

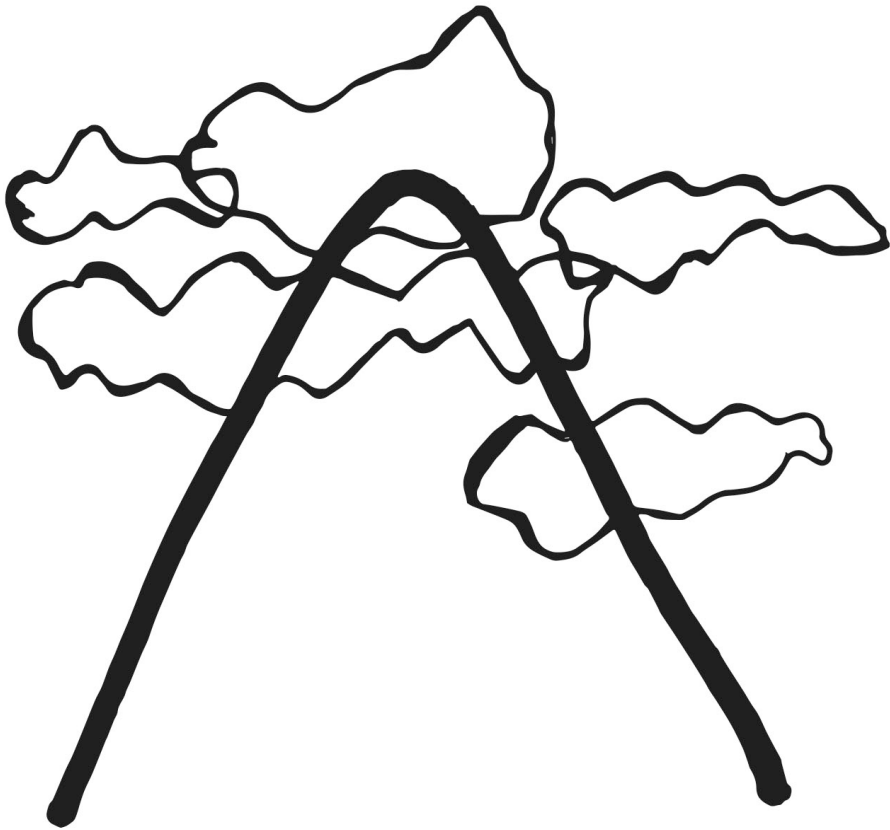


Faith Lutheran Church
LEAVENWORTH, WASHINGTON

Service of Holy Communion

Sunday, February 1, 2026 + 9:30am

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



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.



WELCOME to worship! Living in God's Amazing Grace, we envision Faith Lutheran Church as a diverse beacon of hope, healing, and reconciliation in a broken world. Faith Lutheran aspires to be a public church, empowering parishioners to become God's servants in Christ's commission to share the Gospel message of good news to the poor, healing to the sick and broken, and justice to the oppressed.

We aspire to be a transformational church and meet the changing needs of sacramental worship, congregational nurture, and ministries of peace, mercy, and justice as called by the Holy Spirit.

MISSION: As disciples in Christ, we are called to incarnate the gracious, healing, and reconciling presence of God through sacramental worship, congregational nurture, and ministries of peace, mercy, and justice for all Creation.

WORSHIP is the heartbeat that feeds our life together as a community. In the **GATHERING**, we participate in God's radical welcome extended to all people. In the **WORD**, we hear and ponder stories that have nurtured and shaped our faith. We share a **MEAL** that makes God present to us at a table wide enough for everyone to find a place. And in **SENDING** we go into the world to love and serve God by loving and serving our neighbors and Creation.

GOD LANGUAGE: Believing that no one name or description of God is ever complete, Faith Lutheran practices using many words and images to describe the Holy One who exists beyond human language. In our worship we try to balance images that are human and ecological, gendered and non-gendered, hierarchical and egalitarian. We encourage you to notice how different images affect your experience of worship and invite you to choose language that both liberates and challenges you.



We gather on the unceded ancestral lands of the šnpəšq'áwšəx'w (P'Squos) people, who are still here. We are grateful for their stewardship and care for this land.



Faith Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Founded in 1909, this church has been a spiritual home to residents of the Wenatchee River Valley for over 115 years.



