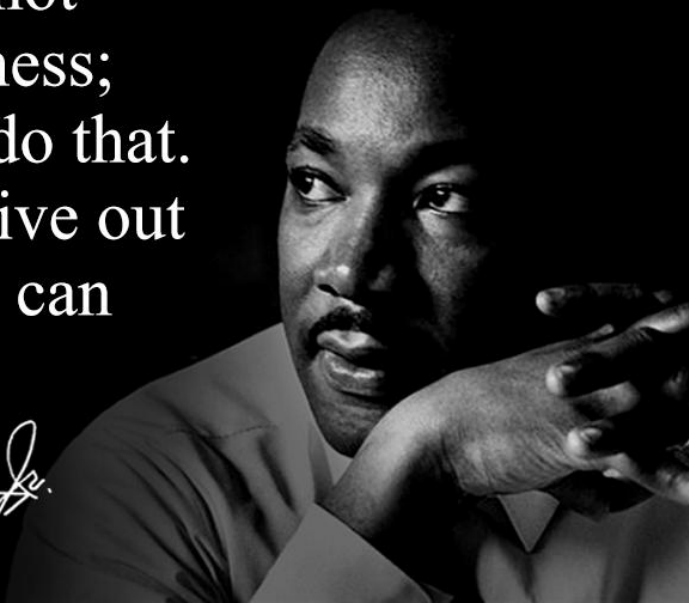


“Darkness cannot  
drive out darkness;  
only light can do that.  
Hate cannot drive out  
hate; only love can  
do that.”

*Martin Luther King Jr.*  
December 25, 1957



**SERVICE OF COMMUNION – SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**  
January 18, 2026

[P]=Pastor [A]=Assistant [R]=Reader \*=Stand if you are able

**OPENING**

**PRELUDE**

**\* BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

[P] In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and, of the Holy Spirit

[C] Amen

[P] Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[C] Amen

[P] If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[P] Most merciful God.

[C] We confess that we are in bondage 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] Almighty God, in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**\* SHARING THE PEACE:**

[P] The peace of the Lord be with you always.

[C] **And also with you.**

**GATHERING**

**\*LITANY TO HONOR THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

Leader : In the grand order of the universe, our Lord God wisely chose men and women to serve in each era. Such a servant was The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birth we commemorate. We are thankful for the life of this 20th century prophet of freedom, who joined the prophets of history in the cry for justice.

**Congregation: In the name of freedom, let my people go.**

Leader: Dr. King went on a journey for justice. It was a journey proclaiming the words of the ancient prophet, Amos: “Let justice roll down like waters; and righteousness like a mighty stream.” It was a journey calling forth the modern Christian ministry to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, and to set at liberty those who are oppressed.

**Congregation: In the name of justice and suffering people, let my people go.**

Leader: The journey went to Montgomery to affirm human dignity and courage, to Birmingham to defeat the sickness separating human life, to Selma to ensure the equality of people in human affairs, and to hundreds of communities to remove painful shackles of oppression and light joyous torches of liberty.

**Congregation: In the name of this journey toward freedom, let my people go.**

Leader: Even when death was confronted, as the journey reached Memphis, he could say in final triumph, that in life he found something worth dying for, something worth life itself – the Promised Land, a land of freedom with justice.

**Congregation: In the name of the Lord, God Almighty, let my people go.**

Leader: Thank you, Lord, for Martin Luther King, Jr., who inspired us with his dream, who marched for justice, demanded freedom with great courage in the face of grave danger, and who has now taken his seat in the stands of glory. Thank you God for having sent us one who now causes us to say:

**All: In the name of our God, the God of peace and justice, and in honor of The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., let my people go.**

**\* OPENING HYMN – Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory #297 (TFF)**

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord; he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword: his truth is marching on.

*Refrain:* Glory, glory! Hallelujah! Glory, glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory, glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat; he is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment seat. Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet! Our God is marching on. *Refrain*

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea, with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me. As he died to make men holy, let us live to make men free, while God is marching on. *Refrain*

### **\*GREETING OF PEACE**

[P] The grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

[C] **And also with you.**

### **\*KYRIE**

**Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy on us.**

**Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy on us.**

**Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, have mercy on us.**

[P] Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.

### **\*HYMN OF PRAISE: Praise Him**

[C] **Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him!**

**Jesus, blessed Savior, He's worthy to be praised.**

**From the rising of the sun, until the going down of the same,**

**He's worthy! Jesus is worthy! He's worthy to be praised!**

**Glory! Glory! In all things give Him glory!**

**Jesus, blessed Savior, He's worthy to be praised.**

**For God is our rock, hope of salvation; a strong deliverer, in Him I will always trust!**

**Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him!**

**Jesus, blessed Savior He's worthy to be praised. Jesus, blessed Savior He's worthy to be praised.**

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

[A] The Lord be with you.

[C] **And also with you.**

[A] Let us pray together the Prayer of the Day.

