

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 1, 2026

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.

PRELUDE Ronnie Cung

WELCOME

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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 “Although I Speak with Angel’s Tongue” v 1,2,3,4
ELW 644**

***GREETING**

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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.
Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “wearyed” 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.

A Reading from Micah.

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?

A Word for God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 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; R**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on 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 a- | gainst the
innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. **R**

Second Reading: 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.

A Reading from Corinthians.

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.”

A Word for God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation rises to greet the gospel.

Verse 1

Light Shone in Darkness



1 Light shone in dark - ness at the world's cre - a - tion,
2 Light shone in dark - ness at the new cre - a - tion;
3 Light shines in dark - ness till the full cre - a - tion;



bath - ing in beau - ty na - ture's rev - e - la - tion. All that has be - ing,
Christ rose in glo - ry, won for us sal - va - tion. Sing, earth and heav - en,
Christ's bod - y, groan - ing, suf - fers trib - u - la - tion, longs for God's jus - tice,



cry in ad - o - ra - tion, "Praise for the light. A - men!"
hymns of ju - bi - la - tion, praise for the light. A - men!
glob - al trans - for - ma - tion, prays for the light. A - men!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: LUX IN TENEBRIS, Mark Sedio, b. 1954

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* Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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.

The congregation is seated.

CHILDRENS SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY “God of Grace and God of Glory” verse 1,2,4 ELW 705**

***APOSTLES 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.**

The congregation may be seated.

Prayer Requests.

Prayer requests are shared from the congregation as an assistant will pass along the microphone. All are welcome to share their prayers which is followed by the Prayer Refrain.

Prayer Refrain

Verse 1

ELW 314

Arise, Your Light Has Come!



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – (Assisting Minister)

*The following responses will be used after each petition: **Receive our prayer.***

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

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 social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation and our sister congregation Bethany Lutheran in Northport and their pastor Rev. Chrysanne Timm, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

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. **Amen**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements are shared from the congregation as an assistant will pass along the microphone. All are welcome to share the “happenings” of Trinity Lutheran Community.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

During Offering, a performance will take place. This is followed by receiving of the offerings where we stand and sing the “Light Shone in Darkness”.

OFFERTORY*

Light Shone in Darkness

2 Light shone in dark - ness at the new cre - a - tion;
Christ rose in glo - ry, won for us sal - va - tion. Sing, earth and heav - en,
hymns of ju - bi - la - tion, praise for the light. A - men!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Light Shone in Darkness". It consists of three staves of music in G major (one flat) and 2/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "2 Light shone in dark - ness at the new cre - a - tion;". The second staff continues the melody: "Christ rose in glo - ry, won for us sal - va - tion. Sing, earth and heav - en,". The third staff concludes the piece: "hymns of ju - bi - la - tion, praise for the light. A - men!". The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

*OFFERING PRAYER – (Assisting Minister)

Let us pray.

**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.

*** WORDS TO LOVE BY**

Where Jesus is...there is joy, there is peace, there is love.
And that is why he made himself the Bread of Life to be our life of love and joy.
No one else can give what he gives, and he is there all the time.
We have only to realize that.

Dear Jesus,

**Help us to spread your fragrance everywhere we go,
Flood our souls with your spirit and life.
Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly
that our lives may only be a radiance of yours.
Shine through us and be so in us
That every soul we come in contact with
may feel your presence in our soul.
Let them look up and see no longer us but only Jesus.
Stay with us and then we shall begin to shine as you shine,
so shine as to be light to others.
The light, O Jesus will be all from you.
None of it will be ours.
It will be you shining on others through us.
Let us thus praise you in the way you love best
By shining on those around us.
Let us preach you without preaching
not by words but by our examples
by the catching force
the sympathetic influence of what we do
the evident fullness of the love our hearts bear to you. Amen**

***LORD’S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

***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 “*Lift Every Voice and Sing*” 1,2,3 ELW 841

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE :

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2055 E. Columbia Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49014 269-963-5356

Welcome! We believe God created all of humanity in God's image. Since every person is made in the image of God, every person is part of God's family. Whatever your gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, income, mental or physical ability, age, religious background, nationality, or political ideology, you are welcome here. Diversity of skills, gifts, talents, opinions, and experiences are strengthen the body of Christ. "For all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28b).

Contact Info: For emergency pastoral care contact:

Pr. Ed Ruble, St. Peter Lutheran Church

Cell: 269-569-4721

Email: pastor@saintpeterbc.org

Our thanks to all those who give of their time, talent, and prayers for our church and God's work in the world.

Assisting in worship today:

Preaching: Dr. Candy McCorkle-Boughton

Assisting Minister: Laurie Swanson

Sound Board: Ellis Cutler

Streaming: Doug Martens

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

February 1 - February 8, 2026

TODAY: 10:30am Worship, 11:30am Coffee Hour

MONDAY: 1- 4, Co-Op Monday Mingle

TUESDAY:

WEDNESDAY: 6:30, Choir Practice

THURSDAY:

FRIDAY:

SATURDAY:

NEXT SUNDAY: 10:30 Worship with Bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas, Q & A following the service, Coffee Hour

**Readings for next Sunday: Isaiah 58: 1 - 9a [9b - 12]; Psalm 112:1-9 [10];
1 Corinthians 2:1 - 12 [13 - 16]; Matthew 5: 13 - 20**

PRAYER REQUESTS Prayer requests are gathered from the spoken prayer requests during worship and can also be added by calling or emailing to office@tlcbattlecreek.org. Prayer requests will stay on the list for three weeks and can be renewed:

January 25: Janelle: Tina Gale, Ginesa Edwards; **Diane:** Colton; **Doug:** Gary Lindsley; **Connie:** Family of Dale Dittmer, Reeve, JoAnn; **Tresa:** Art

January 18: Tresa: Art; **Janelle:** Ginesa Edwards, Tina Gale, Rob, Safe travels for John

January 11: Janelle: McKayla Stacey, Ginesa Edwards, Sarah Stacey, Rob, Tina Gale; **Eileen:** Mary; Sonya: Chuck; **Connie:** Dick Sheffer

The Franklin Food Pantry desperately needs to have its shelves restocked. The items needed are: Canned goods, soups, fruits, vegetables; also, cereal, juice, boxed milk, toilet paper and soap. Cash donations are also appreciated. Please drop off any donations at church placing them in the wagon in the narthex. Thanks!!