As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we strive to provide a safe and healing environment where people of any race, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socio-economic status can be nourished in their journey of faith.



We practice an Open Communion, which means all are welcome at the Lord's Supper, including non-Lutherans and small children. There are small individual cups with red wine as well as clear grape juice in each tray.



Children are always welcome in worship at Faith Lutheran. Feel free to wiggle, make noise, or play in worship as needed.



Postures are a way we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross, shaking hands during peace) are optional. You may engage as you are comfortable and able.



Two single-stall restrooms are available in the separate Fellowship Hall building located next to the sanctuary.

If there is something that we can do to make worship more accessible to you, please let us know by talking to or emailing Pastor Aaron (pastor@faithleavenworth.org).

GATHERING

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

WELCOME + PRELUDE

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

...we bless you, O God, for the waters of the earth:

We bless you, O God, for the waters of the earth....

...we honor you, O God, for the waters that you send:

We honor you, O God, for the waters that you send....

...we glorify you, O God, for the waters of baptism:

We glorify you, O God, for the waters of baptism....

...to you comes the worship of all your people,

To you comes the worship of all your people,

Now and forever, amen.

Now and forever, amen.

GATHERING SONG

Let Streams of Living Justice (Red Book 710)

GREETING + PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Holy God, **you confuse the world's wisdom by giving your dominion to the gentle and the pure in heart. Give us a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that through our lives the world may experience the life of your Beloved, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

WORD

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

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.

FIRST READING

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against the chosen people, and the Lord will contend with Israel. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! 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. 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. With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? 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?" The Lord 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.**

The psalm is offered as a corporate response to the first reading. As the ancient word "psalm" means "song," we sing this section with a "psalm tone" (chanted line).

RESPONSE What Does the Lord Require of You? (Purple Book 1057)

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. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." 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? 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. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, my dear family: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 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; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (Red Book 172)

The alleluia may be sung once before the gospel reading and once after. All may stand to greet the gospel.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And Jesus opened his mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the dominion of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the gentle/meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of justice, for

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (Red Book 172)

SERMON Pastor Aaron Musser

HYMN OF THE DAY Blessed Are You

Blessed are you, the meek and lowly (2x)

Oh, blessed are you, yours is the reign of God.

*...who mourn in sorrow // ...defusing violence // ...who offer mercy
// ...who thirst for justice // ...the poor in spirit*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life. Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure. You came to us before we came to you. You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again. You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world. You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

As each petition ends with God of grace,
The assembly may respond **receive our prayer.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

La paz de Cristo
 sea siempre con ustedes.
Y también contigo.

The peace of Christ
 be with you always.
And also with you.

After sharing the words of peace in Spanish or English, you are invited to share a greeting of peace with others. You might offer a wave, handshake, or bow. Take care to observe one another's personal boundaries.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING + ANNOUNCEMENTS

As the Grains of Wheat (Red Book 465)

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Community announcements and music may accompany or follow the gathering of the offering.

OFFERING PRAYER

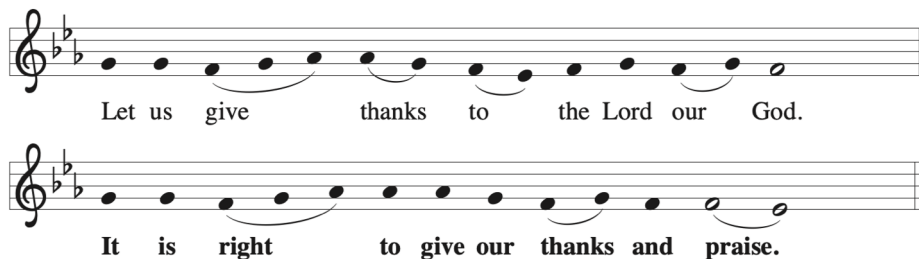
God of majesty, **no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**



This QR code can be used to make a contribution to Faith Lutheran Church online.

