen Lord in the power of His Spirit, let us share with one another some of the blessings of peace we have received. The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## POSTLUDE

**FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS** *Everyone is invited to remain for fellowship and refreshments. Snacks, coffee and hot water are available in the Gathering Place. You can brew your own coffee/tea using the Keurig® in the Parlor.*

ALTAR FLOWERS AND BULLETINS ARE SPONSORED BY:

*Holy Cross Church, to the glory of God*

Are not two  
sparrows sold  
for a penny?  
And not one of  
them will fall  
to the ground  
apart from your  
Father. But even  
the hairs of your  
head are all  
numbered.  
Fear not,  
therefore; you  
are of more  
value than many  
sparrows.

*Matthew 10:29-31*

Jesus speaks these comforting words to us to remind us that we have nothing to fear, not even death itself. God, in His divine omniscience, knows all the details of our lives. And, because He loves us, He uses that omniscience to guard us and keep us safely in His kingdom. After all, if God guards and keeps even the sparrows, how much more will He keep you, who are of more value than the sparrows?!

But this comforting word from Jesus also raises the question, why are you of more value than the sparrows? The answer to that question is the foundation for our understanding of the sanctity of all human life. We are all of more value than the sparrows because we have each been **“fearfully and wonderfully made”** (Psalm 139:14) in the image of God.

Unlike the rest of creation—like the sparrows—which God spoke into existence and upholds with His mighty Word, mankind was wonderfully **“made and fashioned”** by the hands of God (Psalm 119:73) from the **“dust of the ground”** (Genesis 2:7).

Even now, God continues to show great care in making each human being, **“knitting”** every one of us together in our mother’s womb (Psalm 139:13). Therefore, from the moment of conception when God knits us together until the moment of our death, at every stage and in every condition in between, each person is precious to God. We are each so precious that God was willing to send His only-begotten Son to bear the **“sin of the world”** (John 1:29) and invite us all into His eternal kingdom.

As we are each valuable in the eyes of God, we can receive every single neighbor as a gift from the Lord regardless of their size, abilities, impairments, or age. Likewise, as we have been called and redeemed by Christ, we act as precious gifts—loving, defending, and protecting each one of them.



***For we are all Fearfully and Wonderfully Made.***



**LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE**

Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices **For Life**

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# JANUARY 18, 2026

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

### SERVANTS OF THE LORD TODAY

GREETER: 8:30-Diane Hahn | 11:00-Irene Graham

SOUND: 8:30-Josh Miller | 11:00-Ken Yoxheimer

LIVESTREAM: 8:30-Jan Stryker

SONG LEADER: Nancy Cook

LITURGIST: 8:30-Patty Stein | 11:00-Lyn Stryker

LECTOR: 8:30-Penny Miller | 11:00-Lyn Stryker

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Ruthann Kistler

USHER: 8:30-Jan Stryker | 11:00-Irene Graham

COMMUNION: 8:30-Patty Stein | 11:00-Lyn Stryker

ALTAR GUILD: Jan Stryker & Volunteer needed

COUNTERS: Jan Stryker & Karen Brown

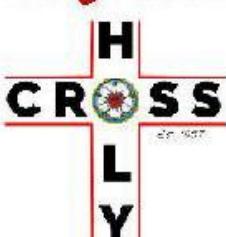
SEXTON: Volunteers needed

PHONETREE: Stephen Zeiner

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Mike Zyskowski

PRAYER CARE: Pat Gilbert (call 610-867-7759)

### Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church



a congregation of the  
NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH



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### CHURCH STAFF

Rev. David L. Brown, *Pastor* † Ruthann Kistler, *Christian Ed. Dir.*

Nancy Cook, *Organist* † Karen Brown, *Secretary*

Volunteers Needed, *Sexton* † Karen Steiner, *Pre-school*

Lisa Wechsler, *Bookkeeper* † Stephen Zeiner, *Webmaster*

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM † Sunday School - 9:45 AM

(*Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays & Major Feasts*)

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