



# **IDENTITY REVEALED**

**JESUS CALLS YOU BLESSED**

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

*February 1/2, 2026*

# ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)*

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## FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's *eternal love* for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing or sitting, will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

*Restrooms:* are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.

*Nursery:* We encourage families to worship together. If an adult needs to step out of the chapel briefly with a child, the nursery is provided just outside the chapel near the restrooms.

*For Kids:* Activity sheets for young children are available on the bulletin table. Small bags with quiet activity items hang near the table.



During the Season of Epiphany (“Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “reveal.”) we see Jesus begin his public ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. During Epiphany, we will come to understand that when the true *identity* of Jesus is *revealed*, our own true identity is revealed as well—in him.

In today’s gospel, Jesus calls us blessed. You may not feel blessed when you are hungry or insulted or mourning the death of a loved one. You may not be in the mood to boast when you feel foolish, weak, or lowly. But knowing your difficulties, Jesus still chose you to be his own. He gives you many gifts, and he calls you blessed.

*Words for reflection are provided for those taking communion today. They are found on pp. 295-296 in the hymnal.*

*About the cover art:* Jesus teaches and preaches the Sermon on the Mount.

*STAND*

## **HYMN**

**1** Now thank we all our God  
with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love  
and still is ours today.

## **597 Now Thank We All Our God**

**2** Oh, may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever-joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us  
and keep us in his grace  
and guide us when perplexed  
and free us from all ills  
in this world and the next.

**3** All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son, and him who reigns  
with them in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heav'n adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

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

*BE SEATED*

## **REFLECTION ON PSALM 1 AND PSALM 92**

### **Psalms 1:1–2**

<sup>1</sup>How blessed is the man  
who does not walk in the advice of the wicked,  
who does not stand on the path with sinners,  
and who does not sit in a meeting with mockers.

<sup>2</sup>**But his delight is in the teaching of the LORD,  
and on his teaching he meditates day and night.**

## Psalm 92B Make Music to the LORD Most High, st. 1

*The minister sings the verse.*

*1 Make music to the LORD Most High,  
whose praise is our delight:  
we sing your love as day begins,  
your faithfulness by night.  
LORD, when we see all you have done,  
our songs of joy resound:  
your handiwork, how vast it is,  
your counsels, how profound!*

## Psalm 1:3–5

<sup>3</sup>He is like a tree planted beside streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season,  
and its leaves do not wither.  
Everything he does prospers.

<sup>4</sup>**Not so the wicked!**

**No, they are like the chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.**

## Psalm 92B Make Music to the LORD Most High, st. 2

2 The god-less mind will nev - er know, be - cause its sense is  
void, that though the wick - ed spread like grass, they  
all shall be de - stroyed. For - ev - er, LORD, you are su -  
preme, your throne re - mains on high, while reb - els  
meet e - ter - nal doom and e - vil - do - ers die.

## Psalm 1:6

<sup>6</sup>Yes, the LORD approves of the way of the righteous,  
**but the way of the wicked will perish.**

## Psalm 92B Make Music to the LORD Most High, st. 3

3 But like the ce - dar and the palm, the right - eous stand se -  
rene; they flour - ish in the house of God, their  
leaves are fresh and green. To fruit - ful age they still pro -  
claim the LORD who makes them new— our God, in  
whom no wrong is found, my rock, for - ev - er true.

## CONFESSION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just**

**and will forgive us our sins**

**and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord, using the words of “Create in Me”:

## 942 Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The final note of the piece is a whole note on a B-flat, followed by a double bar line.

### *SILENCE FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

## **FIRST READING**

**Zephaniah 2:3; 3:11–13**

*The Lord promises that those who put their trust in him will not be put to shame.*

<sup>3</sup>Seek the LORD, all you humble people of the earth who have carried out his commands. Seek righteousness. Seek humility. Maybe then you will be sheltered in the day of the LORD's anger.

<sup>11</sup>In that day you will no longer bear the shame of your rebellions against me. Then I will remove the proud boasters from among you, and you will never again be arrogant on my holy hill. <sup>12</sup>But I will leave among you the people who are humble and weak. They will seek refuge in the name of the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The Israelites who remain will no longer act unjustly. They will not lie, and a deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouth. Instead, they will graze peacefully like sheep and lie down. No one will terrify them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING**

**1 Corinthians 1:26–31**

*God changes how we view ourselves by connecting us to Christ Jesus.*

<sup>26</sup>For example, consider your call, brothers. Not many of you were wise from a human point of view, not many were powerful, and not many were born with high status. <sup>27</sup>But God chose the foolish things of the world to put to shame those who are wise. God chose



the weak things of the world to put to shame the things that are strong,<sup>28</sup> and God chose the lowly things of the world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to do away with the things that are,<sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before God.<sup>30</sup> But because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us the wisdom from God, namely, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.<sup>31</sup> God did this so that, just as it is written, "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."<sup>\*</sup>

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

*STAND*

## HYMN

## 633 Speak, O Lord st. 1

1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food  
of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it  
deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,  
that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of  
love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -  
fill in us all your pur - pos-es for your glo - ry.

