

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

January 18, 2026
10:30 a.m. Sunday



**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER
EPIPHANY /
SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY
CALLED SAINTS
AS WE GATHER**

People often speak about a person's calling in life. They are describing a unique purpose or vocation according to interests and talents. Often, trying to determine a person's "calling" or "destiny" is defined by some innate ability or giftedness found within ourselves, something we were born with or somehow born to do.

Today we hear of God calling otherwise ordinary fishermen Andrew and his brother Simon Peter. They were called by God through John the Baptist to follow the Messiah, the Christ, Jesus of Nazareth. They were called to be disciples and eventually to be sent on Christ's mission as apostles. The prophet Isaiah says even the Savior, the servant of the Lord, was called from the womb by God, "that Israel might be gathered to Him," and called "as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth" (Isaiah 49:5–6). Saul of Tarsus was "called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus," and Saul, now named Paul, reminds the church at Corinth and us that we are "called to be saints" (1 Corinthians 1:1–2). This calling differs from merely surveying interests or abilities within us; it comes to us from outside of ourselves, from the living God, our creator and Redeemer. This calling comes from God to everyone. It is the call of salvation, the divine call that transforms us from sinners into saints. Therefore, this calling depends not on anything within us but solely and totally on the grace and mercy and love of God.

✂ PREPARATION ✂

Gathering Song

GREAT ARE YOU LORD

Leonard | Ingram | Jordan

You give life You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that is broken
And great are You Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only (Repeat from Beginning)

And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You Lord (Repeat)

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

CCLI Song # 6460220 David Leonard | Jason Ingram | Leslie Jordan © 2012 Open Hands Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) Integrity's Praise! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music) Little Way Creative (Admin. by Integrity Music) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1903595

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Song

MIGHTY TO SAVE

Morgan / Fielding

Everyone needs compassion, Love that's never failing.
Let mercy fall on me. Everyone needs forgiveness,
The kindness of a Savior. The hope of nations

CHORUS: Savior, He can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation.
He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as You find me, All my fears and failures.
Fill my life again. I give my life to follow,
Everything I believe in. Now I surrender. **CHORUS**

Shine your light, And let the whole world see.
We're singing for the glory of the risen King.
Jesus, Shine your light, And let the whole world see.
We're singing for the glory of the risen King. **CHORUS**

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Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 43:4; 1 Corinthians 6:11*

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: **to God my exceeding joy.**

Pastor: You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified

People: **in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 Corinthians 1:2*

Pastor: Called by God “to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”, let us give rightful praise and honor God, who calls sinners to repentance and bestows saving faith in our hearts by His Word and Spirit. Behold, the Lamb of God!

People: **Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, mercifully hear our confession. We are sinners and have sinned against You. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors with our whole heart. We cannot free ourselves from our sin. Hear our prayer of confession and let us hear Your call and gift of forgiveness, salvation, and life.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**



Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: **Amen.**

✂ WORD ✂

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

(The servant of the Lord)

Listen to me, O coastlands,
and give attention, you peoples from afar.
The Lord called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he named my name.
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.
And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength
for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my right is with the Lord,
and my recompense with my God."
And now the Lord says,
he who formed me from 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 eyes of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—
he says:
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."
Thus says the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation,
the servant of rulers:
"Kings shall see and arise;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

(God's calling)

Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise for the Holy Gospel.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: John 1:29-42a

(Jesus calls the first disciples.)

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”



He first found his own brother
Simon and said to him,

**“We have found
the Messiah.”**

John 1:41, ESV

The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Jenna Lawrenz

Song of the Day

"Come Follow Me the Savior Spake"

LSB 688

Verses 1, 2, 5

**"Come, follow Me," the Savior spake, "All in My way abiding;
Deny yourselves, the world forsake, Obey My call and guiding.
O bear the cross, whate'er betide, Take My example for your guide.**

**"I am the light, I light the way, A godly life displaying;
I bid you walk as in the day; I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show How you must sojourn here below."**

**Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, And take the cross appointed
And, firmly clinging to His Word, In suff'ring be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle's strain The cross of heav'nly life obtain.**

Sermon

"Last Words"

Pastor John Larson

Text: Deuteronomy 30:11-20

The Nicene Creed

(found in the back of the hymnal)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy ...

People: Hear our prayer.

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...Peace be with you!

Offering *(collected in the back)*

✠ HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION ✠

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6:9-13*

People: **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.**

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Song **GRATITUDE** **Brandon Lake**

All my words fall short, I got nothing new

How could I express, All my gratitude

I could sing these songs, As I often do

But every song must end, And You never do

CHORUS So I throw up my hands, And praise You again and again
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah, hallelujah
And I know it's not much, But I've nothing else fit for a king
Except for a heart singing hallelujah, Hallelujah

I've got one response

I've got just one move

With my arms stretched wide
I will worship You (**CHORUS**)

Come on my soul, Oh don't you get shy on me
Lift up your song 'Cause you've got a lion inside of those lungs
Get up and praise the Lord (Sing 3 times)

(CHORUS)

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Song	YOU ARE MY KING (AMAZING LOVE)	Foote
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I'm forgiven because You were forsaken. I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me because You died and rose again.

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken. I'm accepted; You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me because You died and rose again.

CHORUS

Amazing love, how can it be That You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true; It's my joy to honor You.
In all I do I honor You. (**REPEAT**)

You are my King. You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King. Jesus, You are my King. (**CHORUS**)

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General Communion Blessing

Benediction (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen

Closing Song	MY LIGHTHOUSE	Rend Collective
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In my wrestling and in my doubts; In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through; You are the peace in my troubled sea (whoa-oh),
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

In the silence, You won't let go; In the questions, Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead us through; You are the peace in my troubled sea (whoa-oh),
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

My lighthouse, my lighthouse; Shining in the darkness. I will follow You, oh,
My lighthouse, my lighthouse; I will trust the promise
You will carry us safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh); Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh);
Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh); Safe to shore.

I won't fear what tomorrow brings; With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through; You are the peace in my troubled sea (whoa-oh),
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

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Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace.
Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude "Gloria"

James Denton



SERVING IN WORSHIP

OFFICIANT / PREACHER

Pastor John Larson

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Michael Zehnder

ORGANIST

Linda Olsen

GUITAR & VOCALIST

Dave Olsson

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Stephanie Roettjer

CHOIR ACCOMPANIST

Diana Gaide

ELDERS

4:00 pm Jim Wert; 8:00 am Bob Olsen; 10:30 am David Pearman

ACOLYTE

8:00 am Lizzie Wilson; 10:30 am Abby Williams

LECTORS

4:00 pm Mike Price; 8:00 am Joann Sorrentino; 10:30 am Jude Donovan

COMMUNION SERVERS

4:00 pm Mike Price; 10:30 am Jude Donovan

ALTAR GUILD

Shelia Beu, Charmaine Rohde, Cathy Utecht



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