



St. James Lutheran Church

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Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026

Today's Hymns

Gathering Hymn	873	Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart! (v. 1-4)
Hymn of the Day	710	Let Streams of Living Justice
Sending Hymn	669	Rise Up, O Saints of God!

First Reading:

Micah 6:1-8

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?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Psalms 15 (read responsively)

- 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:

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

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.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter.

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

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In our awareness that we are all broken people, we rejoice in God’s abundant grace. Therefore, we welcome all who are seeking God’s love and forgiveness regardless of national origin or ancestry, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, abilities, beliefs, political views, financial resources, or family status. There will always be a place for you at St. James.

