

## Where Two or Three Are Gathered: Worship for Small Assemblies

**January 11- February 15**

Season after Epiphany, Year A <http://www.worship.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Worship-orders-Jan-11-Feb15.pdf>

Prepared by Tanya Varner - Eastern Synod

### **Table of Contents**

- Suggested Orders for Holy Communion and Service of the Word
- Resources in ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) and ACS (All Creation Sings)
- January 11, Baptism of Our Lord - Worship Resources, readings, and hymn suggestions
- February 15, Transfiguration of Our Lord - Worship Resources, readings & hymn suggestions
- Resources that can be used for any Sunday – Gathering, Call to worship, Prayer of Confession, Offertory Prayer, Sending
- January 18, 25, February 1, 8 - Readings & hymn suggestions

### **Order for Holy Communion Service**

*The Holy Communion liturgy is for use when an Ordained Pastor or Authorized Lay Minister is present to preside*

Call to Worship (optional)

Thanksgiving at the Font (Optional) p.59-60 ACS

Kyrie (optional)

Gathering Hymn

Prayer of the Day

Word - First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel

Sermon/Reflection

Hymn of the Day

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Share the Peace

Offering

Eucharistic Prayer

ELW p. 65-70, choose between forms V-XI, OR ACS p. 56-58, or as suggested below

Lord's Prayer (ELW p.221)

Distribution of Communion

Blessing

Sending Hymn

Dismissal/Blessing ELW p.222, or as printed

## **Order for Service of the Word**

Greeting

Call to Worship (optional)

Thanksgiving at the Font (Optional) p.59-60 ACS

Gathering Hymn

Prayer of the Day

Word - First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel

Sermon/Reflection

Hymn

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Share the Peace

Canticle of Thanksgiving – ELW #208 *Praise to You, O God of Mercy*

Thanksgiving for the Word (ELW p.220) OR

Thanksgiving for the Word (Psalm 25:1-2a, 4-5, 10) To you,

O LORD, I lift up my soul.

My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame.

Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

Lord's Prayer (ELW p.221)

Blessing Leader: Let us bless the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Sending Hymn / Dismissal

- **There is also a Service of Word & Prayer in ACS, p.42-45**

## **Resources in ELW and ACS**

**Confession and Forgiveness** – ELW pg.94-96, OR ACS pg.8-10,

**Prayer of the Day** – can be found with the Lectionary readings in ELW, p.44-46

**Prayers of the People** - ELW p. 105 offers helpful guidelines for crafting prayers from the assembly. Different themed prayers can be found on p. 72-87 OR in ACS p.46-55

Please note that many of the hymns in ELW can be found on YouTube, sung & played by Tim McNabb from Halifax Lutheran, or other musicians. Most of the hymns in ACS can also be found on YouTube, either sung by him, by the composer, or various musicians.

## **January 11 – Baptism of our Lord**

Following the Epiphany of our Lord on January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Church turns its attention to the season after Epiphany which is 5 weeks long. Within the Season After Epiphany we host two festival Sundays, The Baptism of Our Lord, and concluding with the Transfiguration of our Lord, ahead of the Season of Lent.

### **Dressing your worship space**

Color for Baptism of our Lord is **White**

Use white paraments

The Paschal Candle is lit for this festival Sunday

Children's message

Props – a Small bowl of water or a baptismal shell

Talking about something very special that happened to Jesus—and something special that happens for us too.

Ask children if they remember their baptisms or what happens in baptism? (Wait for answers—some may say “water,” “church,” “God,” etc.)

Baptism is when we use water to show that someone belongs to God. In today's story, Jesus goes into the water to be baptized by his cousin John. And when Jesus comes up out of the water, something amazing happens. The skies open up, and God's voice says: **“You are my beloved child. I'm so pleased with you!”**

God looks at Jesus and says, “I love you. I'm so glad you're mine.” and that's what God says to each one of us too. When we were baptized—or even if we haven't been yet—God still loves you just the same.

God says to us: **“You are my beloved child. I'm so pleased with you!”**

So whenever you see water—when you wash your hands, take a bath, or play in the rain—we can remember that we belong to God, and that God's love is with us always.

