

**St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Sunday, February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

Welcome & Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \ddagger 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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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

Amen.

***Hymn** *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* ELW 619 v1-4

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

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*Come Let Us Join

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***Prayer of the Day**

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

^g
1 Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the Lord has a case against his people,

and he will contend with Israel.

³ “O my people, what have I done to you?

 In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
 and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,

 Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab
devised,

 what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
 that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

⁶ “With what shall I come before the Lord
 and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
 with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
 with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
 the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
 and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
 and to walk humbly with your God?

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 15

¹ Lord, who may dwell in your ¹ tabernacle?
 Who may abide upon your ¹ holy hill?

**² Those who lead a blameless life and do ¹ what is right,
 who speak the truth ¹ from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil ¹ to their
friends;
 they do not cast discredit up- ¹ on a neighbor.

⁴ In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who ¹ fear the Lord.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take ¹ back their word.

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- ¹ gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be ¹ overthrown.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

**“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”**

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

***Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P: The gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Jim McColley

Sermon

Pastor Jim McColley

***Hymn**

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

ELW 669

***Apostles Creed**

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*** Prayers of Intercession**

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

***Peace** (*Feel free to share a handshake or hug*)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Offering: *Please consider giving an offering for the mission and ministry of St. Olaf. We can continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ with your support and generosity. God bless you.*

Also, please pass the attendance sheets down your row and fill out your info.

***Offering prayer**

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.

*** Great Thanksgiving & Holy, Holy, Holy**

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***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer**

Holy Communion Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.

Communion Hymns

I Am the Bread of Life

ELW 485

***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.

***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.

Amen.

***Hymn** *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* **ELW 551**

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

Assisting in Worship

Presider: Pastor Jim McColley

Organist: Jason Swedlund

Reader: Lynda Mumm

Ushers: Randy Puls, Vera Hartman, Doug Kinseth, Eileen Carroll

Communion: Vera Hartman, Lynda Mumm

Communion setup: Tammi Secor and Amanda Warren

Tech: Marc Oester