

Sunday, January 4, 2026

2nd Sunday after Christmas / Epiphany

Service Theme

Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the World

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. He attracts His chosen people from every nation on earth to worship Him as their Lord and Saviour. Any gift we offer Him in thanksgiving pales in comparison to the great gift He graciously offers us, which He has been preparing for us from before creation. What is it? The robe of righteousness and garments of everlasting salvation!

370 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star CW 370 sts. 1-3



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see
 2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won, true Son of God
 3 O might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved me ere



and hail a - far the light in Ju - dah shin - ing.
 and Mar - y's son, the high - born King of a - ges!
 you had be - gun this an - cient world's foun - da - tion.



O Da - vid's son of Ja - cob's race, my Bride - groom and
 In your blest bod - y let me be, e'en as the branch
 Your Son has made a friend of me, and when in spir -



my King of grace, for you my heart is pin - ing.
 is in the tree, your life my life sup - ply - ing.
 it him I see, I joy in trib - u - la - tion.



Low - ly, ho - ly, great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
 Sigh - ing, cry - ing for the sa - vor of your fa - vor,
 What bliss is this! He is liv - ing, to me giv - ing



Prince of grac - es, fill - ing all the heav'n - ly plac - es.
 rest - ing nev - er till I rest in you for - ev - er.
 life for - ev - er; noth - ing me from him can sev - er.

The Service

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

**I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts,
words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a
sinner.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

1042 Gloria (Ger) - HYMN TO JOY

CW 1042



1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en, peace to those he
2 On - ly Son of God the Fa - ther, Lamb who takes our



loves so well. On the earth let all his peo - ple speak his
sin a - way, now with him in tri - umph seat - ed— for your

grace, his won - ders tell: Lord, we praise you for your glo - ry,
mer - cy, Lord, we pray: Je - sus Christ, most high and ho - ly,
might - y Fa - ther, heav - en's King; hear our joy - ful
Sav - ior, you are God a - lone in the glo - ry
ad - o - ra - tion and ac - cept the thanks we bring.
of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

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The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

We rejoice in the spiritual clothing God graciously gives us in Christ. It covers our sins, makes us beautiful before God, and declares His glory to the world.

¹⁰I will rejoice greatly in the LORD.
My soul will celebrate because of my God,
for he has clothed me in garments of salvation.
With a robe of righteousness he covered me,
like a bridegroom who wears a beautiful headdress like
a priest,
and like a bride who adorns herself with her jewelry.
¹¹For as the earth produces its growth,
and as a garden causes what has been sown to sprout
up,
so God the LORD will cause righteousness and praise to
sprout up
in the presence of all the nations.
¹For the sake of Zion I will not be silent.
For the sake of Jerusalem I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth shining brightly,
and her salvation burns like a torch.
²Nations will see your righteousness,
and all kings will see your glory.
You will be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will assign to you.
³Then you will be a beautiful crown in the LORD's hand,
and a royal diadem in the palm of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

384 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Psalm 72E



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 He comes with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 Kings shall bow down be - fore him and gold and in - cense bring;
 4 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y and bid the weak be strong,
 all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing.
 from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light
 To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend,
 The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;



to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are pre - cious in his sight.
 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.
 his name shall stand for - ev - er—that name to us is Love.

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Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3–18

Rejoice in the salvation God has prepared to give you in Christ since before creation.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

⁴He did this when he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ.

He did this in accordance with the good purpose of his will, ⁶and for the praise of his glorious grace, which he has graciously given us in the one he loves.

⁷In him we also have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in keeping with the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished on us in all wisdom and insight. ⁹He made known to us the mystery of his will in keeping with his good purpose, which he planned in Christ. ¹⁰This was to be carried out when the time had fully come, in order to bring all things together in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have also obtained an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in keeping with the purpose of his will. ¹²He did this so that his glory would be praised as a result of us, who were the first to hope in Christ.