### **Offer a prayer:**

*Loving God, thank you for loving us just like you love Jesus. Help us to remember that we are your beloved children, no matter what. Amen.*

**Thanksgiving for Baptism** – can use Thanksgiving at the Font, pg.10 or 59 (option B or D) ACS for the Call to Worship. Follow the Thanksgiving for Baptism with a Baptismal Hymn, and sprinkle the congregation with water as the hymn is sung.

## Readings for Baptism of our Lord

**Isaiah 42:1-9** *The servant of the Lord brings justice.*

**Psalms 29** *The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.*

**Acts 10: 34-43** *Jesus' ministry after his baptism.*

Gospel Acclamation — *Alleluia. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, | the Beloved, with whom I | am well pleased." Alleluia. (Matt. 3:17)*

**Gospel – Matthew 3:13-17.** *Revelation of Christ as God's servant.*

## Hymn Suggestions

ACS 916 Down Galilee's Slow Roadways

ELW 305 When Jesus Came to Jordan

ELW 304 Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

ELW 455 Crashing Waters at Creation

ELW 450 I Bind unto Myself Today

ELW 448 This is the Spirit's Entry Now

ELW 445 Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

ACS 942 Every Time I Feel the Spirit

## **Great Thanksgiving for Baptism of our Lord & Season after Epiphany**

L: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

P: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, God of majesty and splendour. By your power you created all that is, making a universe out of chaos, and ruling over all things in love. Throughout the ages you called your people to serve you, and to be your light among the nations. When we failed you, you did not fail us and sent prophets to call us back to your ways. We praise you that in the fullness of time, you revealed your love by sending your Son Jesus to be the Light of the world. He came to heal our brokenness and to set before us the ways of justice and peace. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of angels, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord**

**God of power & might**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest  
Hosanna in the highest.**

P: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He was born to dwell among us, full of grace and truth; in him we have seen your glory. Baptized by John in the Jordan, he loved you, spoke your truth, showed your love, and gave himself for others. In his death on the cross, he overcame death. Rising from the tomb, he raised us to eternal life and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

*We give you thanks that on the night Jesus ate with his disciples, before his death,  
He took bread, and gave thanks;  
Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this in remembrance of me.*

P: Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a holy and living sacrifice, dedicated for your service. Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

P: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of our love poured out for us. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place.

P: Illumine our hearts, O God, with the radiance of Christ's presence, that our lives may show forth his love in this weary world. Teach us to befriend the lost, to serve the poor, to reconcile our enemies, and to love our neighbours. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes again and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church. All honour and glory are yours, now and forever.

**All: Amen**

Prayer after Communion

P: Holy One,  
we thank you for the healing  
that springs forth abundantly from this table.  
Renew our strength to do justice,  
love kindness,  
and journey humbly with you.  
**Amen.**

(S&S)

### **Sending**

God shows no partiality between people  
according to class, colour, or country  
but accepts people of all backgrounds  
who love God and do what is right.  
Go in peace and do likewise

(FoW)

### **Sundays After Epiphany**

*Below are resources that can be used for any Sunday in the Season after Epiphany:*

#### **Gathering**

*L: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

#### **Call to worship** (optional)

In the beginning, at creation, the Spirit hovered  
over the waters of the deep. *Gen. 1:1–2*

**In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth  
and humankind.**

God caused the waters to part so that Israel could  
cross from slavery to liberation.

**God formed Jesus in the waters of Mary's womb.**

Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples' feet in water.

**Drinking water from a well, Jesus met a**

**Samaritan woman,**

**the first person to recognize that he was the Christ.**

Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ.

**God meant for Jesus to be the firstborn in a large family. Praise be!**

(FoW)

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ~~T~~ one God,  
full of compassion and mercy,  
abounding in steadfast love. Amen.  
Trusting God's promise of forgiveness,  
let us confess our sin against God and one another.*

**Eternal God our creator,  
in you we live and move and have our being.  
Look upon us, your children,  
the work of your hands.  
Forgive us all our offenses,  
and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.  
By your grace draw us near to you,  
our refuge and our strength;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*L: Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit given to us.  
In the mercy of almighty God,  
Christ died for us while we still were sinners;  
and for his sake, God ~~T~~ forgives you all your sins. Amen.*

(SS)

**Offertory Prayer**

*Let us pray:*

**Holy God, we offer you these gifts with thanks, so that together we may plant and water the seeds of your new world. May we be your faithful servants as we cultivate your love, knowing that in all we accomplish, it is you who gives the growth. Amen**

(FoW)

