

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

O God, whose foolishness is wiser than our wisdom, and whose weakness is stronger than our strength, draw us to yourself. We delight in the many blessings of this life we live day to day. Even more, we delight in the gifts we have received in Christ Jesus. With glad rejoicing we approach you, expecting to receive insight, hope, and meaning for our lives. Hear us now, as we sing and pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God has called us to this time and place.

All: **We will come before the One who is the very source of our lives, the source of all that exists.**

One: God calls to us: "be still and know that I am God."

All: **In silence, in song, with heart and voice, we praise God, our Creator and Redeemer.**

***OPENING HYMN** "There's a Spirit in the Air" #433

*CALL TO CONFESSION

God asks us, "how have I wearied you?" What has God done to us that we have cut off communication, gone our own way, forgotten the source and sustainer of all life? Is the fault not with us, not God? Let us silently confess all that separates us from God.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS** "Grace Greater Than Our Sin"
Lt. Blue Songbook #76

Singing: Grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
grace that is greater than all our sin.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus the Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

... to Proclaim God's Word

FIRST READING Micah 6: 1-8 **p. 866**

SECOND READING I Corinthians 1: 18-31 **p. 166**

ANTHEM "In a Remembrance" **Choir**

GOSPEL READING John 6: 1-14 **p. 97**

One: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Feeding the 5000" Rev. Sara MacGivra Branom

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" **#429**

... to Give Thanks to God . . .

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD

THE OFFERTORY

*OFFERING RESPONSE

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" #592

Singing: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Thank you, God, for hungers satisfied and dreams fulfilled.
Thank you for the inheritance of faith, which blesses our life on earth. We trust you to accomplish good among us through the sharing of these gifts and the recommitment of our lives.
Help us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: **hear our prayer.**

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

***COMMUNION HYMN** "We Come as Guests Invited" **#517**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

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

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise**

One: ... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and 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.

One: ... Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given

us and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the one crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
One: ... Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

One: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Let us keep the feast.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

... and to Be Sent in God's Name

***CLOSING HYMN** "Song of Hope" #432

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION "Go with God"
 Lt. Blue Songbook #138

Singing: Go with God. Go with God.
As you leave this place, go with God.
God will direct your way, God will light ev'ry day.
As you leave this place, go with God.

POSTLUDE

The Upper Room

"Never-Ending Grace"

Sunday, February 2, 2026

Read 2 Corinthians 12: 9-10

"The Lord said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

--2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

When my husband was diagnosed with ALS, we faced a decision: would we dwell on the negative and challenging aspects or make each day the best day possible, knowing that the next one would not be easier? It was a difficult and heartbreaking journey as he was slowly stripped of the ability to perform daily tasks – eventually even walking, eating, sleeping, and breathing. However, even on the darkest days, we experienced God's sustaining grace in remarkable ways.

During this time, I was gifted a journal titled "Grace." Initially, I rejected the idea of recording my days, as my time and energy were consumed with caretaking. But then, as day after day we saw God's goodness and grace, I decided to keep a journal of thanks for God's guidance, protection, and love throughout our journey. I made bulleted lists of the compassion and love bestowed on us. I noted the help we received unloading my husband's walker – and later his power wheelchair – as we arrived for Sunday worship, the home-repair services done at no charge, and the food that a friend delivered to us weekly for over a year.

These acts of compassion and love reminded us of the promise of God's everlasting love. Indeed, God's grace is more than sufficient. It's life-changing and extraordinary.

Prayer: "Dear Lord, we thank you for the promise of your endless grace and for the ways we see it manifested in our daily lives."
Amen.

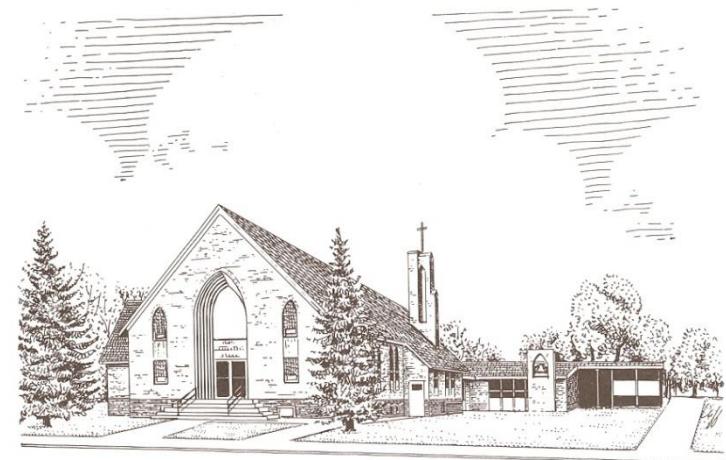
--LaDonna Marshall (Oklahoma, USA)

Thought for the Day:

"When I notice God's grace in my life, I find peace."

(If you would like to read **The Upper Room** each day, you may pick up a copy in the narthex.)

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