¹³In him, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and in him, when you also believed, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. ¹⁴He is the down payment of our inheritance until the redemption of God's own possession, so that his glory would be praised.

¹⁵This is why, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶I never stop giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I keep praying that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, will give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in knowing Christ fully. ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope to which he has called you, just how rich his glorious inheritance among the saints is, ¹⁹and just how surpassingly great his power is for us who believe.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 98:3



Refrain



Tone



All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

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Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

Magi from the east worship Jesus, revealing Him to be not only the Saviour of the Jews, but of the whole world.

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ²“Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴He gathered together all the people's chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

⁶You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.”

⁷Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared.

⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was.

¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

352 Joy Has Dawned

CW 352



1 Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion—
2 Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels
3 Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry.
4 Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som;



God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.
as the might - y Prince of life shel - ters in a sta - ble.
Gifts of men from dis - tant lands proph - e - sy the sto - ry:
rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ, our might - y cham - pion!



Not with fan-fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in dark-ness,
gold— a king is born to - day; in - cense—God is with us;
What a Sav - ior! What a friend! What a glo - rious mys - t'ry!



but a hum - ble gift of love— Je - sus born of Mar - y.
cling now to a moth - er's breast, — vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.
myrrh— his death will make a way, and by his blood he'll win us.
Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, — now the Lord of his - t'ry.

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Sermon

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

God gave you new clothes for Christmas!

- 1) They completely change your look.
- 2) They completely change your purpose.

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,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, [*especially . . .*]. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Offertory Prayer

The Sacrament

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

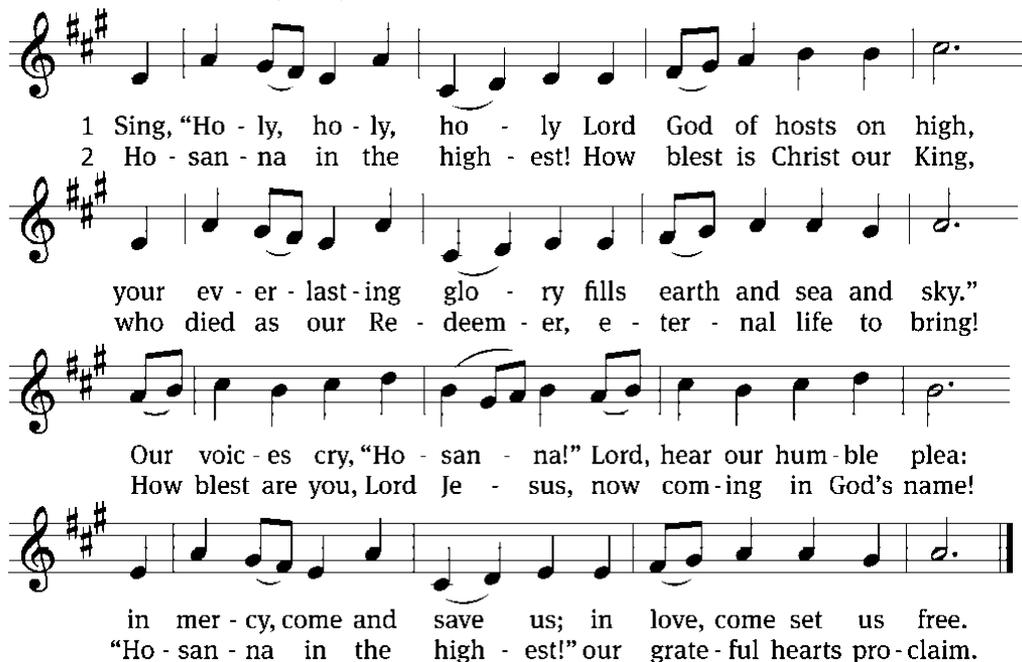
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

1047 Sanctus (Ger) - ELLACOMBE

CW 1047



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,
your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!
Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!
in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

