

And what does the  
**LORD** require of you

To act  justly  
& to love mercy and to  
walk humbly with your

**GOD.**

**M I C A H 6 : 8**

**Saint Peter's Lutheran Church**

**February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

**2570 St. Peter's Church Road, Salisbury, NC 28146**

***Church Website: <https://www.saintpeterslc.org/>***

***Church Email: [saintpetersnc@gmail.com](mailto:saintpetersnc@gmail.com)***

**Pastor Sue Lynn White**

**(cell 770-833-1922) ([pastorsuelynn@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsuelynn@gmail.com))**

## Fourth Sunday After Epiphany: February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

\* Indicates to stand as you are able. P=Pastor, C=Congregation, A=Assisting Minister, L=Lector

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### *PRELUDE*

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

\*P: 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.

**\*C: Amen.**

\*P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice,

**\*C: 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.**

\*P: 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.

**\*C: Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN

Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart

ELW 873

### APOSTOLIC GREETING

\*P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**\*C: And also with you.**

### KYRIE

pp. 138-139

### CANTICLE OF PRAISE

pp. 140-141

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

\*P: 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. \*C: **Amen.**

## **GOD SPEAKS TO US**

First Reading

Micah 6:1-8

L: A reading from Micah the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter

<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?

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 15**

<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.

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter

<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 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."

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



\*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**\*C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

\*The Holy Gospel Matthew 5:1-12

<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."

\*P: The Gospel of our Lord. **\*C: Praise to you, O Christ**

## Children's Sermon

The Sermon

Pastor Sue Lynn White

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

**\*A:** Let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**\*C:** 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.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**\*A:** 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,

**\*C: 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,

**\*C: 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,

**\*C: 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. We especially pray for Guy & Betty Puckett, Jim & Phyllis Cornelison, Jerry Sides, Ernie & Linda Cooper, Phil & Carol Boyette, Brenda H. Trexler, Judy Peeler, Lynn DeBerry, Marcia Ritchie, Jean Holshouser, Phyllis Trexler, Sue Misenheimer, Thelma Barger, Buddy Waller, Ronnie Pierce, Mary Miller, Friends of St. Peter's and those we hold in our hearts or speak aloud now...(pause). Merciful God,

**\*C: receive our prayer.**

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God,

**\*C: receive our prayer.**

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

**\*C: receive our prayer.**

\*P: 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.

**\*C: Amen.**

## **PEACE**

\*P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**\*C: And also with you.**

\*P: Let us share the peace with one another.

## **THE OFFERING**

### **Anthem**

**Offering Hymn Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow ELW 884**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

\*A: 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.

**\*C: Amen.**

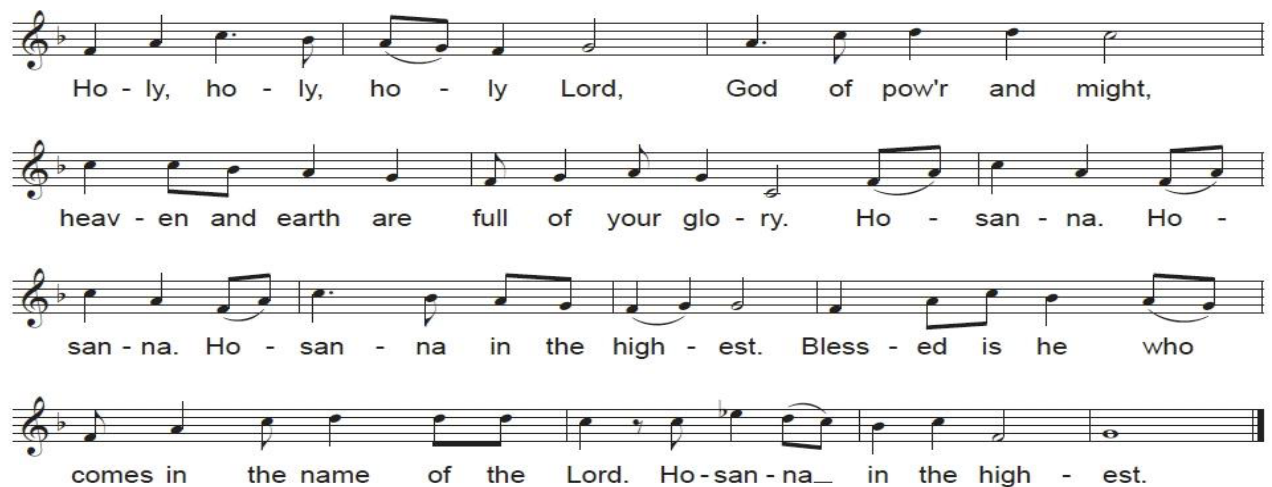
## **MEAL**

## PREFACE DIALOGUE



\*P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### \*C: Holy, Holy, Holy



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

\*P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught.

**\*C: 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.**

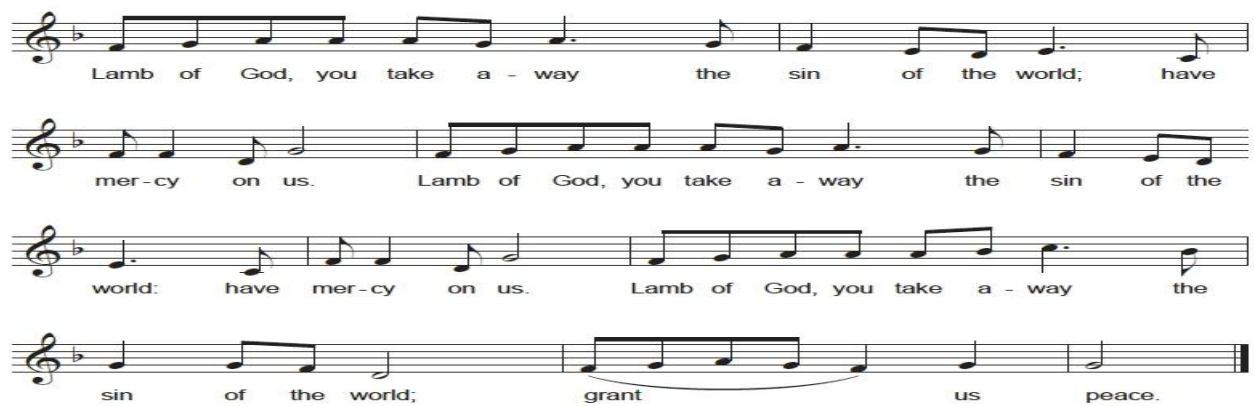
### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**\*P:** Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

**\*C:** Thanks be to God.

### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

#### **LAMB OF GOD**



### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

**\*P:** The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. Amen.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**\*A:** Let us pray. 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.

**\*C:** Amen.

### **SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

#### **BLESSING**

**\*P:** May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✝ bless you now and forever.

**\*C:** Amen.

**\*SENDING HYMN**

**Rise Up, O Saints of God!**

**ELW 669**

**THE DISMISSAL**

**\*A:** Rooted in the love of Christ

**\*C: We grow in grace and joyfully branch into a broken World!**

**\*P:** Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**\*C: Thanks be to God.**

*\*Silent Prayer and Chiming of the Trinity*

*Postlude*