

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

February 1st, 2026

9:30 a.m. Worship



Como Park Lutheran Church

Reaching out in Christ to a changing world.

1376 Hoyt Ave W | Saint Paul, MN 55108

(651) 646-7127

www.ComoParkLutheran.org



We welcome all to worship here: those who are strong in faith and those who are seeking, those who are hurting, and those who give comfort; all who are drawn to worship and faith. We represent a variety of backgrounds, personal orientations, political positions, races and ethnicities. We recognize that we are not of one mind or persuasion on many significant issues, and yet, we gather in Christ to worship God together. If you have questions or need assistance, please ask. If you have concerns, please let us know. We are glad that you are here with us today.

~ *The people of Como Park Lutheran Church*

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR
will immediately follow the service.

Please join us for some coffee and light snacks in the Narthex.

This service will be broadcast live on YouTube
and recorded for later viewing.

www.youtube.com/c/ComoParkLutheranChurch

ADULT FORUM & UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY	Discussion with NAMI: Mental Healthcare and Congregations
TODAY	Organ Concert Series: Laura Edman, Organ + Dennis Milne, Saxophone
02/08/2026	Discussion with LSS of MN: Changing Lives & Early Learning Centers
02/08/2026	Organ Concert Series: Tom Hamilton
02/15/2026	Friends of Huruma Chris Smith



Regular - Liturgist
Bold - Congregation
✖ - Stand as able



ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

From God will I never be parted

J.S. Bach

WELCOME, GREETING, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

❖CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS

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.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

~ Silence is kept for reflection. ~

Most merciful God,
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.

In the mercy of almighty god, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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 \dagger Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

❖OPENING HYMN

Jesus, the Very Thought of You

ELW 754

¶THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

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

And also with you.

¶KYRIE

ELW 157

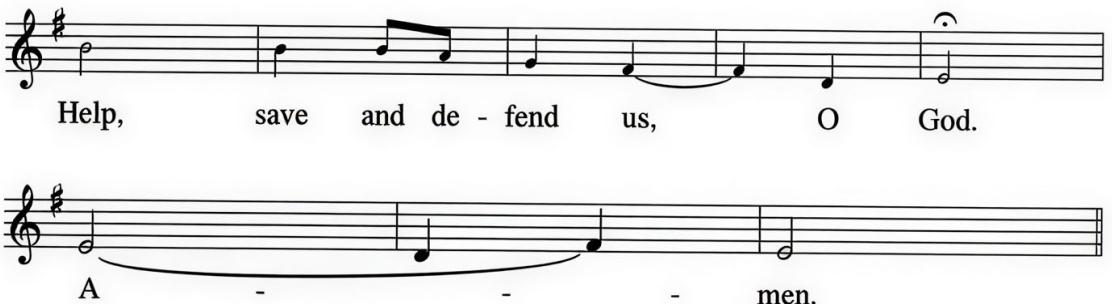
Assistant: In peace, in peace,



Let us pray to the Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy - cy, Lord, have
mercy - cy.

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all... (Refrain)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word... (Refrain)



Help, save and defend us, O God.
A - men.

*NOW THE FEAST

ELW 167

Refrain

Now the feast and celebra-tion,
all of cre-a-tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free-dom: praise and glo-ry for ev-er
er - more!

Verse 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and un-nit-ed us to be one great

To refrain

peo - ple of God.

Verse 2

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ

To refrain

for ev - er.

Verse 3

3. For God has come to dwell with us,

to make us peo - ple of God; to make
all things new.

To refrain

To refrain

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

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 of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

¹ But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

Psalm 15



¹ LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,**

who speak the truth | from their heart;

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;

they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

⁴ **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.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take
bribes a- | gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ For 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.

¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰ 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?

²¹ 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.

²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,

²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,



²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ 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.

²⁷ 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;

²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are,

²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

³⁰ He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The word of the Lord.

†GOSPEL VERSE

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Repeat optional

❖GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mathew the First Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
(Jesus Loves Me! ELW 595)

Mary Ann Schmidt

SERMON Pastor Martin Ericson

†SERMON HYMN

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

ELW 719

‡APOSTLES' CREED

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

... Lord, in your mercy,
... hear our prayer.

❖THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

THE MEAL

OFFERING

Light Shone in Darkness

Mark Sedio

CPLChoir

Electronic offerings can be made using smart phones and tablet devices by going to www.ComoParkLutheran.org and clicking on the “donate” button. You may also use the giving kiosk in the narthex located by the staircase.



❖OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray...

Merciful God,
everything in heaven and earth belongs to you. We joyfully release
what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole
lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and unity of all
creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION** (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

In the night in which he was betrayed...
... Do this for the remembrance of me.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER** (Matthew 6:9-13; Revelation 11:15)

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.**

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table. If you come forward and extend your hand, you will be served the bread. A gluten free option is available. If you do not extend your hand, you will be given a blessing. Both red wine and white grape juice are at the second station, and there is a basket for empty cups as you return to your seat.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have
you break the chains of ha - tred and fear:
you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
you are the way of mer - cy and love:
mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us, mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, your take a - way the sins of the world:

grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his peace.

