

# Our Weakness Reveals God's Strength

February 1, 2026



Fourth Sunday  
after Epiphany

**Welcome, guests!** We're delighted that you could join us. If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. This folder contains all the information about our services, and the congregational responses are indicated by indented and bolded letters. Please also take a moment to fill out the guest register at the church's entrance; this is used only by the pastor and elder. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. May the Lord bless this service as Christ comes to you!

**THE THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS:** The Savior's Sermon: Trust in God's strength! The Beatitudes are hard for us to swallow. Jesus seems to be espousing a Christianity imbued with fatalism at best or defeatism at worst. Look closer, however, and see what he says. The weaker you are, the stronger God is in your life. The weaker you are now, the more ready you are to trust in a future reward. Look at the past acts of God's grace, and you will find many reasons to trust his strength in the face of adversity, persecution, or sorrow.

**PRAYER FOR THE DAY:** Lord God, you know that we are surrounded by many dangers and that we often stumble and fall. Strengthen us in body and mind and bring us safely through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE:** SERVICE OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT— CW, p.26

*The "Service of Word and Sacrament" is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church.*



# OPENING HYMN:

#125

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

**\*\*Please Stand for The Last Verse\*\***



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast  
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine,



On which the Prince of glo - ry died,  
Save in the death of Christ, my God,  
Sor - row and love flow min - gled down,  
That were a trib - ute far too small;



My rich - est gain I count but loss  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
Did e'er such love and sor - row meet  
Love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine,



And pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
De - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.

Tune: HAMBURG (LM) Lowell Mason, 1792–1872.

The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also, with you.**

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

## CONFESSION OF SINS

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

*KYRIE*

For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise. (*Psalms 145:3*)

### **O LORD, OUR LORD**



ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,  
 but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,  
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.  
 O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,  
 you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;  
 you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the  
 King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,  
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, you know that we are surrounded by many dangers and that we often stumble and fall. Strengthen us in body and mind and bring us safely through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

**\*\*Please Be Seated\*\***

### FIRST LESSON:

### DANIEL 3:13 – 27

*Rejoice and be glad, Jesus said, because great is your reward in heaven. He does not promise to keep us from a martyr's death or Christian persecution on earth; however, He promises to reward us in spite of them. When we look weak by the world's standards, He demonstrates His tremendous power, especially in the weakest moments of our lives.*

*Then, in a furious rage, Nebuchadnezzar said to bring Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king. Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and that you do not worship the golden statue that I set up? Now, if you are ready, at the time when you hear the sound of the horn, the flute, the lyre, the harp, the triangular harp, the drum, and all kinds of musical instruments, you must fall down and worship the statue I made. But if you do not worship, you will immediately be thrown into the blazing fiery furnace. What god will be able to save you from my hands?"*

*Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, "We have no need to answer you about this matter. Since our God, whom we serve, does exist, he is able to save us from the blazing fiery furnace. So, he may save us from your hand, Your Majesty. But if he does not, you should know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods, and we will not worship the golden statue that you set up."*

*Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage, and the expression on his face changed against Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego. He said to heat the furnace seven times hotter than it was usually heated. He ordered some men, who were soldiers from his army, to bind Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego in order to throw them into the blazing fiery furnace. So these men were bound in their coats, their pants, their turbans, and their other clothing, and they were thrown into the middle of the blazing fiery furnace. Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace was extremely hot, those men who carried Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego were killed by the intense heat of the fire. But these three men, Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego, who had been tied up, fell into the blazing fiery furnace.*

*Then King Nebuchadnezzar was startled and immediately stood up. He said to his advisors, "Didn't we throw three men, who had been tied up, into the middle of the fire?" They answered the king, "Certainly, Your Majesty." He said, "Look! I see four men, who are untied and walking around in the middle of the fire, unharmed. What is more, the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."*

*Then Nebuchadnezzar approached the door of the blazing fiery furnace. He said, "Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out!" Then Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego came out from the middle of the furnace. The satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the royal advisors gathered together and looked at these men. The fire had no power over their bodies. Not a hair on their head was singed, their robes were not damaged, and the smell of fire had not stuck to them.*

*Refrain*

Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

*Psalm tone**Refrain*

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked\*  
or stand in the way of sinners.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD,\*  
and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season\*  
and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

*Refrain*

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,\*  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,\*  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\***

