



Sunday, February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Welcome to First Evangelical
Lutheran Church of Taylors Falls

We are glad you are here!

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: Your promises have never wavered, and yet we are not always willing to believe them. We descend into our own despair, unable to see past our immediate concerns. We drag others down with us and live to complain and commiserate. We ignore the miracles in front of our face. Forgive us for living such small lives, O God, and restore in us the wonder of what it is to be your people. Amen.

P: God is faithful; God is merciful; God does not hold our sins against us! Receive the assurance of your deliverance by the one who promised from of old to set us free, and who seeks and finds us to this very day. Alleluia!

C: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Happy are those who do not take the path of sinners,

C: Or follow the advice of the wicked.

P: Their delight is in the law of the Lord,

C: On God's law they meditate day and night.

P: They are like trees planted by streams of water.

C: Their leaves do not wither, and they yield their fruit in season.

OPENING HYMN: Christ, Be Our Light (vs 1,2,4,5)

ELW #715

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Gracious God,

C: Your son came as the fulfillment of your law. Continue to lift up all who are oppressed in this world, that they might know your blessing and receive the joy you have promised. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING: Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

² 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. ³“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For 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. ⁵O 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.”

⁶“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? ⁷Will 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?” ⁸He 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?

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God

PSALM 15 (read responsively)

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 upon 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 against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (vs 2) **ELW #815**

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The Beatitudes

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And 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 the sake of righteousness, 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.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Blest Are They (vs. 1-3)

ELW #728

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

OFFERTORY

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS: Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW #184

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer.

Grace our table with the presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: O God,

C: you desire not only right action, but pure hearts. Make us cheerful givers and joyful participants in the work of your kingdom. Bless these gifts we offer here and show us ever deepening ways to serve you and those you love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

EUCCHARISTIC INVITATION

We are blessed; we are God's people. We were made to proclaim the love of Jesus in all we do. Let us gather now to be fed on his body and blood, nurtured by his blessing, and strengthened by his promise. Come to the feast!

DISTRIBUTION: Come to the Table (sing 2 times)

ELW #481

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

P: In Jesus, nothing is as we expect.

C: He turns everything on its head.

P: He proclaims blessing for those we would see as the furthest from it.

C: He gives hope to a world in need.

P: Thus we ask that God would make us meek,

C: And that we would hunger and thirst for righteousness,

P: That we would be merciful and pure of heart,

C: That we would be peacemakers,

P: That we would always strive to do the work God has called us to,

C: Even when that work is unpopular.

P: Let us be open to God's truth in the world.

C: Then we shall be blessed.

CLOSING HYMN: On Our Way Rejoicing

ELW #537

MISSION STATEMENT

P: People of First Evangelical, what is our mission?

C: Proclaim the Gospel and Serve our Neighbors.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Our Calendar 2/1 - 2/25

Sunday 2/1

9am Worship at Immanuel
10am Fellowship
11am Worship

Monday 2/2

8:30am Counters Meet

Tuesday 2/3

Happy Birthday, Miriam Flysjo!
Happy Birthday, Gail Gustafson!
5pm Choir Practice @ FELC

Wednesday 2/4

9:30am Quilting

Thursday 2/5

9am Wisdom Seekers
2:30pm Coffee @ The Lodge

Friday 2/6

5pm Semi-Progressive Dinner

Saturday 2/7

Sunday 2/8

9am Worship at Immanuel
10am Fellowship
11am Worship w/ Joint Choir
12:15pm Council Meeting



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Welcome guests!!!! We are so happy you are here to worship with us today! Please sign our guest book and connect with an usher for a special gift!

Discipleship Needs: Visit the usher stand to sign up for church discipleship - supplying altar flowers, lector, ushering, running the sound system & hosting/bringing treats for Fellowship hour. Check the usher stand for opportunities and claim a spot!!!!

JUMPSTART on the Easter Food Drive!!! Family Pathways is putting together 150 Easter Food Baskets for families in need. Our church has been asked to contribute 150 boxes of quick bread!!! Bin is located in the room across from the office.

Semi-Progressive Dinner: Friday, February 6th from 5-9pm. We start at Immanuel Lutheran with appetizers, break into groups to head out to the Host homes for dinner. Afterwards, the groups return to Immanuel Lutheran for dessert, conversation and music. There is childcare available at Immanuel. All are invited! Sign up sheet at the usher stand!!

Palm Sunday Breakfast: We will be hosting a pancake breakfast at 10am on Palm Sunday! If you are able to volunteer to help setting up, cooking, serving, and clean up, please sign up at the usher stand!

Discipleship Opportunities for Season of Lent: We are hosting Wednesday services and will need volunteers!! Sign up at the usher stand!

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Pastor Justin Fenger

Music: Toni Brekke

Council on Duty: Rose Anderson

Ushers: Joe & Wendy Szczepanski | **Reader:** Amanda Ingberg

Comm. Asst: Wendy Szczepanski

Sound System: Angie Linngren

Fellowship Host: John Goetz & Diane Goetz

PRAYERCARE The family of Norma Strand, the Rivard Family, Cindy Weslander, Kathy Kowalke, the family of Josh Brown, the family of Edna Curry, Randy Valez, James Hudspeth, Helen Swanson, Marcille Rogers, Jeff Rogers, Verna Grover, Dave Danberg, Jeanne Fick and the family of Cleo Stomberg.