



Our Saviour Lutheran Church

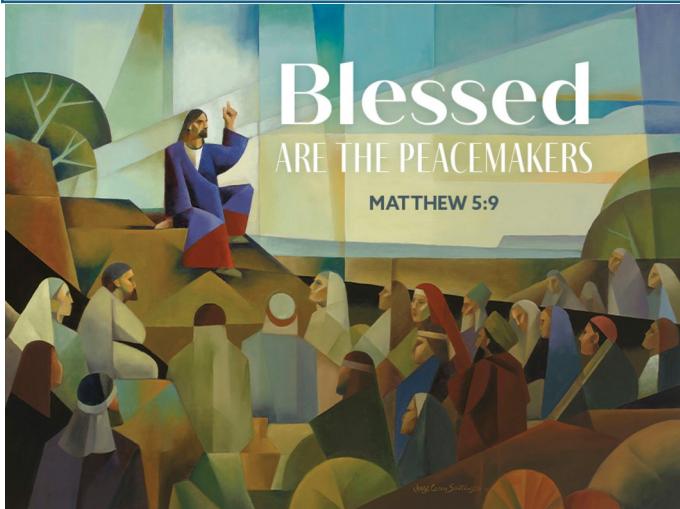
"Making disciples and growing in grace"



Pastor: Rev. Christopher R. Heinold | Ministers: The Baptized People of God
212 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, Tennessee 37604
Phone (423) 282-2313 | Website: www.oslc.church

4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sunday, February 1, 2026



WELCOME

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

see page 11

PRELUDE MUSIC

Seek Ye First

Lafferty

Verse 1 **Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things
Shall be added unto you
Allelu alleluia**

Verse 2 **Man shall not live by bread alone
But by ev'ry word
That proceeds
From the mouth of God
Allelu alleluia**

Verse 3 **Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door
Shall be opened unto you
Allelu alleluia**

Words and Music by Karen Lafferty. CCLI Song #1352
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CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the pastor begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity,

Father, the **☩** Son, and of the Holy Spirit
one God, the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring over the waters. **Amen**

Let us now turn in confession to God who knows us completely.

A brief silence is kept for personal reflection.

Mighty God,

**you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares:

Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in **☩** Jesus' name.

May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

ELW # 873

**1. Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.**

*Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice!
 Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!*

**2. With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise,
send forth the sturdy hymns of old, the psalms of ancient days. *Refrain***

**3. With all the angel choirs, with all the saints on earth
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rapture, noblest mirth. *Refrain***

**6. Praise God who reigns on high, the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest, one God forevermore. *Refrain***

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821-1891, alt.
Public Domain

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 congregation is now seated)



WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

THE FIRST READING

Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

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!

⁴ For 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.

⁵ O 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?

⁷ Will 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?"

⁸ He 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?

L: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

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.

THE SECOND READING**1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸ 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 scholar? 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 the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for 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 abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are 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.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(The congregation stands to welcome the gospel.)

THE GOSPEL READING**Matthew 5:1-12**

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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 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.”



L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON



SERMON

Pastor Chris Heinold

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let Streams of Living Justice

ELW # 710

1. **Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading, the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron pow'r;
abolish ancient vengeance: proclaim your people's hour.**
2. **For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together; knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.**
3. **Your city's built to music; we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language; we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service, our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor; our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice; your way—the path untried;
your truth—the heart of stranger; your life—the Crucified.**

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934. Text © 1989 William Whitla. One License #A-739334

APOSTLES' CREED

*The Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed may be spoken. The Nicene Creed is appropriate during Advent, Christmas, Easter, and on festival days; the Apostles' Creed during Lent and at other times. The pastor begins the creed:
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith using the words of the 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.**

**Or, "he descended into hell,"
another translation of this text in widespread use.*

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

For The Sick: *Karin McCoy, Annabelle Mason, Dorla Brunke, Val Halverson, Larry Seifert, Jean Loveday, Brad Rouse, Gene Whitson, Duane Williams, John Paul Neas, Scott & Cindy Gibson, Mary King, Barbara Diehl, Karen Mears, Curtis Van Hooser*

