



*Here is the*  
**Lamb of God**

John 1:29

Complete Worship Folder

January 18, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

January 21, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

**ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

8695 Gratiot Road Saginaw, MI 48609 (989)781-2170

Email address: [ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ascensionlc@sbcglobal.net)

Julie Bailey, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday Worship 7:00pm

## **Second Week of Epiphany**

---

### Welcome and Announcements

In our polarized times, let us remember the Christian's call to love God and neighbor as ourselves. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. faithfully called white Christian churches to stand with people of color in the righteous struggle for peace and justice in all the earth. Today, as much as ever, we are in need of the prophetic voices of God's people, calling for the dismantling of white supremacy and individual, corporate, and institutional racism. Racism is a sin, and today we repent, committing to words and deeds that will uphold our beloved communities.

### Confession and Forgiveness with excerpts from *Letter from Birmingham Jail*

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: On this day, we confess we have not always done our part to ensure that all of your children are treated with equity and fairness.

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

P: We confess that we dwell in moderation.

**C: Make us more devoted to justice than order.**

P: We confess that we prefer negative peace and the absence of tension.

**C: Make us pursue positive peace and the presence of justice.**

P: We confess that we strive to set a comfortable timetable for our siblings' liberation.

**C: Make us seize the fierce urgency of now, that all may live in freedom.**

P: We confess that our shallow understanding and lukewarm acceptance of our neighbors' calls for justice have fallen short of your commandment to love God and neighbor as ourselves.

**C: Let us arise in the power of the Holy Spirit, committed to nonviolent, direct action, alongside our siblings of color, for the sake of Christ. Amen.**

**P:** Beloveds, hear this good news! God, who is an extremist for love, forgives us all our sin. Sent out to love our enemies, let us bless those who curse us, do good to those who hate us, and pray for those who spitefully use and persecute us. In the name of the ☩ one God, triune and eternal, we say,

**C: Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise, so help me God. Amen!**

Hymn: "O God of Every Nation" (ELW 713)

O God of ev'ry nation,  
of ev'ry race and land,  
redeem your whole creation  
with your almighty hand;  
where hate and fear divide us  
and bitter threats are hurled,  
in love and mercy guide us  
and heal our strife-torn world.

From search for wealth and power  
and scorn of truth and right,  
from trust in bombs that shower  
destruction through the night,  
from pride of race and station  
and blindness to your way,  
deliver ev'ry nation,  
eternal God, we pray.

Lord, strengthen all who labor  
that all may find release  
from fear of rattling saber,  
from dread of war's increase;  
when hope and courage falter,  
Lord, let your voice be heard;  
with faith that none can alter,  
your servants undergird.

Keep bright in us the vision  
of days when war shall cease,  
when hatred and division  
give way to love and peace,  
till dawns the morning glorious  
when truth and love shall reign,  
and Christ shall rule victorious  
o'er all the world's domain.

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... **We gather today to celebrate Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Jesus is a light unto the nations. Let us come and see, as we follow him in the pursuit of justice and peace for all people! Amen.**

*Children's Message (10:30 a.m.) & Dismiss to Children's Church*

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

- <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!**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

<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: <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: “Come and See” (ACS 976)

What are you looking for?  
Come, see, come and see.  
What are you looking for?  
Come and see. (Come and see.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.

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

## 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: This is the gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” (ELW 325)

I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Public Domain

## Installation of Council

Hymn: “Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying” (ELW 752)

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

The Prayers of the Children of God

Each petition ends...Merciful God,

**Congregation responds...receive our prayer**

Final petition...All these things we ask in full confidence, as we cry out prophetically:

**Congregation responds...Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last! Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

Offering

Offering Song: "Oh, What Shall I Render" (HFW 983)

Oh, what shall I render in thanks to my Lord  
for all the good gifts by which I am restored?  
No treasure I tender could ever repay  
God's mercy and faithfulness, new ev'ry day.

My hands take the cup of salvation you give;  
I'll praise you, O God, for as long as I live.  
My thanks will rise up as I call on your name,  
with all of your people your goodness proclaim.

Offering Prayer

A: 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.**

Thanksgiving

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,  
but guided us into the path of love and light.  
In every age you sent prophets  
to make known your loving will for all humanity.  
The cry of the poor has become your own cry;  
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.  
In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant  
to preach good news to the afflicted,  
to break bread with the outcast and despised,  
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,  
we await the day when Jesus shall return  
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.  
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

**C: Amen.**

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,  
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup  
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.  
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

**C: Amen.**

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,  
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,  
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.  
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

#### Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray

**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 / Distribution of Holy Communion

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

Communion Songs: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" (ELW 773)

Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand, precious Lord, Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,  
Precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone,

Hear my cry, hear my call,  
Hold my hand lest I fall.  
Take my hand, precious Lord, Lead me home.

When the darkness appears  
And the night draws near,  
And the day is past and gone,  
At the river I stand,  
Guide my feet, hold my hand.  
Take my hand, precious Lord, Lead me home.

“Let Justice Flow Like Streams” (ELW 717)

Let justice flow like streams  
of sparkling water, pure,  
enabling growth, refreshing life,  
abundant, cleansing, sure.

Let righteousness roll on  
as others' cares we heed,  
an ever-flowing stream of faith  
translated into deed.

So may God's plumb line, straight,  
define our measure true,  
and justice, right, and peace pervade  
this world our whole life through.

#### Post-Communion Blessing

P: And now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

#### Post Communion Prayer

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**

#### Blessing with excerpts from *I Have Been to the Mountaintop*

P: May the ☩ triune God enable us to work tirelessly,  
make sacrifices, and never give up until all people are free.

As we hear the words of God's prophet:

Rise up with greater readiness.

Stand with greater determination.

Move on in these powerful days.

And do God's will,

trusting that together we will get to the promised land!

And all God's people say,

**C: Amen!**



Sending Song: “God Be with You Till We Meet Again” (ELW 536)

God be with you till we meet again;  
by good counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

**Refrain** Till we meet, (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet again,)  
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet again.)  
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;  
holy wings securely hide you,  
daily manna still provide you;  
God be with you till we meet again. **Refrain**

God be with you till we meet again;  
when life's perils thick confound you,  
put unfailing arms around you;  
God be with you till we meet again. **Refrain**

Public Domain.

### Dismissal

**C: We work together to spread Christ's love with our community, through Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Lives, and an Open Table.**

**A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

O God of Every Nation, Text: William W. Reid Jr., b. 1923 Text © 1958, ren. 1986 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-715124. All rights reserved

Come and See, Text: Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962, from John 1:38-39 Text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-715124. All rights reserved

Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying, Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943 Text © 1973 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-715124. All rights reserved

Oh, What Shall I Render, Text: Martin A. Seltz, based on Ps. 116. © 1998 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-715124. All rights reserved

Precious Lord, Take My Hand, Text and music © 1938, 1966 Unichappell Music Inc., admin. Alfred Publishing Unichappell Music Inc. c/o Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. 16320 Roscoe Blvd., Suite 100, Box 10003 Van Nuys, CA 91410-0003 Telephone: 818-891-5999 Fax: 818-891-4875 Email: permissions@alfred.com All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-715124. All rights reserved.

Let Justice Flow Like Streams, Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926 Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-715124. All rights reserved

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright ©2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006501 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.