<sup>\*</sup> Jeremiah 9:24

## GOSPEL

## Matthew 5:1–12

*In this teaching poetry called “The Beatitudes,”  
Jesus turns the ideas of the world upside down.*

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up onto a mountain. When he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>He opened his mouth and began to teach them. He said these things.

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

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

<sup>5</sup>Blessed are the gentle,  
because they will inherit the earth.

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

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

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

<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers,  
because they will be called sons of God.

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

<sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven. In fact, that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*BE SEATED*

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

*Young children may come forward for a brief devotion.*

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## Jesus Sat with His Disciples



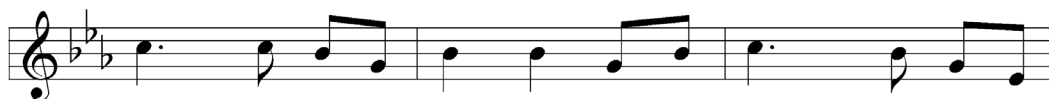
1 Je - sus sat with his dis - ci - ples On a  
 2 "Bless-ed are the meek and hum - ble, All the  
 3 "Bless-ed are God's sons and daugh - ters, Mak - ing



moun - tain - side one day; As the crowds of peo-ple  
 earth to them is willed. Those who hun - ger to be  
 peace where there is strife. Bless-ed are the per - se -



gath - ered He be - gan to teach and say: "Bless-ed  
 ho - ly, They are bless'd and will be filled. Yes, the  
 cu - ted, Who for right-eous-ness lose life; Their re -



are the poor in spir - it, Heav-en's king - dom they will  
 mer - ci - ful are bless - ed, Mer - cy will to them be  
 ward is great in heav - en, In the king - dom up a -



share. Bless-ed are the sad and mourn - ing,  
 shown. And the pure in heart are bless - ed,  
 bove— So be glad to share my suf - f'ring,



Joy and com - fort will be theirs.  
 They have eyes for God a - lone.  
 And re - joice to know my love."

## INSTALLATION OF COUNCILMEN

*listed on p. 19*

*Newly elected councilmen and those continuing in their terms of service are invited forward for the rite.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord, give strength to your people.

**Lord, bless your people with peace.**

In your grace you have chosen us to be your own. Bless us with daily bread. Feed our souls with your Word.

**Deliver us from every trouble.**

Rescue those who walk in darkness and turn them from wickedness and destruction. As we share your gospel with them, plant the seed of your Word in their hearts.

**Make their faith grow, prosper and bear fruit to your glory.**

You give your blessing to those who are merciful. Have mercy on those who help us in our physical needs: doctors, nurses, and others who work in health care. Do not let them become weary in doing good,

**but strengthen and encourage them as they reflect your love in caring for others.**

You give your blessings also to those who mourn, hunger and thirst. Have mercy on all who suffer sadness, hunger, thirst, or pain [*especially...*]. Give them your comfort. Satisfy their hunger and thirst.

**Relieve their pain and give healing as it pleases you.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

Listen, Lord, to the thoughts and cares of our hearts.

*Silent prayer.*

Lord, give strength to your people.

**Lord, bless your people with peace. Amen.**

## OFFERING

*The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. If being here today was a blessing to you and you would like to support our ministry, you can scan here and enter your phone number or email address to donate. (Members, please use a phone number or email address that is currently on file with the church).*



*During this time, we ask that everyone take part in completing the worship register. Please fill in the requested information and pass the booklet to the end of the row. Thank you!*

## OFFERING SONG

**My Worth is Not in What I Own**

## THE SACRAMENT

*STAND*

## PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** *(spoken)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might.**

**Heaven 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, hosanna in the highest!**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## JESUS, LAMB OF GOD

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

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


Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

*BE SEATED*

## DISTRIBUTION

*For our guests: Eternal Love Lutheran Church practices close communion. We welcome congregational members and those in fellowship with our national church body to receive the sacrament with us today. If you are interested in learning more about what we believe or about holy communion, please speak with our pastor.*

*Refrain*



Take and eat, take and eat, this is my bod - y

giv - en up for you. Take and drink, take and drink,

this is my blood giv - en up for you.