And for these family and friends: *Stephen Patterson, Melissa, Brown, Connie Raymond, Jennifer Keegan, Skip Nipper, Aga Schrock, Nikki Miller, Jason & Kayla Hyder, Ryan Nesseth, Carolyn Parish, Andy Wilhoit, Bob Edwards, Doug Beier, Pat Kirkland, Trish Gradley, Jeanie Patrick, Paul Gregory Sr., Luke Hawk, Julian Hawk, Juniper Hawk, and Kristy Epperson*

P: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us now pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of your Holy Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for the ministries here at Our Saviour Lutheran Church that show your justice and love in the world.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of those who are homeless and have no place to lay their heads. Keep us mindful of those less fortunate than us this winter.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and who respect human rights. We pray for our nation. Increase our desire for liberty and justice for all.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our Father, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Heal the sick. Comfort the dying. And hear our own quiet prayers now in this moment of silence...

(10s pause)

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and we pray for their parents, grandparents, mentors, and teachers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Prosper our ministries in this area.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. As they now rest from their earthly labors, give us hope in the resurrection.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. (*2 Corinthians 13:11*)

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

THE OFFERING

*An offering is gathered in gratitude for all God has given to us.
The table is set as an offering is gathered.*

OFFERING HYMN

Unwavering

Maher

Verse 1 **Blessed are the poor. The kingdom is theirs
Alive in the promise To be dead to the world
Blessed are the meek. In awe of You Father
The word at Your right hand
Spirit of truth**

Chorus *Unwavering is Your voice. Unwavering is Your hand
Unwavering is the heart That bled for the sins of man
Unwavering is Your will. Unwavering is Your plan
The fount of salvation On which we will stand*

Verse 2 **Blessed are the righteous. On bended knee
Found in this freedom Committed to You
Bless'd are those who see. The heights of glory
Found in the valley
And suff'ring for You** Chorus

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together the offering prayer:

God of majesty, **no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**



GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand as you are able.



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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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 for the remembrance of me.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and help us to pray:

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.



INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to commune today at Our Saviour Lutheran Church. Holy Communion will be received at the altar rail. The ushers will guide you. At the rail, you will receive the bread, the body of Christ. Dip it into the chalice. The chalice is divided and contains both wine and white grape juice. If you are unable to come forward just let an usher know, and we will bring the sacrament to you. Gluten free bread is available.

COMMUNION HYMN

O God of Mercy, God of Light

ELW # 714

1. **O God of mercy, God of light, in love and mercy infinite,
teach us, as ever in your sight, to live our lives in you**
2. **You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost world might hear your call;
oh, hear us lest we stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.**
3. **Teach us the lesson Jesus taught: to feel for those his blood has bought,
that ev'ry deed and word and thought may work a work for you.**
4. **For all are kindred, far and wide, since Jesus Christ for all has died;
grant us the will, and grace provide to love them all in you.**
5. **In sickness, sorrow, want, or care, each other's burdens help us share;
may we, where help is needed, there give help as though to you.**
6. **And may your Holy Spirit move all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heav'n above those who have lived to you.**

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt. Public Domain

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make his face shine upon you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, **✚** Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Blessed Be Your Name

Redman

Verse 1

**Blessed be Your name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name**

Verse 2

**Blessed be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be Your name**

Pre-Chorus

*Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord
Still I will say*

Chorus

*Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name*

Verse 3

**Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be
Blessed be Your name**

Verse 4

**Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name**

Pre-Chorus

*Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord
Still I will say*

Chorus

*Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name*

Bridge

**You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord blessed be Your name** *Chorus*

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God. And *weee* will!

POSTLUDE MUSIC

Blessed Be Your Name

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Our Saviour Lutheran Church! We are happy that you came to worship with us today. If you have come seeking the *Almighty, you are in the right place*. If you have come seeking *community in Christ, you are in the right place*. If you came seeking *rest and worship of God most High*, then you came to the right place. Thanks be to God that you are here today!

