

Liturgy for February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

Opening Hymn Attachment Keep the Dream Alive

Priest: Blessed be God, Father, and the Holy Spirit
People: And blessed be His Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity (Book of Common Prayer, pg. 355)

Gloria (sung) Hymnal S 278

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Reading from Micah 6:1-8 read by Bill Sullivan

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 15 *Domine, quis habitabit?* To be read responsively- led by Bill Sullivan

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.

There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the LORD.

He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.

He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading from Reading from Paul's 1st Letter to the Corinthians 1:18-31 Read by Sharon DeVivo

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God*

Sequence Hymn 561 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus (Verses 1-2, *Alleluia*, Verses 3-4)

¹ Stand up, stand up, for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross;
lift high his royal banner, it must not suffer loss:
from victory unto victory his army shall he lead,
till every foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed.

² Stand up, stand up, for Jesus; the trumpet call obey;
forth to the mighty conflict in this his glorious day:
ye that are men now serve him against unnumbered foes;
let courage rise with danger, and strength to strength
oppose.

³ Stand up, stand up, for Jesus; stand in his strength alone;
the arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own:
put on the Gospel armor, and watching unto prayer,
when duty calls, or danger, be never wanting there

⁴ Stand up, stand up, for Jesus; the strife will not be long:
this day, the noise of battle; the next, the victor's song.
To valiant hearts triumphant, a crown of life shall be;
they with the King of glory shall reign eternally.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 5:1-12

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ (Remain standing)*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord

People: *Praise to You, Lord Christ*

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Varghese Mathew

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer for Sound Government (led by Sharon DeVivo)

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

Lord, keep this nation under your care.

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name.

For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Amen.

Prayers of the People (remain standing): Led by Sharon DeVivo

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For all bishops, priests and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially...

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life—those we name in our hearts, and also for those celebrating birthdays, including.....

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom, especially...

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

The Priest adds a Concluding Prayer

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

The Confession and Absolution (*please kneel as you are able*)

Most merciful God, we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.

The Peace

Priest The peace of the Lord be also with you

People And also with you

Announcements and Recognition of Birthdays and Anniversaries

Offertory Anthem***Jesu, Jesu******Kenton Coe*****Doxology (please stand) "Old Hundredth"**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all people here below.
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION**The Great Thanksgiving BCP p. 361 (Eucharistic Prayer A)**

Priest The Lord be with you

People And also with you

Priest Lift up your hearts

People We lift them up to the Lord

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People It is right to give him thanks and praise

Priest continues with Eucharistic Prayer A**Sanctus (Spoken)**

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Memorial Acclamation (Spoken)

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer**The Breaking of the Bread**

Priest: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Communion Hymn (Be seated) 325 Let Us Break Bread Together

¹Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees;
when I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

²Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees.
when I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

³Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees;
when I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Post-Communion Prayer Book of Common Prayer p. 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing**Closing Hymn****We Shall Overcome**

We shall overcome
We shall overcome
We shall overcome some day
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We shall overcome some day

We'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand some day
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We'll walk hand in hand some day

We shall live in peace
We shall live in peace
We shall live in peace, some day
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We shall live in peace, some day

We shall overcome
We shall overcome
We shall overcome some day
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We shall overcome some day

Dismissal

People: Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia!