



# OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

138 3rd Street NW, Valley City, ND 58072

(701) 845 - 1328 | oursaviorsvc.org

JANUARY 18TH, 2026 + 2ND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

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## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (\*please rise in body and/or spirit)

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.**

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

## GATHERING HYMN

**"Lift Every Voice and Sing"**

**#841**

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always. **And also with you."**

## KYRIE

**p. 147**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

**p. 148**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, **by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7

*Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.*

<sup>1</sup> Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. <sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his

hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. <sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." <sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD and my reward with my God." <sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength— <sup>6</sup> he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." <sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 40:1-11 (read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently upon the LORD, who stooped to me and heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> **Happy are they who trust in the LORD! They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.**

<sup>5</sup> Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us, none can be compared with you! Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.

<sup>6</sup> **Sacrifice and offering you do not desire; you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.**

<sup>7</sup> And so I said, "Here I am; I come. In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

<sup>8</sup> **'I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep within me.'**"

<sup>9</sup> I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly; I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you know.

<sup>10</sup> **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.**

<sup>11</sup> You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me; may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

**SECOND READING: Corinthians 1:1-9**

*Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, <sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind <sup>6</sup> just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.***

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter...**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: John 1:29-42**

*John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.*

<sup>29</sup> [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"<sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." <sup>32</sup> And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One." <sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" <sup>39</sup> He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup> He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN**

**"Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult"**

**#696**

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

**p. 234**

**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.**

**OFFERING HYMN**

**"Brightest and Best of the Stars" (v. 4)**

**#303**

**THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERING AND PRAYER**

*(offering plates are located on the table at the back of the sanctuary. The offering plates are brought forward during the singing of our offering hymn.)*

**NICENE CREED (\*please rise in body and/or spirit)**

**p. 104**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

## HOLY COMMUNION (Sung)

p. 152

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.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

p.153

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

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r 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.*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

p. 208

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 HYMNS

"Lamb of God"

p. 154

*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.*

"Jesus, Come! For We Invite You" #312

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" #310

## DISTRIBUTION

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER (\*please rise in body and/or spirit)

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:

"We Are Marching in the Light" #866

(sung 5 times – Marching, Praying, Singing, Dancing, Marching)

### SENDING

p. 155

Go in peace. Do justice. Love Mercy

**Thanks be to God.**

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**Executive Committee**  
Margaret Dahlberg, President  
Tara Anderson, Vice President  
Sarah Wangrud, Secretary  
Janet Brown, Treasurer



**GIVE ONLINE**

**We, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, welcome all to share Christ's love, grow in faith, and to live a life of service glorifying God.**

**Today's Radio Broadcast** is given by Lynn Holcomb and his family in memory of his wife, Linda.

**New Member Reception** Today we welcome Faye & Bob Bubach and Tammy Whitcomb. Please join us for Coffee Hour Fellowship as we welcome these New Members at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

**The OSLC Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held next Sunday immediately following the worship service.

### **Congregation-Wide Devotion**

A new Congregation-wide Devotion has started using the book, "Praying the names of God: for 52 weeks", by Ann Spangler. In January and February, you can join the Wednesday Bible Study in-person or online to explore 5 of these names. Or you can use the resource for personal devotion throughout the year. (Zoom Mtg info: [www.zoom.us/join](https://www.zoom.us/join), Meeting ID: 882 0486 0202, Passcode: 636901).

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Prayer Service**

In the gospel according to John, we hear Jesus' high priestly prayer, asking the Father to give unity to his followers, "The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one." (John 17:22, NRSVue) As Lutheran Christians, we acknowledge God's desired unity as we confess the Nicene Creed, "We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church." The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is organized annually by the World Council of Churches (WCC) and observed by Christian congregation around the world between the Confession of St. Peter (Jan. 18) and Conversion of St. Paul (Jan. 25). **The Barnes County Ministerial Association is hosting a prayer service to kick-off the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St. Raphael Care Center Chapel at 3pm on Sunday, January 18. Pr. Jared will be the speaker at the Prayer Service.** Come join Christians from a variety of traditions as we pray for the Unity that God in Christ desires.

### **Could you spare some time on Fridays to help with the Senior Lunch Program?**

Dessert—cookies, bars, brownies etc. for 90 are also needed. There is a sign-up sheet on the Information Counter. A thank you for your help is a free lunch that day! \*11:45-1:30. Help as needed and Kitchen clean up \*Providing treats (Please indicate how many)

**The Missionary Calendar for 2026 has been posted.** Be sure to stop by and sponsor a special day.

**Radio Broadcasts in 2026 are available to sponsor.** Please contact Ann in the office if you would like to help with this important outreach ministry. There are currently many Sundays open to sponsor. If you

have a special Sunday in mind, please reserve it as soon as possible to ensure it is available. The cost to sponsor each Sunday broadcast is \$100.

**Christ in our Home for January, February and March** is now available, in both pocket size and large print. Please take one if you'd like one and take a copy to share, if you know someone who'd also like a copy.

**As you consider your involvement here at Our Savior's** and ways that you can increase your participation, please take a moment to check out the bulletin board outside the office. There are groups and committees who are looking for new members to join them. You can contact the name listed or you can call Ann in the office for more details.

**FOUND: Gift cards near the north entry of the church**, on Monday, Dec. 22, 2025. If you lost some gift cards, please contact the church office to determine if these are yours.

**The Hi-Liner Food Pantry**, serving VCHS students and families, continues to collect food donations in the tote in the Gathering Room. To donate to the Bridges Backpack Program, please make your check out to and mail to: **Bridges Backpack Program, Inc., 674 10th Ave SW, Valley City, ND 58072**

**We're continuing a practice at Our Savior's to be mindful of our prayer for one another.** Each week, staff will be praying for, and congregation members are encouraged to pray for families of the congregation, by name. This week we pray for the Craig & Cristal Larsen, Dan & Ruth Larson, Shari & Daniel Larson, Terry & Lenore Lebahn and Tricia & Neil Lebahn families. *"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone" 1 Timothy 2:1*

**A look ahead at the week of January 18<sup>th</sup> to January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

TODAY:        9:00 am | Worship  
                  9:00 am | Facebook Worship Livestream  
                  10:15 am | Coffee & Fellowship  
                  10:15 am | Sunday School  
                  11:00 am | KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 FM Radio Broadcast

MON:           6:30 pm | PEO

TUES:          9:00 am | Quilters  
                  1:30 pm | Text Study

WEDS:        9:30 am | Bible Study  
                  6:30 pm | Confirmation  
                  8:30 pm | Senior High

FRI:            12:00 pm | Sr High Lunch

SAT:            7:30 am | Men's Bible Fellowship

SUN (1/25):   9:00 am | Worship, New Member Welcome  
                  9:00 am | Facebook Worship Livestream  
                  10:15 am | Coffee & Fellowship  
                  10:15 am | Sunday School  
                  11:00 am | KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 FM Radio Broadcast