

# Welcome to Lord of Life Lutheran Church January 18, 2026 Second Sunday after Epiphany



*Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.*

**Welcome:** Lord of Life Lutheran Church's long-standing credo is "We share God's Love".

LoL provides a welcoming and safe place for worship, comfort, solace, and reflection. We are called by Jesus to love God and one another: to practice radical hospitality, and to serve all without reservation, stipulations or regard to your race, ethnic background, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, or where you are in your faith journey. You are a unique and beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us in worship and communion and be part of our commitment to anti-racism, social and economic justice and environmental care.

**Worship: Communion:** All are welcome to share in Holy Communion.

*Passing of the Peace:* It is ok to greet those sitting near you. Please remember people have different levels of personal space which may vary from day to day and situation to situation. You can be respectful by asking, "May I hug you?" or "Would you like a handshake."

*Physical Distancing:* It is still important to be aware of distancing. Pews along the sides of the church near the stained-glass windows are for people who want space; please space yourselves accordingly.

**Children Welcome:** Kids of all ages are welcome in service, and we celebrate their joyful wiggles and giggles! There are kids bags in the back of the sanctuary.

*Information, service & liturgy instructions are shown in italic or bold italic type on the following pages.*

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the leaders are shown in plain type.*

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the assembly are shown in bold type.*

## ***PRELUDE***

### ***Gathering***

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#### **CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**Amen.**

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

Mighty God, lover of justice,  
**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.**

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

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN     *Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult*     ELW 696**

- 1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea,  
day by day his clear voice sounding,  
saying, "Christian, follow me":
- 2 As of old Saint Andrew heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred,  
leaving all for Jesus' sake.
- 3 Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, "Christian, love me more."
- 4 In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these."
- 5 Jesus calls us! By your mercy,  
Savior, may we hear your call,  
give our hearts to your obedience,  
serve and love you best of all.

***GREETING***

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

**and also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

*All are seated*

### ***Word***

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

*Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.*

<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.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 40:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently upon the LORD,  
    who stooped to me and heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup> **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.**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our

God;

many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the LORD.

**<sup>4</sup> Happy are they who trust in the LORD!**

**They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.**

**<sup>5</sup> 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.

**<sup>6</sup> Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;  
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering  
you have not required.**

**<sup>7</sup> And so I said, “Here I am; I come.**

In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

**<sup>8</sup> ‘I love to do your will, O my God;  
your law is deep within me.’ ”**

**<sup>9</sup> I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;  
I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you know.**

**<sup>10</sup> 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 great assembly.**

**<sup>11</sup> You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me;  
may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me  
safe.**

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

*Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

<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.

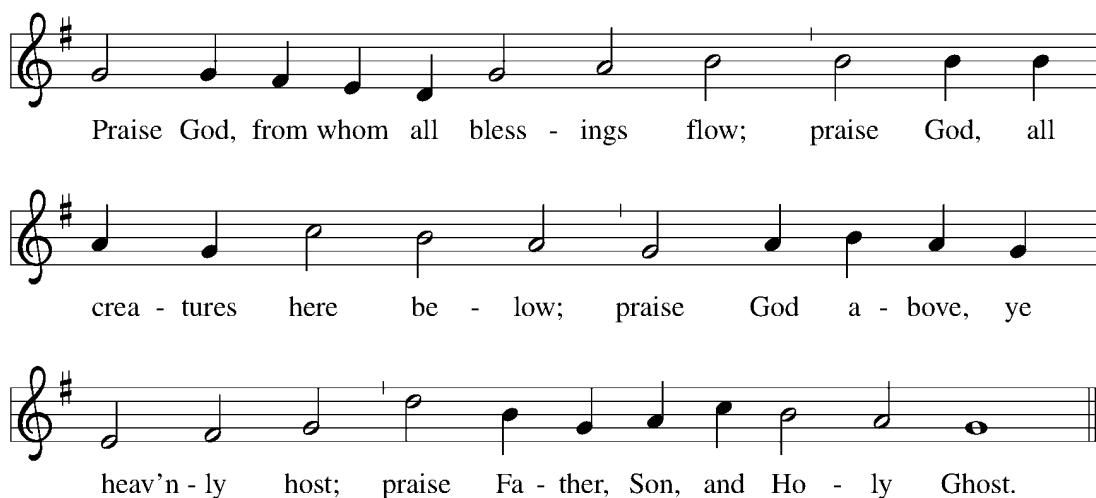
<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind <sup>6</sup> just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you <sup>7</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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***

*The assembly stands as they are comfortable*



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all  
creatures here below; praise God above, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*Alleluia. In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people. Alleluia. (John 1:4)*

## **THE GOSPEL READING: John 1:29-42**

The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.  
**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).

