



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Sunday, January 18, 2026
2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Pastor Kevin Compton - Leads Worship
Musician - Amy McPherson



Saint John the Baptist Preaching c. 1665
Willem Reuter - Painter, Flemish, c. 1642 - 1681

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Barbara Hinkle and Suzanne Smith presented by Janet Hill.

We are in need of a flower sponsor for February 15, 2026. Please contact the office to let us know if you would like to sponsor them. Thank you.

PRELUDE Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling - Green Book #523

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

CONFESS&ION & FORGIVENESS (Please rise in body or in spirit.)

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.

HYMN How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord, ELW #580



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin-dranc-es more sure;
4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac-cord-ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re-freshed, re - stored,
if world-ly pres-sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind
whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,
in old rou-tines or ven-tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.
and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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THE GREETING (Pastor)

The peace 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 (Pastor)

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.

Amen. (Please be seated)

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Isaiah 49:1-7 (Assistant)

The First Reading is from Isaiah, the 49th chapter.

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

⁴ 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."

⁵ 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—

⁶ 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."

⁷ 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."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 40:1-11 (Assistant)

Please read from the 40th Psalm responsively.

¹ I waited patiently up on the LORD, who stooped to me and heard my cry.

**² 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.**

³ 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.

⁴ Happy are they who trust in the LORD!

They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.

⁵ 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.

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

⁷ And so I said, "Here I am; I come.

In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

⁸ 'I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep within me.'

⁹ I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;

I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you know.

¹⁰ 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.

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

(Please rise in body or in spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please rise in body or in spirit)



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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GOSPEL: John 1:29-42 (Pastor)

Gospel is from St. John, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ 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.' ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ 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?" ³⁹ 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.

⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He 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).

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**
(Please be seated)

INTERLUDE Children Exit to Sunday School

THE MESSAGE Pastor Kevin Compton

SONG OF THE DAY Strong Tower Steve Taylor / CCLI License No. 1083898

Strong and mighty, strong to save us, Like a fortress never failing.
Strong in battle, strong in kindness.
When we stray Lord, You're strong to find us.
When the winds come hard against us, You are steadfast, You are true.
When the ground beneath us trembles, Your foundation never moves.

Refrain: Strong Tower, high and glorious - Strong tower, mighty in love.
Our refuge, our defender. Strong tower, Lord above.

Strong to lead us through the shadows. Strong to carry all our sorrows.
When the enemy surrounds us, Closing in as darkness falls,
Though his armies rage against us,
They can never scale these walls. **Refrain**

(Please rise in body or in spirit)

CREED (Assistant):

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith, sharing together the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come again 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 (Assistant)

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.

(Allow 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, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, sustain and strengthen the network of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disasters.

Merciful God, **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, **receive our prayer.**

Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in this community. We pray especially for The Open Link and our meal ministry at Victory House. Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill. We pray especially for those on our prayer list, those on the bulletin board ornaments, those recovering from surgery and medical procedures, and all those whom we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

(allow for brief silence...)

Merciful God, **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, **receive our 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.**

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you all!

And also with you!

Let us offer one another a sign of peace
(Please be seated)

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

SONG Sanctuary (4x) 3rd verse acapella CCLI License No. 108389

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true:
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you. (4x)

(Please rise in body or in spirit.)

SONG Offering (Shortened)

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love;
There is no shadow in Your presence;
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne.
Before the Holy One of Heaven;
It's only by Your blood and it's only thro' Your mercy, Lord, I come

I bring an offering of worship to my King;
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing;
Jesus, may You receive the honor that You're due;
O Lord, I bring an offering to You.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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, who overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.



Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

THE 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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

Instructions for Communing: All are invited. Follow the usher's directions.

You will receive a piece of bread and a cup of wine from the communion servant. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Blessings are available in lieu of communion or for any young person who has not yet received communion instruction.

SONG All Who Are Thirsty

Brenton Brown and Glenn Robertson Copyright 1998 Vineyard Songs
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All who are thirsty, all who are weak

Come to the fountain, dip your heart in the stream of life,

Let the pain and the sorrow, be washed away

In the waves of His mercy, as deep cries out to deep - We sing

Come Lord Jesus come, Come Lord Jesus come. (Continued on next page)

All who are thirsty, all who are weak
Come to the fountain, dip your heart in the stream of life,
Let the pain and the sorrow, be washed away
In the waves of His mercy, as deep cries out to deep - We sing

Come Lord Jesus come, Come Lord Jesus come.
Holy Spirit come, Holy Spirit come.

SONG Blessed Assurance, Blue Book #699

SONG Let Us Break Bread Together, Green book #212

POST COMMUNION PRAYER (Please rise in body or in spirit.)

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.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

THE BLESSING

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

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CONGREGATION

SONG Soon and Very Soon, Blue Book #744

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE Soon and Very Soon

Thank You to worship assistant Anne Gabel; ushers, Henry & Jennifer Eisenberger; musician, Amy McPherson; and Laura Foreman for streaming. Thanks to our communion set up team, flower sponsors and all who help!

We Remember in Prayer:

Jason Adamczyk - Joyce Allebach - Fidelis (Sonny) Cabral - Heather Cammann
Justin Cogan - Pastor Kevin Compton - Nancy Esterly - Barbara Green - Rose
Greenawald - The Gunden Family - Dave Hamblin - Janet Hill - Arlene Koons -
Sue & Tom Lang - Frances Lechner - Melissa Leinback - Gary Mammele -
Becky McIntosh - Tully Meehan - Sally Mixer - Tricia Parker - Peggy - Mike
Picket - Justin Redfield - Peter Reigner - Dennis Renninger - Doris Renninger -
Alan Richard - Donna Rodenberger - Ronald Rodenberger Gladys Sands -
Margarita Serbia - Linda Shagg - John Sheeran - The Stever Family & Lorelai
Stever - Beth Ann Thomas - Arlene Vandenburg - Ryan Weaver - Larry
Weiss - Dave Woodward - Rick Yocum & Family - Janet Zylinski
The family of Dorothy Hershey, who was laid to rest this week at St. Pauls.

Announcements & Events

The Church Council meets today following worship.

We are in need of a flower sponsor for February 15. Please contact the office to let us know if you would like to sponsor them. Thank you.

Taizé Worship is Wednesday, January 21 at 6PM at Friedens UCC. Connect with God & each other through song, prayer, and scripture.

The Reformation Sister Congregations in the Upper Perkiomen Valley Rise Against Hunger meal packing event is next Sunday, Sunday, January 25 at St. Paul's-Red Hill. Thanks to all who signed up. See you there!

Girl Scout Cookies will be sold following worship on January 25th We are happy to support the Girl Scout troop meeting at St. Paul's! Be sure to get your cookie supply next Sunday.

February 1 is Scout Sunday. Be sure to join us as our Scouts help with leading worship on the 1st of February.

February 8 is the Annual Meeting covering 2025. Members in good standing will be able to vote, however, all are welcome to join us for fellowship time downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Jennifer Eisenberger will be our fellowship host this month.

February 18 is Ash Wednesday. Join us as we begin our Lenten journey. Pastor Kevin will offer Drive-thru Ashes at St. Paul's in the parking lot next to the pond on Ash Wednesday from 6-9AM & at 3-5:30PM. Ash Wednesday services at 11AM at New Goshenhoppen UCC & 7PM at Friedens UCC. The current Mid-week Lenten service schedule is on the bulletin insert for your convenience. Holy Week & Easter schedules will be available shortly.