

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 2026 8:00 a.m.



*I am honored
in the sight of the Lord,
and my God
has become my strength.*

Isaiah Ch. 49

Welcome to Church of the Ascension

Church of the Ascension provides opportunities to **Connect** with God and one another, **Grow** in faith and understanding, and **Serve** the Lord, one another, and the world around us.

We are an active community of faith committed to welcoming all and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Christ-centered + Spirit-filled + Mission-minded

The Liturgy of the Word of God

❖ Please stand as you are able.

Welcome

❖ Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, unto 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 thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,

we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ,

with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.** Let us pray.

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

The First Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-7

A Reading from the Book of 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."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 40:1-12

1 I waited patiently upon the LORD; *
 he stooped to me and heard my cry.

2 He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay; *
 he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.

3 He 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.

4 Happy are they who trust in the LORD! *
 they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.

5 Great things are they that you have done, O LORD my God!
 how great your wonders and your plans for us! *
 there is none who can be compared with you.

6 Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! *
 but they are more than I can count.

7 In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure *
 (you have given me ears to hear you);

8 Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, *
 and so I said, "Behold, I come.

9 In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: *
 'I love to do your will, O my God;
 your law is deep in my heart.'"

10 I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; *
 behold, I did not restrain my lips;
 and that, O LORD, you know.

11 Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;
 I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; *
 I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.

12 You are the LORD;
do not withhold your compassion from me; *
let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever.

The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the 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 spiritual 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 him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

♦The Gospel: John 1:29-42

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

John 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. 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.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

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).

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

†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 and the Son. 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.

Prayers of the People

Celebrant: Let us pray to Christ, the Light of the world, who by the leading of a star was revealed to the nations, and who now dwelleth among us in grace and truth.

Intercessor: Radiant Morning Star, whose glory hath risen upon us: Give thy Church grace to arise and shine, that she may be a beacon to those in darkness and a faithful witness to the boundless riches of thy Gospel. Lord, in thy mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous King, who rulest with justice: Guide the leaders of the nations, especially Donald, our President, and the Congress, that they may defend the needy, rescue the poor, and seek that abundance of peace which passeth all understanding.

Lord, in thy mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Desire of all nations, who hast made us fellow-heirs in one body: Break down the walls of division and fear; draw all peoples into the light of thy truth, and lead us into the unity of thy reconciling love. Lord, in thy mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Light of the home, who wast worshiped by the Magi in Bethlehem: Bless our families and our community. Grant that we may offer thee the gold of our devotion, the frankincense of our prayers, and the myrrh of our daily labors. Lord, in thy mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Giver of every good gift: We give thee thanks for the blessings of this life, especially for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries: Ted, Gene and Jeanne. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace all the days of their lives.

Lord, in thy mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Physician of souls: Bring healing and comfort to those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Jenny, Stephanie, Lianne, Lisa, Jack, Jackie, Dewey, Noah, Karen, Drew,

Mary, Warren, Christopher, Rick, Danny, Darrell, Joseph, Deb, and Cheryl, and those we name before thee now. [pause] Grant them the light of thy hope and the peace of thy presence. Lord, in thy mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal Light: Receive into thy heavenly kingdom all who have died, especially Pat Miller and Chantal Rodriguez, that they may behold thy glory face to face and dwell in the brightness of thy joy for evermore.

Lord, in thy mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, Light from Light,: receive these our prayers, and grant that we, being led by thy light, may at last attain to the vision of thy glory; for thou livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The Peace: The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

O God, our times are in thy hands: look with favor, we pray, on thy servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace. Send thy blessings upon them, that their homes may be a haven of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts
Psalm 96:8

The Celebration of the Holy Communion

Thank you for your financial support! To make an online offering, please scan the QR code:

❖ At the Presentation

All things come of thee, O Lord, **and of thine own have we given thee.**



The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer II

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God; because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his

precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Grant us thy peace.**

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is

always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

Communion: *All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion kneeling or standing at the Communion Rail.*

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray. Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thine everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light for the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

†The Dismissal:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia!

Worship Assistants	January 18	January 25
Usher	Don and Janice Hobart	1 needed
Lector	Mary Lou Berg	Angela Chmar
Acolyte	Beverly Baker	Beverly Baker

January Altar Guild:

Janice Hobart, Jill Horn, Emelia Howe, Deb Vana

Attendance - January 11:

8:00 am - 24 10:15 am In-person - 78 YouTube - 5 Facebook - 4 **Total: 111**

Readings for Next Sunday: Third Sunday after Epiphany - A

Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23