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

*All are seated*

**SERMON**      *John, Social Media Influencer* **Pastor Adam Dowd**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Waiting on the World*      **John Mayer**

***Response to the Word***

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*The assembly stands as they are comfortable.*

**THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed:

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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**

*All are seated.*

### ***THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH***

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disaster. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Just God, you desire respect and equality for everyone. Raise up prophets who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, oppression, or illness especially Nancy, Jenna, Art, Aimee, Donna, Ken, Vernetta, Roberta, Judy, Linda, Paul, Toni, Kerry, Jim, Caryl, and Gale. Bring an end to social injustice and inequities of every kind, so that all people may have abundant life. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in this community. Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Faithful God, you promise to be with us always. We remember with gratitude the faithful departed who now rest in you. Strengthen us to the end, that we may see you face to face. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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.

**Amen.**

### ***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE***

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly greets one another in the name of the Lord with phrases like “**Peace be with you.**” If you have your phone available, text a word of peace to someone who is worshiping alone.*

### ***OFFERING AND PRAYER***

*The offering plate is brought forward as a sign of the good gifts, ourselves included, God has given us.*

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.

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.**

## *Meal*

*The assembly stands as they are comfortable.*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## ***PREFACE AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER...***

*join their unending hymn*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The minister continues the eucharistic prayer.  
....We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

### ***LORD'S PRAYER***

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us *pray* the prayer that 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. Amen.**

### ***INVITATION TO COMMUNION***

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

### ***COMMUNION***

*All are seated. Please take time to prepare yourselves and your communion elements.*

*We prioritize people with mobility issues. We invite you to come forward in your own time and take a position at the altar that is most accessible for you.*

## ***SONG DURING COMMUNION***

## ***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION***

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.

**Amen.**

## ***Sending***

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## ***BLESSING***

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

May the Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,  
The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**Amen**

We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)  
we are marching in the light of God.

We are dancing in the light of God,  
we are dancing in the light of God.  
We are dancing in the light of God,  
we are dancing in the light of God.

We are dancing, (dancing, we are dancing, dancing,)  
we are dancing in the light of God.  
We are dancing, (dancing, we are dancing, dancing,)  
we are dancing in the light of God.

We are praying in the light of God,  
we are praying in the light of God.  
We are praying in the light of God,  
we are praying in the light of God.

We are praying, (praying, we are praying, praying,)  
we are praying in the light of God.  
We are praying, (praying, we are praying, praying,)  
we are praying in the light of God.

We are singing in the light of God,  
we are singing in the light of God.

We are singing in the light of God,  
we are singing in the light of God.

We are singing, (singing, we are singing, singing,)  
we are singing in the light of God.

We are singing, (singing, we are singing, singing,)  
we are singing in the light of God.

## ***DISMISSAL***

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ***POSTLUDE***

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Litanies of Welcome and Farewell-Interim Ministry Network, Baltimore, Maryland

**Presiding Minister**

Pastor Adam Dowd

**Assisting Minister**

Dan Buchman

Lector

Judy Padera

Pianist

Jim Eckwall

Guitarist

Christopher Vincent and Pastor Adam Dowd

Greeters

Marlene Carlson

Ushers

Alice Tangorra and Bruce Danielson

Acolyte

Alex Kerfin

Video

Arlene Danielson and Sherry Sejnosc

## **Announcements 1-18-2026**

**Wine and Candles** this month are provided by **Jan Treibachs** in memory of family members.

**God's Work our Hands** As the cold weather settles in, we're gathering socks, hats, gloves, and hygiene items for South Loop Community Table. Every small gift brings comfort, dignity, and

warmth to someone facing a difficult season. Donations can be placed in the wooden chest in the narthex throughout the month. Thank you for sharing Christ's love in such a practical, compassionate way.

**Chicago Wolves** Save February 15th for an afternoon of exciting Chicago hockey with the Wolves. If you are interested, please call the office 630-323-3161, email [lordlifesec@gmail.com](mailto:lordlifesec@gmail.com) or sign up in the Sanctuary.

**Annual Meeting Reports** The **Annual Meeting** will be held on **January 25, 2026** after service.

**Please pray for members:**

Nancy Urban	Jenna Suda	Art Sejnost
Aimee Jimenez	Donna Motes	Ken Gulliford
Vern Sima	Kerry Spitznagle	Roberta Sejnost
Judy Padera	Linda Matta	Paul Ristau
Toni Blesy	Jim Eckwall	Caryl Schaer
Gale Dyskie		

A full list of relatives, friends, and military personnel for whom we pray is emailed weekly on Friday.

**Last Week's Giving – \$2278.00**

**Electronic Donation for the month of December- \$1343.82**

**THIS WEEK AT LORD OF LIFE**

Sunday	1/18	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>
		<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>Loving Word</b>
Tuesday	1/20	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>Overeaters Anonymous</b>
Wednesday	1/21	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
		<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>Evangelism Meeting</b>

		7:00 PM	One Day at a Time
Friday	1/23	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>Cards</b>
Saturday	1/24	9:00 AM	SDA
		<b>4:30 PM</b>	<b>Annual Meeting Practice</b>
Sunday	1/25	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>
		<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b>
		12:00 PM	Loving Word