



“WE HAVE FOUND  
*the Messiah.*”  
JOHN 1:41

## **Saint Peter's Lutheran Church**

**January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

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

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## Second Sunday After Epiphany: January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### *PRELUDE*

### CONFSSION & FORGIVENESS

\*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, <sup>+</sup> 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 <sup>+</sup> Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

**\*C: Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN      Arise, Your Light Has Come!      ELW 314**

### 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.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

\*P: Let us pray. Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**\*C: Amen.**

## **GOD SPEAKS TO US**

First Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7

L: A reading from Isaiah the 49<sup>th</sup> chapter

<sup>1</sup> Listen to me, O coastlands;  
    pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The LORD called me before I was born;  
    while I was in my mother's womb he named me.  
<sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword;  
    in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow;  
    in his quiver he hid me away.  
<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
    Israel, in whom I will be glorified."  
<sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain;  
    I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the LORD  
    and my reward with my God."  
  
<sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says,  
    who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
    and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,  
    and my God has become my strength—  
<sup>6</sup> he says,  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
    to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
    and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
    that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."  
  
<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD,  
    the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
    the slave of rulers,  
"Kings shall see and stand up;  
    princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,

because of the LORD, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”  
L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 40:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently upon the LORD,  
who stooped to me and heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,  
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;  
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> **Happy are they who trust in the LORD!**  
**They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.**

<sup>5</sup> Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans  
for us, none can be compared with you!

    Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more  
than I can count.

<sup>6</sup> **Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;  
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you  
have not required.**

<sup>7</sup> And so I said, “Here I am; I come.  
    In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

<sup>8</sup> **‘I love to do your will, O my God;  
your law is deep within me.’ ”**

<sup>9</sup> I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;  
    I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you know.

<sup>10</sup> **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken  
of your faithfulness and your deliverance;  
    I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great  
assembly.**

<sup>11</sup> You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me;  
    may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

### Second Reading

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

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our  
brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in  
Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place  
call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

### 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind <sup>6</sup> just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

\*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

\*The Holy Gospel John 1:29-42

<sup>29</sup> [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup> And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

<sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and

as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”<sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.<sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”<sup>39</sup> He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.<sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.<sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).<sup>42</sup> He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

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

## Children's Sermon

## The Sermon

## Pastor Sue Lynn White

## HYMN OF DAY

## Just As I Am, Without One Plea

ELW 592

## \*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.*

Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week. Merciful God,

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

Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disasters (*current situations may be named*). Merciful God,

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

Just God, you desire respect and equality for everyone. Raise up prophets who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need. Merciful God,

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

Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, oppression, or illness. 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)*. Bring an end to social injustice and inequities of every kind, so that all people may have abundant life.

Merciful God,

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

Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in this community (*local ministries may be named*). Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Merciful God,

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

Faithful God, you promise to be with us always. We remember with gratitude the faithful departed who now rest in you. Strengthen us to the end, that we may see you face to face. 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

The Lord be with you. And also with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

\*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**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

**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**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## 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

# Christ, Be Our Light

**ELW 715**

## 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*