



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

138 3rd Street NW, Valley City, ND 58072

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FEBRUARY 8TH, 2026 + 5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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

"Gather Us In"

#532

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

Lord God, **with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-12

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

¹ Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. ³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. ⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make

your voice heard on high. ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am." ^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. ¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

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

PSALM: Psalm 112:1-10 (read responsively)

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" — ¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts

bestowed on us by God. [¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. ¹⁶ "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: (*please rise in body and/or spirit)

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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter...**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

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

SERMON

HYMN

"Christ, Be Our Light"

#715

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

"Have No Fear, Little Flock" (vss 3, 4)

#764

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.)

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

p. 105

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, 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.*

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" #553

"This Little Light of Mine" #677

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:

"Go, Make Disciples"

#540

SENDING

p. 155

Go in peace. Do justice. Love Mercy

Thanks be to God.

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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 sponsored anonymously in recognition of all the listeners who have been blessed by the broadcast. As a reminder, there are still many unsponsored broadcasts. Please contact Ann in the office if you would like to help with this important outreach ministry. 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.

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. The cost to sponsor each day is \$25.

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, Meeting ID: 882 0486 0202, Passcode: 636901).

The 2nd Annual Klub Dinner at Trinity Lutheran Church, here in Valley City, will be held Saturday, February 14th, from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm. All are welcome! Proceeds from this event will go towards Trinity Lutheran Church Ministries. See posters around the church for more details.

Scout Sunday: Our Savior's Lutheran Church will observe Scout Sunday on Feb. 15th in worship. All Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Girl Scouts, etc. are invited to attend worship in their uniform for a special recognition and blessing.

Burning of the Palms in preparation for Ash Wednesday will be at 3:30 on Tuesday, February 17th. Meet in the Gathering Room to determine the best outdoor location complete the process.

Ash Wednesday Worship: OSLC will gather for Ash Wednesday Worship w/ Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion on February 18 at 6:30pm. Those who would like ashes and are not able to attend the evening service are invited to stop by the office during the day. Please note our Wednesday meals will begin February 25.

Epworth United Methodist Men's French Toast Brunch will be held Sunday, February 22nd, from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. Proceeds will be used to support Epworth's Youth Ministries. See posters around the church for details.

Treasure Sale Donations: Please remember as you begin your spring cleaning that the WELCA ladies are having their annual treasure sale in early May. Items can be brought anytime, as we have storage space available. Holiday, household, children's toys and other gently used items are welcome. No adult clothing, please. Contact Ann in the office, LouVay White or Jan Stowman with any questions.

Community Closet will be open Monday, March 16th from 5 pm to 7 pm. Volunteers are needed to help set up on Sunday, March 15th from 6 pm to 8 pm and also to help that Monday.

Red Willow Summer Camp is now open! Go to www.redwillowministries.com for details. Contact Kyla Fetsch with further questions.

Ann needs to take a week off, February 20th to the 26th, for a family member's medical procedure. Please contact the office if you are able to answer phones and be a presence in the building from 9am to 1pm on those days.

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 David Maasjo, Marlys Maasjo, Marlin & Cynthia Malsam, Ronald & Linda Manke and Jason & Joelle Manlove 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 February 8th to February 15th, 2026.

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

TUES: 9:00 am | Quilters
12:30 am | Staff Meeting
1:30 pm | Text Study

WEDS: 9:30 am | Bible Study
6:30 pm | Confirmation
7:00 pm | Committees
8:00 pm | Council

FRI: 12:00 PM | Sr High Lunch

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

SUN (2/15): 9:00 am | Worship with Guest Pastor, Kerry Boese
9:00 am | Facebook Worship Livestream
10:15 am | Coffee & Fellowship
10:15 am | NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 am | KOVC 1490 AM/96.3 F Radio Broadcast