**Sending**

**Go now, with eyes open to Christ's light,  
with hearts ready to follow wherever He leads.  
In a world longing for hope,  
shine with the love, mercy, and justice of God.  
Amen! Thanks be to God!**

## January 18, 2026 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

*Color: Green*

### **Readings**

**Isaiah 49:1-7** The servant brings light to the nations

**Psalms 40:1-11** I love to do your will, O my God.

**1 Corinthians 1:1-9** Paul's greeting to the church at Corinth

**John 1:29-42** Revelation of Christ as the Lamb of God

### **Hymn Suggestions**

|         |                                  |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| ELW 311 | Hail to the Lord's Anointed      |
| ELW 309 | The Only Son from Heaven         |
| ELW 696 | Jesus Calls US; o'er the Tumult  |
| ELW 737 | He Comes to Us as One Unknown    |
| ELW 808 | Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song |
| ACS 976 | Come and See                     |
| ACS 962 | In This Feast of Love            |

## January 25, 2026 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

*Color – Green*

### **Readings**

**Isaiah 9:1-4** Light shines for those in darkness

**Psalms 27:1, 4-9** The Lord is my light and my salvation

**1 Corinthians 1:10-18** Appeal for unity in the gospel

**Matthew 4:12-23** Revelation of Christ as a prophet

### **Hymn Suggestions**

|          |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| ELW 584  | The Son of God, Our Christ  |
| ELW 798  | Will You Come and Follow Me |
| ELW 306  | Come, Beloved of the Maker  |
| ELW 715  | Christ Be Our Light         |
| ELW 307  | Light Shone in Darkness     |
| ACS 1000 | God's Work, Our Hands       |



## **February 1, 2026 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

*Color: Green*

### **Readings**

**Micah 6:1-8** The offering of justice, kindness, humility

**Psalms 15** Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill?

**1 Corinthians 1:18-31** Christ crucified, the wisdom and power of God

**Matthew 5:1-12** The teaching of Christ: Beatitudes

### **Hymn Suggestions**

|          |                                      |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| ELW 710  | Let Streams of Living Justice        |
| ELW 719  | Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life |
| ELW 669  | Rise Up, O saints of God!            |
| ELW 651  | Oh, Praise the Gracious Power        |
| ELW 674  | Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ    |
| ELW 818  | O Master, Let Me Walk with You       |
| ACS 1057 | What Does the Lord Require of You?   |

## **February 8, 2026 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

*Color: Green*

### **Readings**

**Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]** The fast God chooses

**Psalms 112:1-9 [10]** Light shines in the darkness for the upright

**1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]** God's wisdom revealed through the Spirit

**Matthew 5:13-20** The teaching of Christ: salt and light

### **Hymn Suggestions:**

|          |                                  |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| ELW 715  | Christ, Be Our Light!            |
| ELW 665  | Rise, Shine, You People!         |
| ELW 677  | This Little Light of Mine        |
| ELW 540  | Go, Make Disciples               |
| ACS 1078 | There is a Longing in Our Hearts |
| ACS 1056 | God Bless to Us Our Bread        |

## **February 15 - Transfiguration of our Lord**

Colour: **White**

**A Thanksgiving for Baptism would be appropriate for this Sunday**

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Blessed are you, holy God, maker of heaven and earth, source of light and life.

In the dazzling brightness of your Son, you reveal your glory and grace.

From the mountain of Sinai to the mount of Transfiguration, you speak through law and prophets, but now you speak most clearly in Jesus Christ— your beloved Son, the radiance of your presence. He healed the sick, welcomed the outcast, and called us to follow him into the way of compassion, justice, and peace. On the mountain, his glory was revealed—and in the cross, so was your love.

And so, with Mary and Moses, Elijah and Peter, with all the saints of light and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy God,  
before he went down from the mountain,  
Jesus turned his face toward Jerusalem.  
On the night he ate with his friends before his death,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks,  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Send now your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share in this meal  
may be transformed by your grace—  
shining with Christ's light in all we say and do.  
Unite us with all who are gathered around your table,  
that your church may reflect your glory  
until Christ comes again in radiant splendour.  
Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour are yours, almighty God,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

*S&S – Sundays and Seasons – an Augsburg Fortress resource*

*FoW – Feasting on the Word – A Presbyterian resource*

*GFW – Gathered for Worship – A project of the ELCIC - discontinued*