

***Fourth Sunday  
after Epiphany  
February 1, 2026***



***St Andrew's & Unity  
Lutheran Church***

**San Mateo & South San Francisco, CA**

***9:00am***

***11:00am***

**[www.standrews.org](http://www.standrews.org)**

**[www.unityssf.org](http://www.unityssf.org)**

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**GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**Linda Underwood**

**Welcome**

**Pastor John Kuehner**

**Call to Worship**

**Unity Choir and/or Mission Bells**



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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## Prayer of the Day

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen**

## WORD

### First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “wearied” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.*

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. <sup>3</sup> “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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.” <sup>6</sup> “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? <sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” <sup>8</sup> 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?

## Call and Response Reading: Psalm 15

<sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill? <sup>2</sup> **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;** <sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor. <sup>4</sup> **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.** <sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26 -31

*According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.*

<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**Gospel Verse**

**P:** The Gospel according to St. John **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel – Matthew 4:12-23**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord

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

**Sermon**

Pastor John Kuehner



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free-dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home-land bright-ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Text © 1989 William Whitla.

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the  
power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under  
Pontius Pilate, was crucified,  
died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right  
hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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 Intercession**

*Response to each petition*

**A:** God in your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

## **MEAL**

## **Holy Communion**

**P:** God be with you.

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** And also with you.

**C:** We lift them to the Lord.

**P:** Let us give thanks to our God.

**C:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

# Holy, Holy

see screen



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Words of Institution

### 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 and ever.  
Amen.**



# SENDING

## Post Communion Prayer

### Blessing

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.**

### Sending Hymn

*Oh, Praise the Gracious Power*

*ELW 651*

*(Turn to final page)*

### Dismissal

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

C: **Thanks be to God!**

### Postlude

Linda Underwood

**Notice: Annual Congregational Meetings  
after worship**

**St. Andrew's Lutheran  
February 1**

# Sending Hymn

*Oh, Praise the Gracious Power* ELW 651



1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear  
2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds  
3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:  
and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:  
ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:

## *Refrain*



We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: CHRISTPRAISE RAY, Carol Doran, b. 1936

Text and music from *New Hymns for the Lectionary*, © 1984 Oxford University Press, Inc.