



## **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

### **February 1, 2026**

**First English Lutheran Church**  
**402 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Wausau, Wisconsin 54401-4448**  
**715-842-5727**  
**<https://www.firstenglislutheranwausau.org>**

**A Congregation of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Pastor: Reverend Mary E. Zupansic**  
**Minister of Music: Daniel Larson**  
**Pianist: Hal Osborn**  
**Parish Administrator: Debra Kluetz**

## **WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We pray that our time of worship together further encourages and strengthens our call to discipleship. If you are a visitor, you are invited to fill out the neon green Visitor Card and give it to an usher or greeter. Please come to worship with us again!

Large print bulletins are available in the narthex. A ‘Parents’ Room’ is located off the narthex w/ changing table and restroom. Restrooms are in the narthex lunge and at the bottom of the east/west stairwells. A Handicapped Accessible restroom is available through the double doors on the east side (lectern side) to the front of the worship space.

Assistive listening devices are available. Please ask an usher for assistance. *Busy Bags—Child Activity Kits* for our little disciples are available in the narthex on the Busy Bag Trees in the narthex. Each bag contains a coloring book, crayons, story book, and quiet games. Please return the bags to the tree after worship.

## **LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

Presiding Minister: Pastor Mary E. Zupansic

Assisting Minister: Connie Vaningan

Acolyte: Kaedyn Hadley

Organist: Daniel Larson

Lector: Sharon Hunter

Greeters: Lonnie & LeAnn Lewis

Ushers: Duane Chapman, Bob Lampe, Earl Zabel

Communion Assistant: Jenny Blaschka

Communion Set-up: VerJean Detert

Communionware Washer: Lynne Santangelo

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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.

**PRELUDE**     *Prelude in Classic Style* ...Gordon Young (1919-1998)

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

## CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **+** 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.

*(pause)*

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.**

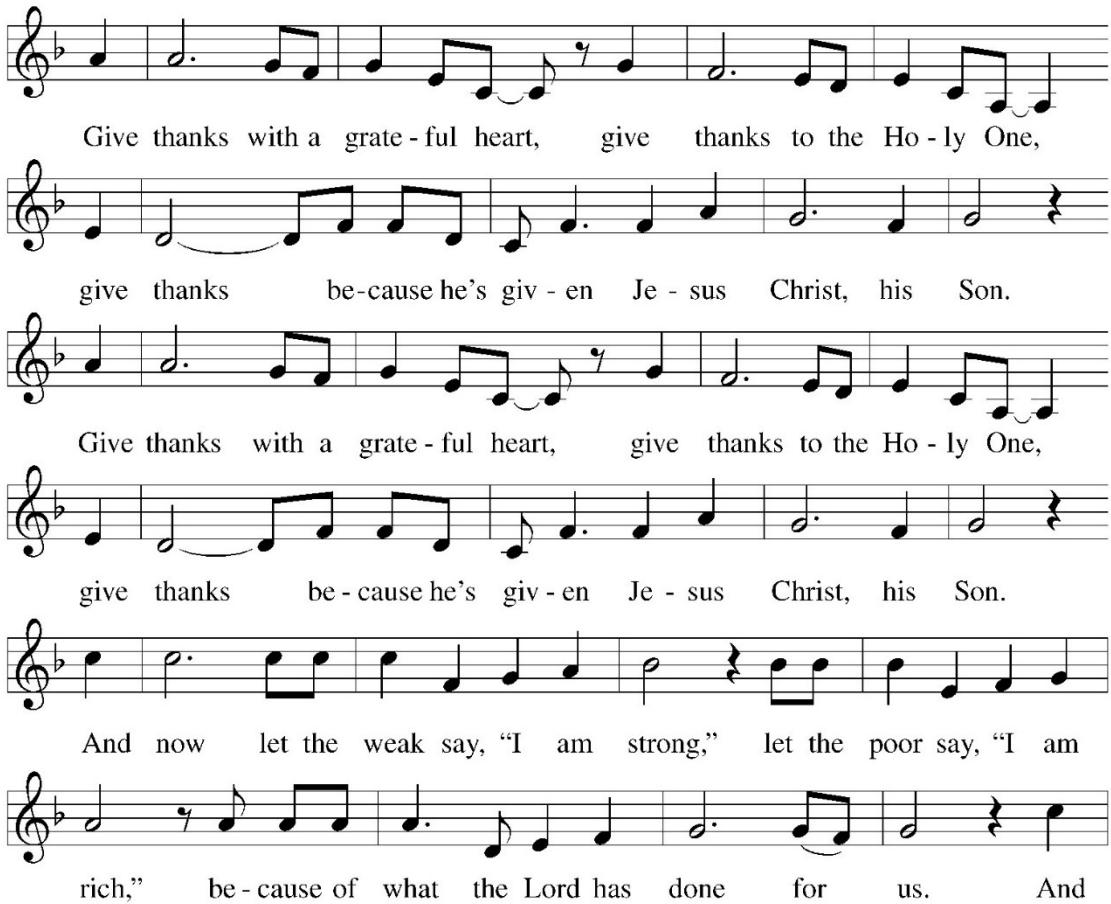
**Turn us to seek your face.**

**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 <sup>+</sup> Jesus' name.  
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,  
and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN

### *Give Thanks*



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,  
give thanks be-cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.  
Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,  
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am  
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And

now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am  
Last time  
rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Text: Henry Smith

Music: GIVE THANKS. Henry Smith

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## 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.**

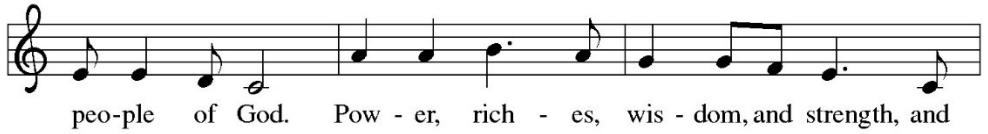
## CANTICLE OF PRAISE *This is the Feast*

**ELW P. 187**

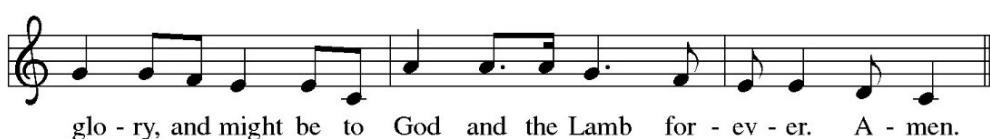
*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the  
Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

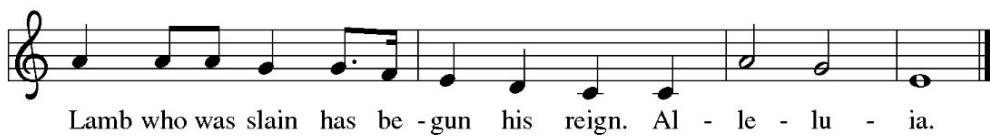
1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



*Refrain*



*Final refrain*



## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### **FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8**

A reading from Micah.

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the LORD says:

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> “O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.”

<sup>6</sup> “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?

<sup>7</sup> 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?"

<sup>8</sup> 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?

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 15**

<sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?  
Who may abide upon your holy hill?

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

<sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup> **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who  
fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do  
not take back their word.**

<sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against  
the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

### **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,  
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

<sup>20</sup> 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? <sup>21</sup> 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.<sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom,<sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles,<sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.<sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> 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.<sup>27</sup> 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;<sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are,<sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God.<sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,<sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia. Lord, to whom...*

**ELW P. 188**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

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

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

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

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

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

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Mary E. Zupansic**



**HYMN OF THE DAY***To Be Your Presence***ELW #546**

1. To be your presence is our mission here, to show com -  
2. To be your presence is our mission bold, to feed the  
3. To be your presence is our mission blest, to speak for  
4. We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your  
passion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy  
poor and shel - ter home-less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,  
all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your  
peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the  
ev - er near,  
right up - hold,  
love ex - pressed,  
church, re - joice,

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924

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**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 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.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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.

*Each petition ends with the following response.*

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 SHARING OF PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING**    *Holy Manna*    John Purifoy (b. 1948)

## OFFERING HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old  
(vv. 1 & 3)

ELW #302



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;  
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,  
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,  
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;  
 5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



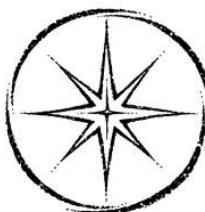
as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;  
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;  
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last  
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.  
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly king.  
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.  
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872



## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**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**

### **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY

ELW P. 190

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

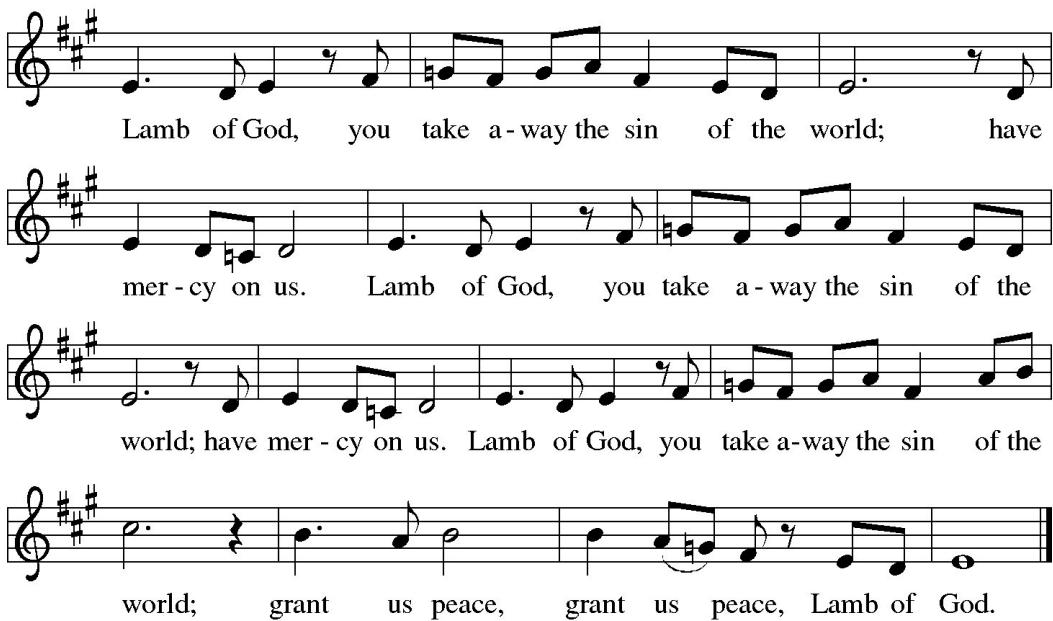
### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

Come to the table; taste and see.

**Thanks be to God.**



**COMMUNION SONG***Lamb of God***ELW P. 191**

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

**COMMUNION HYMNS***All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly  
Let Us Break Bread Together***ELW #461****ELW #471****TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you  
and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

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

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

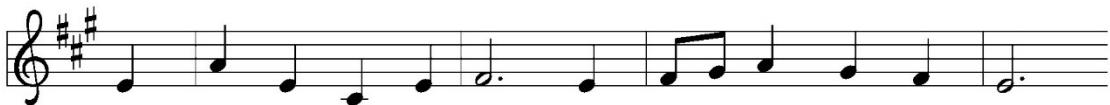
## BLESSING

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.**

## SENDING SONG

*Rise Up, O Saints of God!*

ELW #669



1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;  
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame;  
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;  
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;  
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.  
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se-quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.  
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. Share the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Trumpet Tune* ...John Stanley (1713-1786)

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## **PASTORAL CARE**

If you would like a visit from Pastor Mary, or if you have a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor on her cell phone 920-671-4338.

## **EMAIL SCAM ALERT!**

If you receive an email or text message that appears to be from Pastor Mary requesting help with purchasing gift cards, please do not respond. This is a scam. Ignore and delete any such messages immediately.

For clarification, I will never reach out by email or text message to ask for assistance with buying gift cards. Protect yourself by staying vigilant and reporting any suspicious communications.

## **ANNUAL MEETING OF FIRST ENGLISH**

will be held next Sunday, February 8, at 10:15 a.m. following worship.

Members, please plan to attend if you are able. Your support and participation in the ministry of your congregation in the new year 2026 is greatly appreciated.

Agenda items include Election of Church Council Officers and Council Members and presentation and voting of the 2026 Budget along with any Old or New Business that needs to be discussed. Copies of the 2025 Annual Report are available in the narthex this morning. NOTE: There will be no Sunday School classes next Sunday so the teachers and helpers may attend the meeting.

## **2026 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

**Today** there will be a meeting to review and discuss the 2026 Budget of First English. The meeting will be in the Fireside Room following worship.

## **CHARITY CIRCLE MEMBERS**

There will be no circle meeting next week, Feb. 10.

## **COMMITTEE NIGHT**

**This Tuesday, February 3, 6:30 p.m.** We'll gather in Fellowship Hall.

## **COMMUNION CARDS**

First English members: For our recording keeping purposes, please fill out a communion card **once per calendar year**. You may hand the card to an usher or put it in the offering plate. Thank you!

## **EXCITING REALM NEWS**

Sharon Hunter and Cindy Hermel are excited to share information about the Realm church record keeping and communication program during worship on Sunday, January 18. We'll also ask you to jot down or mail/send/call in your questions, and we'll include the responses in next week's bulletin.

Next Sunday, February 8, after the Annual Meeting and after worship in February, we'll help members set Realm up on your computers or phones.

