



John 1:29b

“Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!”

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 18, 2026

Prelude

\*The Processional Hymn                      *Son of God, Eternal Savior*                      (ELW) No. 655

\*The Confession and Forgiveness                      (ELW) page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

\*The Apostolic Greeting                      (ELW) page 138

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.**

\*The Kyrie (*sung response*)                      (ELW) page 138

P: ....., let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

\*The Hymn of Praise                      *Arise, Your Light Has Come*                      (ELW) NO. 314

## Listening for the Promise

### Weekly Devotional

#### January 18, 2026—Second Sunday After Epiphany

*“He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.”*

*Psalm 40:2 -*

The playground had a big sandbox. One day the sandbox was filled with rainwater. The teachers knew that it would be messy, but allowed the children to play in the sand anyway. The children were clothed in smocks to keep them clean and were encouraged to play nicely. It worked well for a while; some muddy water fell on skin and smocks with the occasional slip of a shovel, but it could easily be washed with soap and water. Eventually the children became wild. The splashing stopped being accidental; some became greedy and vengeful and threw mud on the other children.

The teachers tried to be peacemakers, speaking with firm, kind voices about proper behavior, but it didn't work. They had to get right into the middle of it all to stop it with action rather than words. The sandboxes were closed. The children were cleaned and the extremely dirty ones were given clean clothes.

We are like those children. Our toys are different, and the mud we sling is not made with sand and water. We are selfish and vengeful. We will do anything to get our way, no matter who gets hurt in the process. Unfortunately, spiritual mud is not so easy to clean. We are wallowing in the mud of sin and death, and the consequences can be eternal. We don't always see how our self-centeredness affects others, but our neighbors are harmed by our behavior. The consequence of sin is never limited to us; it affects others to some degree.

The psalmist speaks as a child of God who has realized his own sinfulness. He cries out for the saving grace that will save him from his sin. God is the peacemaker. He is the teacher that speaks to those who will not hear. Like the children who did not see how their play was harming others, the world does not recognize its sin and need of a Savior. But Jesus enters in, nevertheless. Jesus was willing to “get his hands dirty” in the cross to make things right for us. He lifted us out of the mud, and by his own blood, he made us clean. In Christ, we are clothed with something new: His righteousness, without a spot or blemish.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

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Sober House Living

724-228-2203

Turning Point at Washington

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**Adult Catechism** class is on Tuesday at 11 am and 7 pm. All are welcome. We look forward to you joining us in our discussion.

**Adult Sunday School** is held before our Church Service starting at 9:45 am in the church library. Come join us.

**Chess Club** meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. All are welcome from beginners to experienced.

**If you have an email address and would like to receive your tax statements, monthly newsletter and calendar and other information sent by the church, please send an email to [secretary@flcwash.church](mailto:secretary@flcwash.church) with the subject as "Your Name email update". For example Pastor would send his email with the subject line: Pastor Grewe email update. This way the church can reduce the cost of stamps. Also include in the body of the email any address or phone number changes.**

\*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

**C: Almighty and eternal God, You restrain the powers of heaven and earth. Mercifully hear Your people's prayers for peace in our time. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalms 40:1-11

<sup>1</sup>I waited patiently for the LORD; He inclined to me and heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup>**He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

<sup>3</sup>He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

<sup>4</sup>**Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!**

<sup>5</sup>You have multiplied, O LORD my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

<sup>6</sup>**In sacrifice and offering You have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering You have not required.**

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

<sup>8</sup>**I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your law is within my heart."**

<sup>9</sup>I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as You know, O LORD.

<sup>10</sup>**I have not hidden Your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness from the great congregation.**

<sup>11</sup>As for You, O LORD, You will not restrain Your mercy from me; Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness will ever preserve me!

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*) (ELW) page 142

**C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

\* The Gospel John 1:29-42a

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.** (*sung after announcement of the Gospel*)

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.** (*sung after conclusion of the Gospel*)

Sermon Rev. Robert B. Grewe

\*The Hymn of the Day *I Love To Tell The Story* (ELW) No. 661

\*The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.**

**Nursery:** We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs of infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

**The Flower Chart for 2026** is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

**Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2026.** Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

**Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2026.** Please sign up.

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**Please pray for those in need of healing:**

Isaac Christian, Lindsay Mankey, Amy Verderber, Lou Mayne, Greg Mason, Ed Dupas, Pat Dupas, Carol Cancelmi, Amanda Laib, Sandy Hebrank, Richard Hager, Judd Lacko, Sandy Mannsman, Ian, Isaiah, Aleashia, Sharon, Tammy, Edelgard, Wolfgang, Klaus & Mel, Bernadette, Bob and Anneleise Christian, Carl Group, Shari Kienzel, Susan Westott, Amber Falosk, Appolos Yocca, Brenda Tennant, Darlene Kosak, Gary Conti, June Gosnell, Sally Hazlett, Erin Reel, Stacy Carroll, R. J. Ramone, Debbie Beighley, Kenny and Josh, David, Epp family, Eric, Budd Platts, Sue Palfrey, Cristina Serbak, and George Salvucci.

## First Lutheran Church

92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA

724-225-4040

e-mail: secretary@flcwash.church

Online services posted weekly on website:

<https://firstlutheranwashington.church/>

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Mark Black, Matthew Mazzotti, Lutheran Lay Worship Leaders

Retired: J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist and Music Director

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**The Flowers on the Chancel** are given to the glory of God and may the beautiful assurance in God's word, strengthen our families against the evil of this fallen world. A donation to the Restoration Fund is from the Maust family.

**The Lay Reader** is Dennis Schmidt.

**Acolytes are** Julia Jeffcoat

**Counters/Greeters** today are C. Group and V. Group.

**Welcome to our Visitors!** The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

**Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church?** Please contact Pastor Grewe.

\*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

\*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

\*The Offertory

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

(SBH) No. 27

\*The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Announcements

\*The Benediction (*sung response*)

**C: Amen, Amen, Amen.**

\*The Recessional Hymn

*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

(ELW) No. 618

\*Sending Song

*"Be the Love of Christ"*

\*The Dismissal (*response*)

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

# Son of God, Eternal Savior

655

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

618

# Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
 shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

## The Communion

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 thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly

Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of

thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

## Arise, Your Light Has Come!

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
 2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
 3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
 4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
 pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,  
 grant that, when church bells are ringing,  
 many may come to hear your Word,  
 who here this promise is bringing:  
 "I know my own, my own know me;  
 you, not the world, my face shall see;  
 my peace I leave with you. Amen."

## I Love to Tell the Story

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat  
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!  
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.  
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.