



February 1, 2026 – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

AS WE GATHER

This morning we will be reflecting on our Epistle reading from 1 Cor. 1:18-31. Here, St. Paul sets the word of the cross against the wisdom of the world. He proclaims Christ crucified, who is “a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles” (1 Cor. 1:23). In fact, the word of the cross “is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:18). This is true today, too. The message of salvation in and through Jesus Christ who died and rose for us is still “folly to those who are perishing.” And yet, for “us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:18). Thanks be to God!

WELCOME

HYMN *LSB 688, “Come, Follow Me,’ the Savior Spake”*

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us take a moment of silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: 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.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE *“This is the Feast” (Music and words in hymnal, LSB 155)*

All: Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Refrain

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. Refrain

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation; Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. Refrain

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. Final Refrain

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Micah 6:1–8*

¹ Hear what the LORD says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ “O my people, what have I done to you? How 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 what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous 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 man, 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?

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM*Psalm 15*

Pastor: O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent?

People: Who shall dwell on your holy hill?

Pastor: He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart;

People: who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend;

Pastor: in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the LORD;

People: who swears to his own hurt and does not change;

Pastor: who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent.

People: He who does these things shall never be moved.**EPISTLE READING***1 Corinthians 1:18–31*

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly 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 scribe? 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, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. ²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly 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, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL READING***Matthew 5:1–12*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the fifth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he opened his mouth 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 shall be comforted. ⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when others 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 so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON *"The Word of the Cross" (1 Cor. 1:18-31)*

NICENE CREED

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For ... let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 159-160)*

All: What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,

In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

THE COMMUNION CONFESSION

Pastor: The Lord's Supper is God's gift for Christians who are properly taught. In communion, we want people to receive Christ's body and blood for their good. This means that as you come to the Lord's Table you affirm with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord; and with Lutheran Christians you confess:

People: I recognize and confess that I am a sinner. I repent of my sins and ask God's forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan, and death. I believe that the risen Christ is truly present in the Sacrament and, that under the form of bread and wine, I receive His true body and blood for

the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life. (*Augsburg Confession-Article X*)

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*Music and words in hymnal, LSB 161*)

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You ... one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, ... So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: **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 PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD (*Music and words in hymnal, LSB 163*)

All: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRUBUTION HYMNS

LSB 629, "What Is This Bread"

LSB 526, "You Are the Way; through You Alone"

LSB 611, "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

THANK THE LORD (*Music and words in hymnal, LSB 164*)

All: Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. ... one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN *LSB 837, "Lift High the Cross"*

CLOSING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve your neighbor.

People: Thanks be to God!

Service taken from Divine Service Setting 1, LSB 150-166.



ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of February 1, 2026

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO

Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Daniel Heitshusen

Cell: 832-727-3135 pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com Pastor's Day Off; Friday

**Family for the Week: James Sharp & Dane Arbuckle Families
St. Andrew, Stockton**

Prayers of Peace and Comfort:

Family of Bob Bramer on his passing - (David Lampe's friend)

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Sara Drewianka - (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing from accident)

Janet - (Darlene Lampe's son-in-law's mother)

Dorothea Dennis – (health and healing from surgery)

Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Bruce Banks – (friend of Teri Ediger)
Becky – (daughter of Diane and Bill Thompson)
Jeannie Bennett – (relative of Teri Ediger – health and healing)
Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)
Treaa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Joyce Campbell – (friend of Wanda Thompson–health and healing)
Bonny Gray – (sister of Cynthia Swoyer-Wolf – health and healing)
Pastor Hagen – (health and healing)
Zana Haley and baby Veda – (Cathy Munden’s granddaughter)

Jeeper Meyer – (health and healing from cancer)
Bill Parsons – (Joanne Michel’s brother – health and healing)
Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)
Joe Pennington – (brother-in-law of Bill Michel – health and healing)
Billy Schmells – (friend of Cheryl Lile – health and healing)
LC Stalcup – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health and healing)
Tim Tucek – (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)
Dayton Wheeler – (grandson of Wanda Thompson – surgery)

Long Term

Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden’s cousin – health and healing)
Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)
Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Mary Ann Campbell – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman’s friend – healing from a broken-hip)
Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)
Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)
Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)
Gary Gardner – (health and healing)
Betty Gordon – (health and healing)

Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)
Robbie Krueger – (friend of Kathy Holle)
Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Mitzie Lorenz – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
Pat Michel – (Bill Michel’s sister-In-Law – health & healing)
Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)
Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)
Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)
June Winger – (Sharon Barlow’s mother – health & healing)

THIS WEEK

Sunday	February 1st	Happy Half Hour – 9:00 am Fellowship – 9:30 am Service with communion – 10:00 am Special Voters’ Meeting
Monday	February 2nd	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm LWML at Freistatt - 1:30 pm
Tuesday	February 3rd	Pastor’s Day off
Wednesday	February 4th	Bible Study – 6:00 pm
Thursday	February 5th	Confirmation - 5:30 pm
Sunday	February 8th	Happy Half Hour – 9:00 am Fellowship – 9:30 am Service – 10:00 am
Monday	February 9th	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm Ladies Bible Study at Freistatt - 1:30 pm

Birthdays: Feb. 01-Karsyn Jones & Teri Ediger; Feb. 2-Sue Doss; Feb. 3-Delphine Mullen

Anniversaries: NONE

February

GREETERS:

02/01: Charlie & Edee Chambers
02/08: Rob & Marlo Springer
02/15: Cheryl Lile and Gladys Bauer
02/22: Bill & Joanne Michel

USHERS:

02/01: Mitch Littler
02/08: David Lampe
02/15: Charlie Chambers
02/22: Bill Michael



Special Voters' Meeting Today – please attend to vote for who we select as synod president nominee and to authorize Pastor Heitshusen and Harold Lampe as representatives of Grace.

Sheltering Hope is an organization here in Aurora. They recently voted to form the following committees in 2026 to meet their goals: Jobs committee, Mentorship committee, and Transportation committee. If you are interested in learning more about Sheltering Hope and/or serving on one of the committees, please see Pastor Heitshusen for more details.

Wednesday Evening Bible Class meets at **6:00 pm**. We are continuing to study the Gospel of John. Come and join us!

Thank you! Dear members of Grace Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. It means a lot to us. We are blessed to be part of God's people here at Grace, and I am honored to be your pastor. We pray the Lord continues to bless each of you this new year. - The Heitshusens

LWML will meet February 2, 2026, at 1:30 pm in the chapel at Trinity in Freistatt. This is our annual prayer service, so please join us. There will be no business meeting.

E2 conference Sign up at:

<https://modistrictlcms.regfox.com/2026-e2-conferences>

Feb. 21: [Faith Lutheran Church – Springfield](#)