Text: Michael D. Schultz. Tune: Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle, Württemberg, 1784

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my T body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

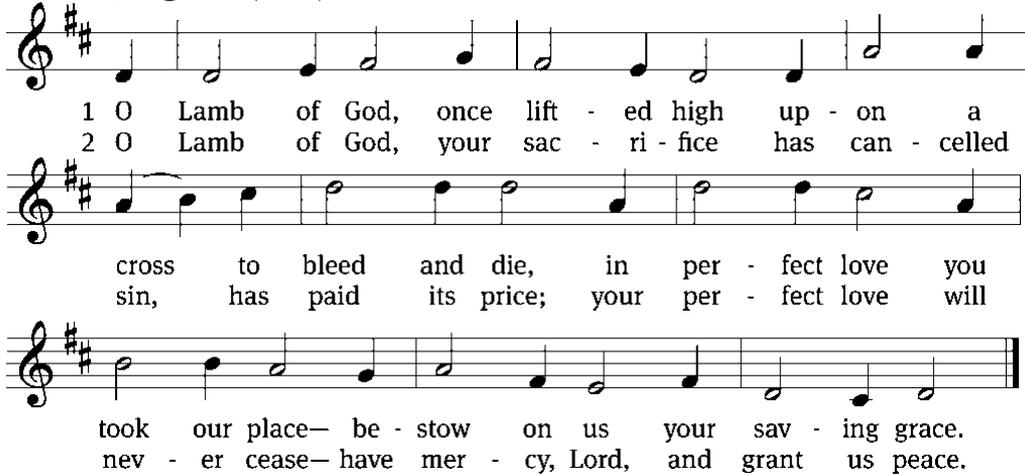
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my T blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

1059 Agnus (Ger) - PUER NOBIS

CW 1059



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can - celled
cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will
took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

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Distribution

Thanksgiving and Final Prayer

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.

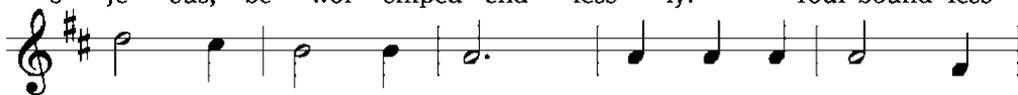
Amen.

573 Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness

CW 573 sts. 1–3, 6



1 Je - sus, your blood and right - eous - ness my beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day; who can a
3 Lord, I be - lieve your pre - cious blood, which at the
6 Je - sus, be wor - shiped end - less - ly! Your bound - less



are, my glo - rious dress; mid flam - ing worlds, in
word a - gainst me say? Ful - ly ab - solved through
ver - y throne of God pleads for the cap - tives'
mer - cy has for me, for me and all your



these ar - rayed, with joy shall I lift up my head.
these I am from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
lib - er - ty, was al - so shed in love for me.
hands have made, an ev - er - last - ing ran - som paid.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760, abr.; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–1791, alt.
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893. Text and tune: Public domain

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Announcements

Church Cleaners

January 11 - Matthew / January 18 - Andrew

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (4) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study**
10:30 am Worship with Communion
11:45 am First Fellowship
3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore
4:00 pm Bible Class (Poltimore)
- We (7) 10:30 am Communicating Christ**
5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
7:00 pm Communicating Christ
- Fr (9) 3:00 pm Women's Bible Study**
6:00 pm Friday Fellowship
- Su (11) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study**
10:30 am Worship
11:45 am Coffee Hour
12:00 pm Divine Sisters Meeting
- We (14) 10:30 am Communicating Christ**
5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
7:00 pm Communicating Christ
- Fr (16) 3:00 pm Women's Bible Study**
- Su (18) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study**
10:30 am Worship with Communion
11:45 am Coffee Hour
12:00 pm Evangelism Meeting
3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore
4:00 pm Bible Class (Poltimore)



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