

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
Holstein, IA      February 1, 2026      9:00 A.M.  
**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

*Who are 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.*

**GATHER**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**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 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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**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 a 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.**

**Installation of Congregation Council, Task Force, Committee Members,  
& Convention Delegates**

**WORD**

**Micah 6:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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."

<sup>6</sup> "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? <sup>7</sup> 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?" <sup>8</sup> 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.**

**Psalm 15  
(Read Responsively)**

<sup>1</sup> Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

**Who may abide upon your holy hill?**

<sup>2</sup> Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
**who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
**they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.**

<sup>4</sup> 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.**

<sup>5</sup> 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.**

### **1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

<sup>20</sup> 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? <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

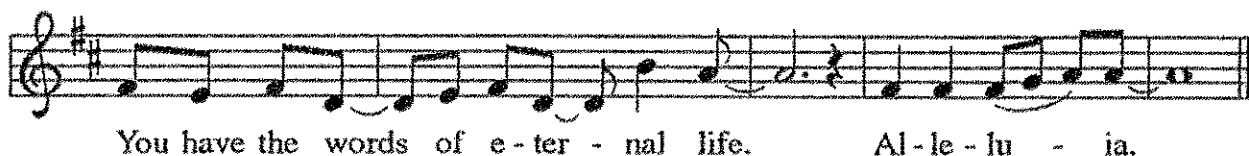
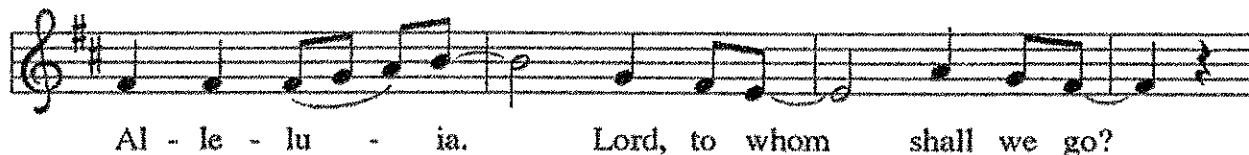
<sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> 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.**

### **Children's Message**

## **Gospel Alleluia**



## **Matthew 5:1-12**

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

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> 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.**

## **Message**

**Hymn of the Day**

***Blest Are They***

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## **Sharing the Peace**

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **Children's Offering / Offering**

**Offering Prayer**

God, giver of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for the daily blessings of life. For food and family, for friends and neighbors, for the gift of life itself we give you thanks. Bless these offerings of our treasure that they may be used wisely in your service.

**Amen.**

**Prayers of the People****Lord's Prayer**

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.**

***SENDING*****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.**

**Closing Song*****Go In Peace and Serve the Lord***

Words & Music by H. Hanson



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**Dismissal**

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

**Postlude**

### **Worship Participants**

<b>Ministers:</b>	All the members
<b>Vicar:</b>	Emily Anderson
<b>DYME:</b>	Jim & Kris Kistenmacher
<b>Organist:</b>	Sharen Borchers
<b>Pianist:</b>	Kris Kistenmacher
<b>Lector:</b>	Deb Bagenstos
<b>Deacons:</b>	Justin Georg and Marvin Todd
<b>Greeters:</b>	Dean & Cleo Breyfogle
<b>Acolytes:</b>	Brynn Nedved and Olivia Stevenson
<b>Sound &amp; Video:</b>	Kelby & Joy Wulf
<b>Coffee Hosts:</b>	Joy & Kelby Wulf Audrey & Rod Flogstad

### **St. Paul Church Calendar**

#### **SUNDAY, February 1 ~ Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

<b>9:00 AM</b>	Worship Installation of Congregation Council, Task Force, Committee Members, & Convention Delegates
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Sunday School
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Coffee and fellowship

#### **WEDNESDAY, February 4**

<b>5:00 PM</b>	LOGOS ~ "Bingo!"
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#### **THURSDAY, February 5**

<b>2:00 PM</b>	"12 Women of the Bible" - Women's Bible Study
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#### **SUNDAY, February 8 ~ Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

<b>9:00 AM</b>	Worship with Holy Communion
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Sunday School
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Coffee and fellowship