

**January 11, 2026 1st Sunday after Epiphany
Pastor Tom Olson; Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran Church**

PRELUDE: Rebekah Olson

CALL TO WORSHIP: From Psalm 29

PASTOR: Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones,

ALL: Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

PASTOR: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

ALL: Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

PASTOR: The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,

ALL: The LORD thunders over the mighty waters.

PASTOR: The voice of the LORD is powerful;

ALL: And in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

PASTOR: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood

ALL: The LORD is enthroned as King forever.

PASTOR: The LORD gives strength to his people;

ALL: The LORD blesses his people with peace.

HYMN #529 "Glory to His Name"

SUNG CONFESSION OF SIN:

HYMN #419 "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"

CHILDREN'S SERMON:

READER:

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: *Isaiah 42:1-9*

*"Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him
and he will bring justice to the nations.*

*2 He will not shout or cry out,
or raise his voice in the streets.*

*3 A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.*

In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

4 he will not falter or be discouraged

till he establishes justice on earth.

In his law the islands will put their hope."

5 This is what God the LORD says--

*he who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it,
who gives breath to its people,
and life to those who walk on it:*

6 "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;

I will take hold of your hand.

I will keep you and will make you

to be a covenant for the people

and a light for the Gentiles,

7 to open eyes that are blind,

to free captives from prison

and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

8 "I am the LORD; that is my name!

I will not give my glory to another

or my praise to idols.

9 See, the former things have taken place,

and new things I declare;

before they spring into being

I announce them to you."

EPISTLE LESSON: *Romans 6:1-11* *What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin- 7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

READER: Here ends the reading of God's Word.

CONGREGATION SINGS: God be praised, for His glad Tidings!

CONFESSION OF FAITH: *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 Spirit; 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 is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church; the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen*

GLORIA PATRI: Ambassador Hymnal p. 4 (please put on screen)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER

PRAISE AND WORSHIP: Chosen by Hannah Carrizales

SERMON: "A MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN" Matthew 3:13-17 Pastor Tom Olson, 1/11/26 *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen*

CONTEXT: Vile sinners are in line to repent and be baptized. Jesus, gets in line with them and it is beyond human comprehension. Then God speaks and things become clear.

I. JOHN IS PERPLEXED BY THE SITUATION

Matthew 3:13-14 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

II. JESUS FULFILLED THE LAW PERFECTLY

Matthew 3:15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

III. GOD THE FATHER IS WELL-PLEASED WITH HIS SON

Matthew 3:16-17 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

May the peace of God that passes understanding, guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen

HYMN #567 vss 1&4 "Jesus Lover of My Soul"
Lord's Prayer
Benediction

DOXOLOGY: *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. A-men. A-men. A---men.*

Postlude: Rebekah Olson