**[C] Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**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".

[R] The Word of the Lord

[C] **Thanks Be to God**

**PSALMODY : CHOIR - If I Can Help Somebody -**

**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.

[R] The Word of the Lord

[C] **Thanks Be to God**

**\*ALLELUIA VERSE: HALLELUJAH**

[C] **Halle, Halle, Halle-lujah Halle, Halle, Halle-lujah  
Halle, Halle, Halle-lujah. Hallelujah, Hallelujah. (Repeat)**

**\*THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO: St. John 1:29-42**

**[C] Glory, Glory, Hallelujah, Lord we praise your holy name!**

**Glory, Glory, Hallelujah, Lord we praise your holy name!**

<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] The Gospel of the Lord

**[C] Glory, Glory, Hallelujah, Lord we praise your holy name!**

**Glory, Glory, Hallelujah, Lord we praise your holy name!**

**SERMON: “How Far Is The Promised Land”**

**\* SERMON HYMN: Precious Lord**

**\* THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

[P] Let us join together and confess our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed.

**[C] 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.**

**\* PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*(Special MLK Prayers)*

(Reader 1) Dear God, we are reminded today of your infinite love for all people: all races, all colors, all political affiliations, all religious persuasions, all social classes, all

economic statuses and all nations. mold us to your way. form us to your heart. shape us with love. make us new with grace. We bring to you our needs and hopes, o God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.  
**hear our prayer.**

(Reader 2) We remember the conviction of Martin Luther King Jr. that "freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed." Therefore, let us pray for courage and determination by those who are oppressed. Lord in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

(Reader 1) We remember Martin's warning that "a negative peace which is the absence of tension" is less than "a positive peace which is the presence of justice." Therefore, let us pray that those who work for peace in our world may cry out first for justice. Lord in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

(Reader 2) We remember Martin's insight that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly." Therefore, let us pray that we may see nothing in isolation, but may know ourselves bound to one another and to all people under heaven. Lord in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

(Reader 1) We remember Martin's lament that "the contemporary church is often a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. It is so often the arch-supporter of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the church's silent and often vocal sanction of things as they are." Therefore, let us pray that neither this congregation nor any congregation of Christ's people may be silent in the face of wrong, but that we may be disturbers of the status quo when that is God's call to us. . Lord in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

(Reader 2) We remember Martin's hope that "dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities and in some not-too-distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty." Therefore, in faith, let us commend ourselves and our work for justice to the goodness of almighty God. Lord in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

## OFFERING

[A] Please take this time to prepare your tithes and offerings. Those worshipping on site should bring your offering forward during communion and place it in the offering plate at the front of

the sanctuary. Those worshipping off-site should mail their offering or visit the congregation's website ([abiding-savior-lutheran.org](http://abiding-savior-lutheran.org)) to give online.

## **CHOIR ANTHEM: ORDER MY STEPS**

### **\* OFFERTORY:**

**[C] God Has Smiled On Me –**

**God has smiled on me. He has set me free. God has smiled on me. He's been good to me.**

*(Repeat)*

### **\* OFFERING PRAYER**

**[A] Let us pray.**

**[C] 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. Amen.**

## **MEAL**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**[P] The Lord be with you.**

**[C] And also with you.**

**[P] Lift up your hearts.**

**[C] We lift them to the Lord.**

**[P] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**[C] It is right to give God thanks and praise**

**[P] It is indeed ....**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**[P] In the night in which he was betrayed.....**

### **THE LORD'S 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 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. Amen**

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



## **THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT:**

### **COMMUNION**

#### **Lamb Of God**

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world.**

**Grant us peace. Grant us peace.**

#### **Oh Freedom #298**

Oh, freedom, oh, freedom, oh, freedom over me,  
and before I'd be a slave, I'll be buried in my grave, and go home to my Lord, and be free.

No more moaning, no more moaning, no more moaning over me,  
and before I'd be a slave, I'll be buried in my grave, and go home to my Lord, and be free.

There'll be singing, there'll be singing, there'll be singing over me,  
and before I'd be a slave, I'll be buried in my grave, and go home to my Lord, and be free.

There'll be shouting, there'll be shouting, there'll be shouting over me,  
and before I'd be a slave, I'll be buried in my grave, and go home to my Lord, and be free.

There'll be praying, there'll be praying, there'll be praying over me,  
and before I'd be a slave, I'll be buried in my grave, and go home to my Lord, and be free.

[P] Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

### **POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: We Shall Overcome**

We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome someday.

Oh, deep in our hearts we do believe we shall overcome someday.

We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand someday.

Oh, deep in our hearts we do believe we'll walk hand in hand someday.

We shall all have peace, we shall all have peace, we shall all have peace someday.

Oh, deep in our hearts we do believe we shall all have peace someday.

We shall see the Lord, we shall see the Lord, we shall see the Lord someday.

Oh, deep in our hearts we do believe we shall see the Lord someday.

We are not afraid, we are not afraid, we are not afraid today.

Oh, deep in our hearts we do believe we are not afraid today.

God is on our side, God is on our side, God is on our side today.

Oh, deep in our hearts we do believe God is on our side today.



## SENDING

### PRAYER

[A] When we let freedom ring, When we let it ring from every village and every hamlet from every city and every state, we will be able to speed up the that day when all God's children, Black men and White men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics will be able to join hands and sing that old Negro spiritual, Free at last! Free at last! Thank God almighty, we are free at last!

[C] **Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

[P] May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise  
✠ bless you now and forever.

[C] **Amen.**

### \*CLOSING HYMN – Lift Every Voice And Sing #296

Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty.

Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;

sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parents sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;

we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,

out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;

lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;

shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**MISSION: We are Gathered and Sent to Proclaim, Serve and Share the Love of Jesus**

### CHARGE:

[P] Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

[C] **Thanks be to God.**