**and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*

## SECOND LESSON

## 1 CORINTHIANS 1:26 – 31

*Paul points the Corinthians to themselves as an example of God's strength made perfect in weakness. The majority of them did not come from the upper crust of society or the ranks of the learned. God, however, chose them.*

***For example, consider your call, brothers. Not many of you were wise from a human point of view, not many were powerful, and not many were born with high status. But God chose the foolish things of the world to put to shame those who are wise. God chose the weak things of the world to put to shame the things that are strong, and God chose the lowly things of the world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to do away with the things that are, so that no one may boast before God. But because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us the wisdom from God, namely, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. God did this so that, just as it is written, "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."***

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is on me; He has anointed me to preach good news. Alleluia.  
(Luke 4:18)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**\*\*Please Stand\*\***

## GOSPEL

## MATTHEW 5:1 – 12

*In the Beatitudes, our Savior turns the world upside down. He calls blessed the people this world never would. He calls blessed people that the world would use as doormats! The world praises the brash, the strong, and the self-sufficient. Jesus calls blessed what others see as weak. To live this kind of blessedness requires a deep trust in the Lord's strength and a long-term view of life.*

***When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up onto a mountain. When he sat down, his disciples came to him. He opened his mouth and began to teach them. He said these things:***

***"Blessed are the poor in spirit, because theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, because they will be comforted. Blessed are the gentle, because they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, because they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, because they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, because they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, because they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, because theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven. In fact, that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you."***

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

# HYMN OF THE DAY:

#395

SEEK WHERE YOU MAY TO FIND A WAY



1 Seek where you may To find a way  
2 Seek whom you may To be your stay;  
3 Seek him a - lone, Who did a - tone,  
4 My heart's de - light, My crown most bright,



That leads to your sal - va - tion. My heart is  
None can re - deem his broth - er. All help - ers  
Who did your souls de - liv - er; Oh, seek him  
Je - sus, you are for - ev - er. Not wealth or



stilled; On Christ I build— He is the  
failed; This man pre - vailed, The God - Man,  
first, All you who thirst For grace that  
pride Or aught be - side Our bond of



one foun - da - tion. His Word is sure; His  
and none oth - er. The Ser - vant - Lord Our  
fails you nev - er. In ev - 'ry need Seek  
love shall sev - er. You are my Lord; Your



works en - dure. He will o'er - throw My  
life re - stored. We're jus - ti - fied, For  
him in - deed; To ev - 'ry heart He  
pre - cious Word Shall be my guide What -



ev - 'ry foe; Through him I more than con - quer.  
he has died, The guilt - less for the guilt - y.  
will im - part His bless - ings with - out mea - sure.  
e'er be - tide. Oh, teach me, Lord, to trust you!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635, abr.; tr. Arthur P. Voss, 1899–1955, alt.

Tune: SUCH, WER DA WILL (447 447 44 447) Johann Stobäus, 1580–1646, alt.

SERMON TEXT:

1 CORINTHIANS 1:26 – 31

SERMON THEME:

MAKING SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING

**\*\*Please Stand\*\***

## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***\*\*Please Be Seated\*\****

***OUR OFFERING: In 2 Corinthians 9:7, Paul tells us: "Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver." This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.***

## THE PRAYER FOR EPIPHANY

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death:

**You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.**

Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

**You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**

Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and for the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

**Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.**

Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts so we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

**Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.**

***Special prayers and intercessions may follow.***

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

***Silent prayer.***

Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home, where we will stand in the full light of your glory and, with all your saints and angels, sing the everlasting song of triumph.

**Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 HYMN

**#303**

**WITH BROKEN HEART AND CONTRITE SIGH**



1 With bro - ken heart and con - trite sigh, A  
 2 I smite up - on my trou - bled breast, With  
 3 Far off I stand with tear - ful eyes Nor  
 4 No gifts, no deeds that I have done Can  
 5 And when, re - deemed from sin and hell, With



trem - bling sin - ner, Lord, I cry. Your  
 deep and con - scious guilt op - pressed, Christ  
 dare up - lift them to the skies, But  
 for a sin - gle sin a - tone. To  
 all the ran - somed souls I dwell, My



par - d'ning grace is rich and free— O  
 and his cross my on - ly plea— O  
 you can all my an - guish see— O  
 Cal - va - ry a - lone I flee— O  
 joy - ous song shall ev - er be: God



God, be mer - ci - ful to me!  
 God, be mer - ci - ful to me!  
 God, be mer - ci - ful to me!  
 God, be mer - ci - ful to me!  
 has been mer - ci - ful to me!