- 1 I am the Word that spoke and light was made;
- 2 I am the way that leads the ex - ile home;
- 3 I am the Lamb that takes a - way your sin;
- 4 I am the cor - ner - stone that God has laid;

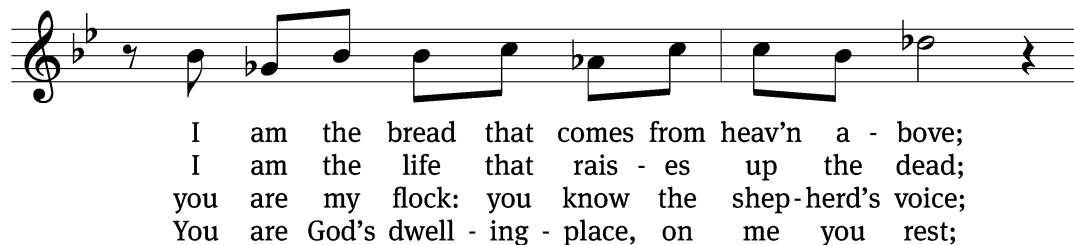


I am the seed that died to be re - born;

I am the truth that sets the cap - tive free;

I am the gate that guards you night and day;

a cho - sen stone and pre - cious in his eyes;



I am the bread that comes from heav'n a - bove;

I am the life that rais - es up the dead;

you are my flock: you know the shep - herd's voice;

You are God's dwell - ing - place, on me you rest;





I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.  
 I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.  
 you are my own: your ran - som is my blood.  
 like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.

- 5 I am the light that came into the world;  
 I am the light that darkness cannot hide;  
 I am the Morning Star that never sets;  
 lift up your face, in you my light will shine. (Refrain)
- 6 I am the first and last, the Living One;  
 I am the Lord who died that you might live;  
 I am the bridegroom, this my wedding song;  
 you are my bride, come to the marriage feast. (Refrain)

*STAND*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

### 816 I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus sts. 1, 4



1 I am trust - ing you, Lord Je - sus, trust - ing on - ly you;

4 I am trust - ing you to guide me; you a - lone shall lead,



trust - ing you for full sal - va - tion, free and true.  
ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing all my need.

## YOUR ETERNAL LOVE 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL

### *Beginning a Two-Year Term*

President – Jeff Weyenberg  
Properties – Jeremy Fenske  
Christian Education – James Kruse  
Fellowship – Jon McElroy  
Outreach – Dave Payne  
Stewardship – Zach Pamer  
Treasurer – Michael LaBarge

### *Continuing in the Second Year of a Two-Year Term*

Vice President – Dan Feld  
Recording Secretary – Adam Grissom  
Financial Secretary – Russ Scherbarth  
Shepherding – Kevin Ebeling  
Worship – Clay Funk  
Wee Love Board Chairman – Pete Neuberger

*Contact info for these leaders and photos of them will be posted in the fellowship hall soon. You can also reach them through our online member directory, linked at: <https://eternal-love.org/member/>*

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister: Pastor Dave Backus

Usher: Jeremy Fenske (8:00), Bruce Heckmann (10:45), Kurt Smith (Monday)

Lector: Mike King (8:00), Bruce Heckmann (10:45)

Communion Assistants: Keving Ebeling/Pete Neuberger (8:00), Adam Grissom/James Kruse (10:45)

Accompanist: Lisa Neuberger

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### **597 Now Thank We All Our God**

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Martin Rinkert, 1586–1649. Text: Public domain

### **Psalm 92B Make Music to the LORD Most High**

Text: Christopher Idle. Tune: English, adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams. Text: © 1987 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840. Tune: Public domain

### **942 Create in Me a Clean Heart**

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. James E. Engel, 1925–1989. Text and tune: Public domain

### **633 Speak, O Lord st. 1**

Text and tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963. © 2006 Thankyou Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840

### **Jesus Sat with His Disciples (Christian Worship Supplement Hymn 763)**

Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955 © 1997 Stephen P. Starke; admin. Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune, Setting: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### **JESUS, LAMB OF GOD**

Tune: Marty Haugen. Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840

### **676 Take and Eat**

Text (sts. 1–6): James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010; (Ref): Michael Joncas, b. 1951. Tune: Michael Joncas, b. 1951. Text (sts. 1–6): © 1969 James Quinn, SJ, admin. OCP Publications; (Ref): © 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840.

### **816 I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus sts. 1, 4**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt. Tune: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877. Text and tune: Public domain

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

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### **My Worth Is Not In What I Own**

Written by: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Graham A. Kendrick. Album: The Greengrass Session. Released: 2014

### **Holy Bible**

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Based on Setting Two from Christian Worship.

Photography and video recording may occur during your visit here today. If you do not wish to participate, please notify us at [office.manager@eternal-love.org](mailto:office.manager@eternal-love.org).

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## CONTACT US

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