

## Second Sunday After Epiphany

### January 18, 2026

**GATHERING:** God invites us to enter His presence

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

 **CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Responsively*)

*Dennis Lesher*

Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

**The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.**

We desire to live in God's house  
and to seek God in his holy temple.

**We have come with shouts of joy,  
to sing and to make music to the Lord.**

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**Teach us your ways and make straight our paths  
in this hour of worship and always.**

—based on Psalm 27; John 4:23

 **INVOCATION** (*Responsively*)

*Dennis Lesher*

God of goodness and grace,  
we long for your presence,  
for the peace your promises bring,  
and for the assurances we have received  
through the gift of your Son.

**May we, your people,  
this day and every day,  
have open eyes to see  
and open ears to hear  
your presence among us.**

Open us to your Holy Spirit, Lord,  
and prepare us for worship. **Amen.**

 **OPENING HYMN 64** *All Creatures of Our God and King*

**CONFESSING:** God invites us to be honest with Him

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Dennis Lesher*

The psalmist testifies:  
Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell what he has done for me.  
If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,  
the Lord would not have listened.  
But truly God has listened;  
he has given heed to the words of my prayer.  
Blessed be God,  
because he has not rejected my prayer

or removed his steadfast love from me.  
In the strength of this assurance, let us confess our sins to God.  
—based on Psalm 66:16, 18-20, NRSV

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSON (*In Unison*)

*Dennis Lesher*

**Merciful God, we confess that 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 and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

#### TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Dennis Lesher*

The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.  
For he knows how we were made;  
he remembers that we are dust.  
But the steadfast love of the LORD is from  
everlasting to everlasting  
on those who fear him,  
and his righteousness to children's children,  
to those who keep his covenant  
and remember to do his commandments.

—Psalm 103:8, 13-14, 17-18, NRSV

*Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord*

*All: Thanks be to God*

#### GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
A-men, A-men*

#### OFFERING: Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

**INVITATION** I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.  
—Romans 12:1, NIV

#### OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY

## DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we give our best, lest in gaining the world we lose life itself. As a covenant people, we seek to witness to your will and way.  
Help us to know more clearly what you would have us do with the wealth entrusted to our care.  
As we contribute to the needs of your people,  
we present ourselves as living sacrifices. Through Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You  
All: And also with you*

## PREPARATION HYMN 381      *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

**PROCLAIMING:** *God speaks to us through His Work*

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Teach us your way, O Lord, and lead us on a level path.  
Teach us, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then we will keep them to the end. Give us understanding, and we will keep your law and obey it with all our hearts. Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

—based on Psalm 27:11, Psalm 119:33-34, NRSV

## SCRIPTURE READING      *Ephesians 2:1-10*

**2** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

## SERMON

*“The Great Adversative”*  
Rev. Dan Stewart

## HYMN OF RESPONSE 462

*Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us*

**RESPONDING:** *We respond to God's Word*

 **PROFESSION OF FAITH (In Unison)**

**We believe there is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus;  
for we know that all things work together for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called according to God's purpose.  
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

—from Romans 8:1, 28, 38-39, NRSV

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Gracious God,  
we pray for the faithful all over the world,  
that all who love you may be united in your service.  
We pray for the church . . .

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

We pray for the peoples and leaders of the nations,  
that they may be reconciled one to another  
in pursuit of your justice and peace.

We pray for the world . . .

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

We pray for all who suffer from prejudice, greed, or violence,  
that the heart of humanity may warm with your tenderness.

We pray especially for all prisoners of politics or religion  
and for all refugees.

We pray for all who are oppressed . . .

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

We pray for all in need  
because of famine, flood, or earthquake,  
that they may know the hope of your faithfulness  
through the help of others.

We pray especially for the people of . . .

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

We pray for the land, the sea, the sky—  
for your whole creation, which longs for its redemption.

We pray that we may live with respect for your creation  
and use your gifts with reverence.

We pray for the creation . . .

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

We pray for all who suffer the pain of sickness,  
loneliness, fear, or loss,  
that those whose names are in our hearts,

in the hearts of others,  
or known to you alone,  
may receive strength and courage.  
We pray for those in need . . .  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**  
God of compassion,  
into your hands we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your mercy now and forever. **Amen.**

*Leader:* Lord, in your mercy,  
*All:* **Hear our prayer.**

**COMMISSIONING:** *God sends us out into the world as His witnesses*

 **COMMISSION HYMN 345** *Blessed Assurance*

#### **BENEDICTION & BLESSING**

May the grace of Christ, which daily renews us,  
and the love of God, which enables us to love all,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, which unites us in one body,  
make us eager to obey the will of God until we meet again,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

—based on 2 Corinthians 13:13 [14]

#### **POSTLUDE**

 *Please stand if you are able.*