Text: Cornelius Elven, 1791–1873, alt.  
 Tune: ST. LUKE (LM) Jeremiah Clarke, c. 1674–1707.

**\*\*Please Stand\*\***

## THE SACRAMENT

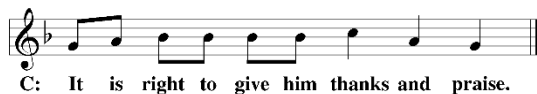
The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past, he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

## SANCTUS

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -

va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."



The peace of the Lord be with you always.

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

AGNUS DEI



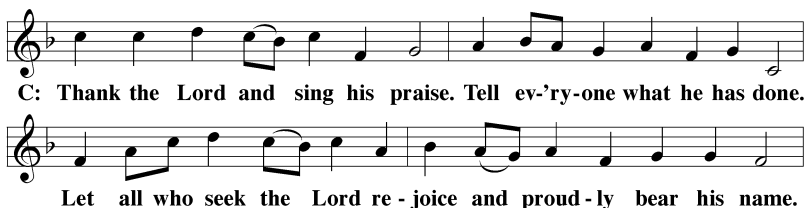
**\*\*Please Be Seated\*\***

## DISTRIBUTION

*DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We do practice close communion according to Paul’s guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: “For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord’s body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself.” Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.*

**\*\*Please Stand\*\***

## THANK THE LORD





### CLOSING PRAYER

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



### BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



**\*\*Please Be Seated\*\***

# CLOSING HYMN:

#415

## BE STILL, MY SOUL



1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;  
2 Be still, my soul; your God will un - der - take  
3 Be still, my soul, though dear - est friends de - part  
4 Be still, my soul; the hour is has - t'ning on



Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain;  
To guide the fu - ture as he has the past.  
And all is dark - ened in the vale of tears;  
When we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord,



Leave to your God to or - der and pro - vide;  
Your hope, your con - fi - dence, let noth - ing shake;  
Then you will bet - ter know his love, his heart,  
When dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,



In ev - 'ry change he faith - ful will re - main.  
All now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.  
Who comes to soothe your sor - rows and your fears.  
Sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.



Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n - ly friend  
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know  
Be still, my soul; your Je - sus can re - pay  
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



Through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.  
His voice who ruled them while he lived be - low.  
From his own full - ness all he takes a - way.  
All safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

Text: Catharina A. von Schlegel, 1697–1752, abr.; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt.

Tune: FINLANDIA (10 10 10 10 10 10) Jean J. C. Sibelius, 1865–1957, adapt. © Breitkopf & Härtel.  
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## WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God, the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, assuming His human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work, receive the benefit of it. Those who reject God's love remain condemned in their sins for eternity.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return, all believers will be with Him in heaven, all unbelievers will be condemned to eternal torment, and this present world will be destroyed.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**February Calendars:** The new monthly calendars are available in the entryway.

**Congregational/Voters Meeting:** The voters' meeting will be held today immediately following the services. Please contact the council members if you have any concerns.

**Council Meeting:** The February council meeting is scheduled for noon on February 6.

**Ash Wednesday and the Lenten Season:** As we enter February, please mark your calendars to join us for this Lenten Season, a time of preparation. We invite you to join us on Ash Wednesday, February 18, at 5:30 p.m., and on the following Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. for our midweek Lent services.

**Bible Information Class:** Please consider joining us. All are welcome. Contact Pastor Emmons for the address, or attend from the comfort of your home via the Zoom link below. Classes are at 6 pm on Thursday evenings.

**Game Night:** Mark your calendar for Game Night. The last game night was so much fun that we are planning a Mexican Train night at Pastor and Tammi's home (4927 SW Yew Pl, Redmond) at 5:30 p.m. on February 20. Mark your calendars and invite your friends for a night of family fun.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study:** We continue our focus on the Pauline letters, with Galatians. Please join us at 9:00 a.m. We hope you find this Bible study enlightening! Feel free to bring your questions. You may come and go as needed. Reading is optional, and questions are always welcome.

**Midweek Bible Study:** We have only two more weeks of Bible studies before Lent. Please join us this Tuesday, February 3, at 6:00 p.m. at Gary and Lani Carroll's house, 3211 SW Umatilla Rd, Redmond, to study the book of Daniel. You can also join via Zoom. The Zoom link is provided, or you can email Pastor Emmons to request it.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057

Password: GraceOT

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