

**Welcome to Worship
at
Whitnall Park Lutheran Church**



***Sunday, February 1st, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
8:30 and 10:30 am Worship***

Pastor Michael Fazio is presiding.

We have come together today as members and guests to worship God and celebrate new life in Jesus Christ. We hope our worship will be uplifting and provide a source of hope and strength for the week ahead. Please sign our Guest Register and introduce yourself as you leave worship today.

If you believe that the Lord is truly present for us in the Sacrament in body and blood for the forgiveness of sin, you are invited to join us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

As the prelude is a time of preparation, please consider quietly meditating.
meditating on these words of the Psalm during this time of reflection

LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

CALL TO WORSHIP 302 *As with Gladness Men of Old Vs 5*

- 5 In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing alleluias to our king.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the pastor begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose
mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN *522 As We Gather at Your Table*

- 1 As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word, help us know,
 O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
 teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.
- 2 Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
 send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
 Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave; may
 we still behold your image in the world you died to save.
- 3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast where
 triumphant
 Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
 There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
 as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

GREETING

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 *Page 138 Setting 3*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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 mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE 314 *Arise, Your Light Has Come! Vs 1*

- 1 Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING *a reading from Micah 6:1-8*

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

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? This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15

LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

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

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

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

⁴ **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.**

⁵ 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 *a reading from 1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

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." This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *ELW 174 Celtic Alleluia*

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel *according to Matthew 5:1-12*

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." This is the Holy Gospel of Our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *710 Let Streams of Living Justice*

- 1 Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth; give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth. The hungry's hands are pleading, the workers claim their rights, the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight. Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron pow'r; abolish ancient vengeance: proclaim your people's hour.
- 2 For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end, for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend. Weave our varied gifts together; knit our lives as they are spun; on your loom of time enroll us till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one; dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.

- 3 Your city's built to music; we are the stones you seek; your harmony is language; we are the words you speak. Our faith we find in service, our hope in others' dreams, our love in hand of neighbor, our homeland brightly gleams. Inscribe our hearts with justice, your way—the path untried; your truth—the heart of stranger; your life—the Crucified.

APOSTLE'S 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

A: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, all of humanity, and the well-being of the earth.

a brief silence.

A: God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our source, we honor you by caring for your creation. We pray for the health of forests and oceans. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our righteousness, raise up leaders who serve with integrity and speak truth in Christ. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors and teachers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, war or illness. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY HYMN 465 *As the Grains of Wheat*

**As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were
gathered into one to become our bread; so may all your people
from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you.**

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray

C: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise
your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *ELW Setting One Pg 108*

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

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.**

COMMUNION

*As we accept the Lord's gift of His body and blood, we will receive Him in our
prefilled cups containing the wafer and juice or at the rail in the fullness of
faith that God's love and grace have been poured into these holy elements.
We receive the Lord and share in this holy meal; One Body, One Mind,
One Lord Jesus Christ. This is God's precious gift for you.*

COMMUNION SONG 195 Lamb of God

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS 714 O God of Mercy, God of Light

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep
you in His grace.

C: Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE 207 Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

**Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'ryone what God has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray . . . We give you thanks that you have fed us even now with the banquet that is yet to come. Keep us alert for signs of your presence in the world around us. Send us now to love and serve all those in need and make us bold in testifying to the light of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, ☩ guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN 546 *To Be Your Presence*

- 1 To be your presence is our mission here, to show compassion's face
and list'ning ear, to be your heart of mercy ever near, alleluia!
- 2 To be your presence is our mission bold, to feed the poor and shelter
homeless cold, to be your hands of justice, right uphold, alleluia!
- 3 To be your presence is our mission blest, to speak for all the broken
and oppressed, to be your voice of hope, your love expressed, alleluia!
- 4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your people
is our call and choice, and in this mission we, the church, rejoice, alleluia!

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

C: Thanks be to God.

