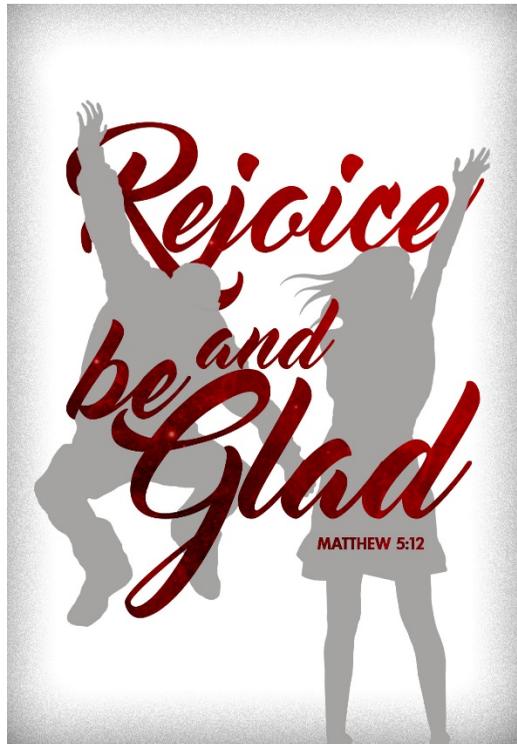


## **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

***February 1, 2026***



### **Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd**

10891 102 Avenue, Seminole, FL 33778

727.391.4644

[www.mygoodshepherd.net](http://www.mygoodshepherd.net)

## **INTRODUCTION**

*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.*

## **WELCOME**

*Please stand*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

## As We Gather at Your Table



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um-ph-ant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contradansen*, 1710

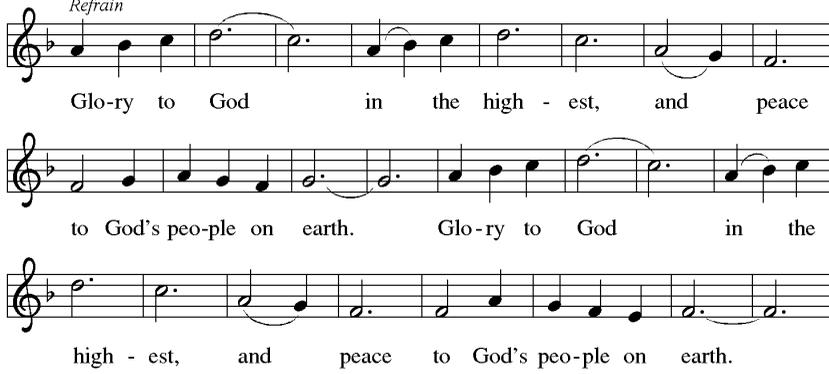
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## GREETING

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.**

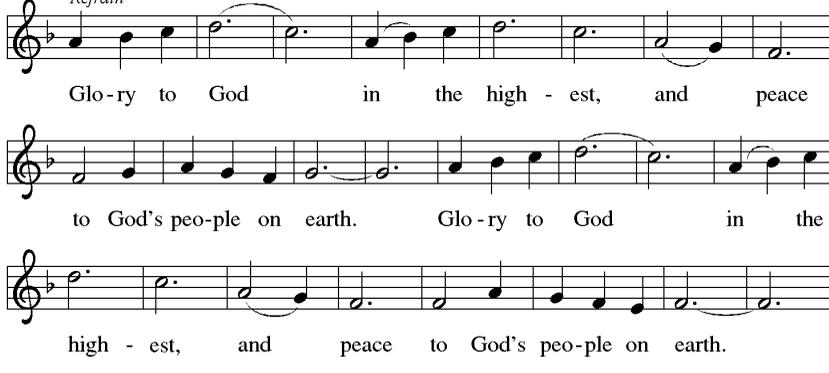
*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace  
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the  
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,  
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace  
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the  
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -



lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

*Final refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est.



A - men, a - men.

## **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.**

*Please sit*

## **FIRST READING: 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: Psalm 15 in unison**

**<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**

<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.**

*Please stand*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12**

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **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**

**HOMILY**

*Please stand*

## Rise Up, O Saints of God!



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.  
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.  
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Furness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

Text © Norman O. Furness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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## APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's 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.**

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 for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

### **OFFERING**

*The gifts we use and share matter! Thank you for sharing your gifts for the sake of the world. Ushers will come by to collect today's offering, or you can use the green Give button on our church's website to support our mission of nurturing lives for following Christ.*

### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

*The Beatitudes*

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

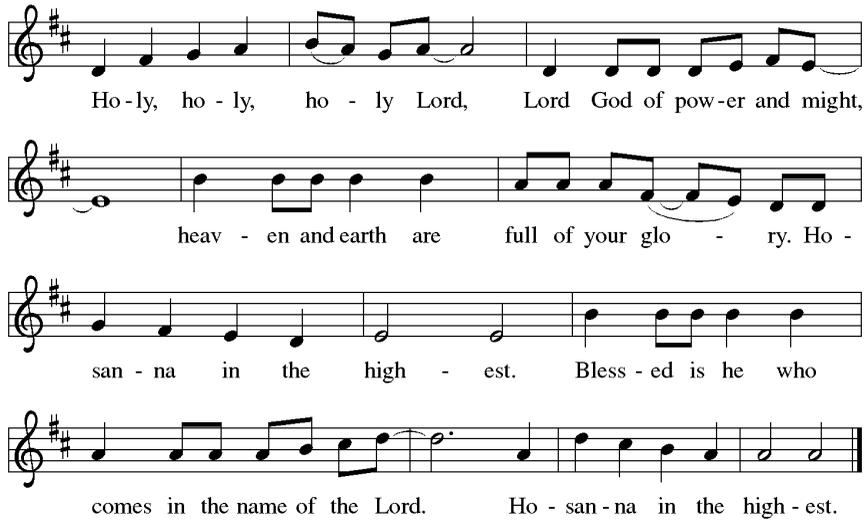
Lift up your hearts.

**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. 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:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*Please sit*

## 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, grant us peace.

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

### SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, when your Son Jesus gathered a crowd and blessed the loaves and fish, all ate and were filled. And still there was more. In your love and care, extend this meal to all who will receive it. Give us all the comfort of your abiding presence and the courage to be the body of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

### FAMILY TIME

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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

## Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

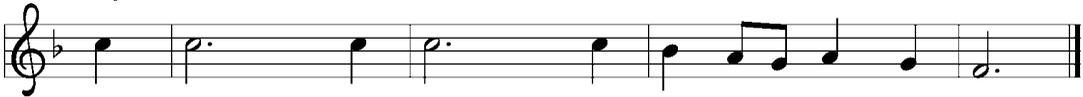


- 1 Re - joi - ce, ye pure in heart! Re - joi - ce, give thanks, and sing;  
2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's sur - ging praise,  
3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth  
4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.  
send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.  
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.  
as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

### *Refrain*



Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce, give thanks, and sing!

- 5 At last the march shall end;  
the wearied ones shall rest;  
the pilgrims find their home at last,  
Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*
- 6 Praise God who reigns on high,  
the Lord whom we adore:  
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,  
one God forevermore. *Refrain*

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–1891, alt.  
Music: MARION, Arthur H. Messiter, 1834–1916

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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace, nurturing lives for following Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

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*"As We Gather At Your Table"*

*"Rise Up O Saints Of God"*

*"Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart"*



### Interfaith Food Pantry

**From January 23<sup>rd</sup> – February 8<sup>th</sup>** we encourage the congregation to bring in cans of soup. The "SOUPER" bowl collection is to support the Interfaith Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued support for our Food Pantry!



Thank you to Gus and Helene Deuben for sponsoring January's Messy Church Goes Wild with A Thrivent Action Team. After a very windy, damp and cold start the weather settled down allowing for some great connecting and reconnecting while enjoying God's beautiful creation.



**Coffee and conversation** will happen after worship. Join us to get to know other church members. Feel free to sign up to bring treats. There is an updated sign-up sheet in the narthex.



**Are you aware we have a floral ministry?** Please help deliver flowers to our home bound congregation members. The flowers and vases are provided. We just need people to sign up to drop off flowers Sunday after church. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Monthly Financial Summary						
	Monthly: December 2025			YTD: January - December 2025		
	Total	Church	Little Lambs	Total	Church	Little Lambs
Budgeted Expenses	\$88,941	\$31,699	<b>\$57,242</b>	\$1,045,496	\$358,593	\$686,903
Actual Expenses	\$91,140	\$27,269	\$63,871	\$1,000,892	\$329,760	\$671,132
Budgeted Giving / Income	\$71,737	\$15,487	<b>\$56,250</b>	\$860,750	\$185,750	\$675,000
Actual Giving / Income	\$88,215	\$29,339	\$58,876	\$931,737	\$191,425	\$740,312
Surplus / (Deficit)	<b>(\$2,926)</b>	\$2,069	<b>(\$4,995)</b>	<b>(\$69,155)</b>	<b>(\$138,335)</b>	\$69,180
<b>Annual Deficit will be funded from the</b>			<b>Balances as of December 31, 2025</b>			
<b>Good Shepherd Bank Reserves</b>			Bank Reserves			\$248.967

- A strong December contributed to 2025 Income exceeding budget for both Good Shepherd and Little Lambs
  - Expenses were managed well in 2025 coming in at 96% of Budget
  - Despite these results, we ended 2025 with a \$69,155 over-spend situation. This is an improvement vs. what was approved in the 2025 budget
    - \$50,000 was transferred during the year from our Bank Reserves to address the over-spend. We start 2026 with a Bank Reserve balance of \$248,967
    - Thank you for your ongoing support of the Ministries at Good Shepherd and Little Lambs