Amen.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Holy God,
gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE SENDING

***BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and \texttildelow give you peace
Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

As We Gather at Your Table

ELW 522

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata

Leon Boellmann

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Von Gott will ich nicht lassen by J.S. Bach, public domain

Please pray for...

Pam B.	Tyler F. (brother-in-law of Ginger F.)
Dorothy E.	J.J. K. (great grandson of Bill H.)
Kathy H.	Joe (friend of Sandra H.)
Ann L.	Paula M.L. (cousin of Jeanette M. N.)
Heather Q.	Cheryl & Jim (quilter & husband)
Ruth R.	Nichole (friend of Como Connects)
	Mary C (friend of Deb S.)

... and all in need of prayers

We welcome names of members, family, and friends on our prayer list.

✿ ✿ ✿

Serving in the Military

Dane Beecham, Jonathan Lund, Kristian Nelson
... and all others who serve

✿ ✿ ✿

**We pray regularly for all members and friends of our congregation.
This week in worship, we pray for:**

Astri Duncan, Hazel, Virginia, August
Jennifer and Caleb Easler
Guy and Katie Eggers
Marty and Ann Ericson, Lars, Siri, Peder
Henry Ernst
Dorothy Evers
Linda Fearing

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Pastor: Martin Ericson

Director of Music Ministries: Tom Ferry

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Date	February 1, 2026
Time	9:30 AM
Acolyte	Kyle Bergstrom
Communion Prep	Fay Cushman
Assisting Minister	Jonathan Nye
Communion Asst 1	Sasha Weber
Communion Asst 2	Elizabeth Weber
Greeter	Janet Pankonin
Coffee Servers	Jonathan Nye & Geri Jwanouskos
Children's Message	Mary Ann Schmidt
Reader	Sam Schultz
Liturgist	Jonathan Nye
Ushers	Family Team Chresand
Welcome Desk	Zarida Young
Bus Helper	Shirley Dingman
Bus Driver	Lowell Lundy
Video Tech	Ken Purdham

USHER TEAM

Jim & Margo and Ted

COMO COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S

blizzard Breakfast

Saturday, February 7th | 10am-12pm
North Dale Rec Center
(1414 St. Albans St)

**FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST
LIVE MUSIC | MAKER'S MARKET
BOOK AND GAME SWAP
ART ACTIVITIES | ICE SKATING
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FEBRUARY 1, 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



Do justice and love kindness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	Sermon on the Mount
Monday	Micah 6:1-8	True obedience
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Message of the cross
Wednesday	Proverbs 21:12-15	When justice is done
Thursday	Romans 12:9-13	Marks of a Christian
Friday	Isaiah 1:11-17	Rescue the oppressed
Saturday	Psalm 15	Life of the blameless
Sunday	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and light

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, bless us with contentment to a life lived pursuing justice, kindness, and humility. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

We thank you for the gift of each day and the food that nourishes us. Help us to show our thanks with compassion for others. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you find peace and comfort in God.

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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*What Does the Lord
Require of You?*

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How has someone shown you kindness recently?
- Where have you seen God's mercy and kindness in action?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Micah 6:1-8 and Matthew 5:1-12.

In the reading from Micah, God is pleading a court case against Israel. The people have turned from God, but God wonders how this could be. The guilt of the people is on themselves because God has done marvelous things for the people by bringing them out of Egypt and slavery and giving them leaders like Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. Their enemies were conquered. With their guilt before them, the people wonder what the appropriate penance is. Is it thousands of sacrifices? Is it endless amounts of holy oils? Sacrifice one's own child? Nothing will do but *"to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God"* (Micah 6:8). In the Beatitudes of Matthew 5:1-12, Jesus offers a similar path for faithful followers: poverty of spirit, humility, and mercy. The larger Gospel of Matthew cannot be understood without the content of the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount. This is the path for us to be satisfied and blessed, the path of living as a disciple with purpose.

Discuss: How easy or difficult is it to live as a disciple?

Pray: Dear God, give us the simple joy of trust in you by living a life of purpose that seeks justice, kindness, and humility with you and all people, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you bless someone with a spirit of humility?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Matthew 5:3-11 speaks of blessings. A wonderful ritual to practice regularly in your home is that of blessing one another. When we bless another, we are calling upon God to show goodness and kindness to them, as well as demonstrating our own care and concern for them. There are three basic elements to a personal blessing – God's name, words, and touch (e.g. a hand on a shoulder, or making the sign of the cross on their forehead or palm). Consider blessing one another at mealtimes, bedtimes, and at daily farewells with family and friends.

Say: May God bless you with kindness and mercy.

**Please visit the Welcome Desk in the narthex
if you have any questions about our facility or upcoming events.**

**Adult Forums, Membership Classes,
Visitations, & General Ministries**

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Jessica Vargas—651-646-7127 Ext. 2219

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kristin@lahnetwork.org

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