**Feel free to contact any member of the Technology Task Force for more information:**

**Sharon Hunter: [shunteratdpi@msn.com](mailto:shunteratdpi@msn.com) or 715-212-1672**

**Cindy Hermel: [clhermel@hotmail.com](mailto:clhermel@hotmail.com) or 715-573-0720**

**Michael Klapperich: [mjklapperich@yahoo.com](mailto:mjklapperich@yahoo.com)**

**Kalynn Pempek: [kmpempek@gmail.com](mailto:kmpempek@gmail.com) or 715-571-0325**

**Pastor Mary Zupansic: [pastor@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org](mailto:pastor@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org) or 920-671-4338**

## **CHURCH IN SOCIETY**

### **Community Suppers**

We are again committed to 5 Sunday afternoon suppers for 2026.

If you are willing to plan one of the meals, please sign up in the narthex as soon as possible. Our first date is February 15. We also serve on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in April, June, October and December.

## **PEEK AT THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1-8, 2026**

<b>Sunday, Feb. 1:</b>	9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. 2026 Budget Discussion Meeting
<b>Tuesday, Feb. 3:</b>	9:00 a.m. Quilting Workday 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Committee Night
<b>Thursday, Feb. 5:</b>	6:00 p.m. Worship
<b>Friday, Feb. 6:</b>	6:30 p.m. NA Meeting
<b>Sunday, Feb. 8:</b>	9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. ANNUAL MEETING

## **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

Sunday, January 25: YouTube Views: 85  
Thursday, January 29:

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

Sunday, January 25: 8

## **CROSS GENERATION FAITH FORMATION**

Join us on Sunday, February 15, immediately following the 9:00am worship service for a special Cross Generation Faith Formation event. This gathering is designed to bring together individuals of all ages, providing a chance to grow in faith as a community. Event Focus: Baptism

Our time together will center on the topic of Baptism. We will explore several key questions:

- What is Baptism?
- What are the Baptismal promises?
- How do we live out our Baptismal identity?
- How does Baptism unite us?

### **Activities and Discussion**

Everyone will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities and group discussions. These activities are designed to engage people of all ages and help deepen our understanding of Baptism and its impact on our faith community.

## LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

John & Karen Otto, Chad Seivert, Karl Otto, Lyle Jaegler, Linda Kittel, Judy Beemer (*sister of Roger DeWitt*), Ron Wiese (*friend of the DeWitt family*), John (family of Klapperich and Wynn), Melinda (*sister of Matt Heyne*), John & Pat Alters (*parents of John & Mike*), Diane (*Aunt to Angela Greenfield & Jarek Nelson*), Janet Alters (*Family member of Mike & Joan, Jack & Kim, Erin, Spencer and Ella*), Tracey (*friend of Sheri Fuchs*)

**Homebound / Assisted Lived:** Kathie Peterson (*Primrose*), Dolores Hintz (*Sylvan Crossings*), Sue McKee (*Rennes in Weston*), Diane Zuelke (*Mountain Terrace*), Michelle Detert (*Cady Home*), Ila Bartelt (*Rennes*), Gary Klingbeil (*Wood Aven*), Rick Petzke (*Crossroads Care Center in Weyauwega*), Dennis & Laurayne Nicoliasen (*Rennes*), Geraldine Hopperdietzel (*Wood Aven*)

Audrey Fellbaum

Delphine Saeger

Eleanor Thorpe

**Daily Prayers Offered for:** Bishops Anne Edison-Albright (*East Central Synod*) and Yehiel Curry (*Presiding Bishop of the ELCA*), and all those who work in the East Central Synod Office; ShyAnn and Peter Egwalata (*in Uganda*)

## The Season of Lent 2026

### Ash Wednesday



Brief Spoken Worship Service with scripture and the Imposition of Ashes **Wednesday, February 18, 12Noon.** Soup to follow the service.

Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes **Wednesday, February 18, 2026 - 6:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. Chili Supper provided by FELC Youth.**

### LENTEN MID-WEEK PRAYER

#### “Baptismal Promises”

**February 25 & March 4, 11, 18, 25**

**12:15 p.m.**

You have made public profession of your faith.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

*to live among God's faithful people,*

*to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,*

*to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,*

*to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,*

*and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?*

Each week we will consider one of the baptismal promises and how we live them out in our everyday lives.

## **SOUP & HEARTY BREADS**

**Following the 12:15** worship service, enjoy soup and hearty breads, accompanied by a variety of desserts.

### **LENTEN SOUP LUNCHES...**

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who would be willing to provide a simple lunch of soup, bread and sweets. ALSO – to get some idea of how many people to prepare for each week, there are sheets in the narthex for you to indicate if you will be attending.

### **UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

#### **Presentation of Our Lord**

**Monday, February 2, 2026**

Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

#### **The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597**

**Thursday, February 5, 2026**

Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.