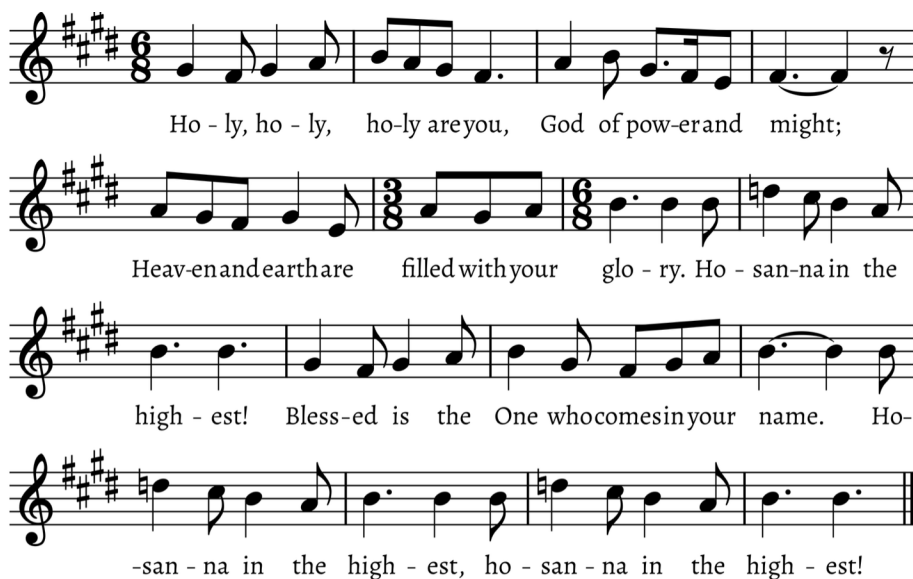
GREAT THANKSGIVING





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

We join the angelic chorus in their song of praise, along with all creation and the church across time and space.



Blessed are you, O holy God...

LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer may be recited in these or other translations/forms. Consider using words for God that inspire or challenge you.

**Our Mother/Father/Creator
in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins**

**Madre/Padre/Creator nuestra/o
que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu nombre.
Venga tu reino.
Hágase tu voluntad,
en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas**

as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

como también nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder
y tuya es la gloria,
ahora y siempre. Amén.

COMMUNION

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha-tred and fear;
Lamb of God, you are the way of jus-tice and peace;
Lamb of God, you are the way of mer-cy and love;



have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

*We practice an open communion
which means that you don't need
to be a member of our church, or
believe a certain thing, or be a
certain age in order to come.
Everyone is welcome at the table,
which is set by God.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. 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.

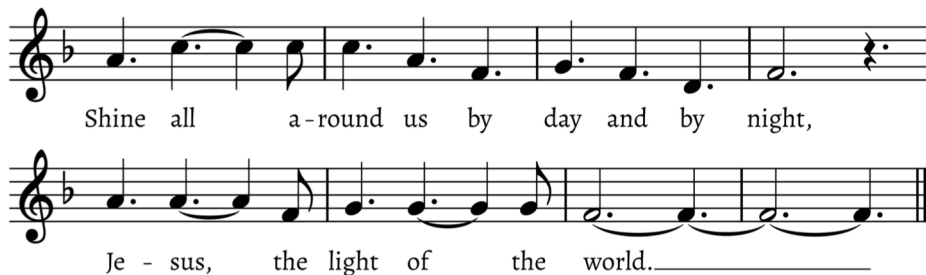
BLESSING

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 HYMN**Jesus, the Light of the World**


Rise up! Shine! Your light has come.
Light from light, and bright with grace;
Shine on us, O glorious Christ,
Je - sus, the light of the world.
Glo - ry dawns on ev - 'ry - one.
Glo - ry shi - ning from each face.
Lu - min - ous, your peo - ple rise.
Je - sus, the light of the world. We'll
walk in the light, beau - ti - ful light,
come where the dew-drops of mer - cy are bright.



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

*You are warmly invited to join us
for coffee hour and an adult forum
in the fellowship hall directly
following worship.*

Introduction to THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT from Baptized, We Live: Lutheranism as a Way of Life by Daniel Erlander © 1981, 2020 Daniel W. Erlander.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT from Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks: A Collection of Litanies, Laments, and Thanksgivings at Font and Table by Gail Ramshaw © 2017 Augsburg Fortress.

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CONNECT WITH FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Use this QR code to register your email and receive weekly Happenings emails (Fridays) which includes a note from the pastor, announcements, and community prayer requests.