Children are welcome in this house of worship. Children are a gift from God. Encourage them to participate in worship. Continue the dialogue started here in your homes with your children. Help them understand that God loves them.

Altar Flowers are placed today in memory of Larry McCoy and to the glory of God.

Primetimers is February 4th. We will meet in the library at church at 11:00 and then head to Rendezvous International Cafe (2059 Hamilton Pl.) Sharon Raye is our host. Please let Sharon Harshman sharonharshman1@gmail.com know if you are coming so she may know how many reservations to make.

Choir/Band Rehearsal—Wednesdays at 4:30pm.

Additional support is needed for the Sunday Morning coffee and snack. Please consider occasionally taking a turn. A sign up sheet is posted outside of the kitchen. If you are unsure of just what to do or where to find the supplies, please see Tandy Hobbs, Collete Forsman or Bill McComb.

Melting Pot is again collecting winter clothing, including outerwear, socks, underwear, long sleeved shirts, long pants, etc., to donate to the homeless and less fortunate. Please put the donations in the large box in the hallway for us to deliver with our monthly meals. Our past donations have been so appreciated to help people through our cold months!!!!

Melting Pot thanks you for your generous donations of desserts, which we have plenty of for now. What we need now are **“individually wrapped cracker packets”** to add to our hot entrees, any flavors are welcome!

Announcements for Bulletin —Abai is asking that any announcements for upcoming Sunday's bulletin be submitted by Tuesday please.

Please wear your name tag or use a sticker tag.

Prospective members! If you have an interest in becoming a member, please reach out to the pastor.

Today's Worship Assistants

Music Director:	Martha Hawk
Communion Assistant:	Diana Duncan
Children's Sermon:	Pastor Chris & Gemayel
Lector:	Jim Brunke
Acolytes:	Tom Marshall
Greeters:	Mark Doty & Ricki Doty
Ushers:	Jason Patrick & Teresa Sweet
Tellers:	Travis Hobbs & Tandy Hobbs
Altar Guild:	David Chalkley
A/V Techs:	Travis Hobbs & Laura Patrick
Organ/Piano:	Carolynn Bailey

— SOMETHING BIGGER THAN US —

The beatitudes could easily be read as a list of rewards and consequences, and the kind of behaviors that will merit one or the other. We are well accustomed to understanding the world in such terms. Children receive rewards for good behavior. Students earn awards or scholarships. Athletes win medals or trophies. Success is a ladder we climb and, if we've done our part, our job is rewarded in the end.



Jesus talks about a great reward, but it's not one we can earn. On a closer look, the nature of many of the so-called "blessings" in the beatitudes is as much about what is done to us as about anything we do for ourselves. Jesus begins his sermon by going up the mountain, but his words push us not to new heights but to greater depths. Poverty of spirit, mourning, meekness, hunger, thirst, and persecution—these are not behaviors to strive toward for a reward. Instead, they are circumstances in which we can find ourselves when the ladder we've been climbing falls to the ground. Alternatively, to be merciful or pure in heart or a peacemaker is to choose to get off the ladder altogether for the sake of something bigger than our small selves.

The beatitudes as a whole suggest that Jesus wants more for us than simply collecting a heavenly prize in the end. His blessings assure us that all along the way, that no matter our circumstances, we have an inherent, God—given dignity that no one and nothing can strip from us. At the table of Christ, all who hunger and thirst for righteousness are filled. This meal isn't awarded to us for a job well done. Rather, this meal feeds us for the work still to be done, that of sharing God's mercy and peace with others.

— OFFICE HOURS —

Monday — Friday

10:00AM — 2:00PM

Office Administrator: Abai Curtiss

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Phone: (423) 282—2313



— ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN —

Explain to the children that the word "blessed" also means happy. Television commercials suggest other things that will make us happy. We who are baptized find our deepest happiness not in owning more expensive stuff but in living in mercy and peace. Explain what "mercy" is.

THIS WEEK AT OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mon.	February 2	9:00AM	Groundhog Day Parents' Day Out
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Tues.	February 3		
Wed.	February 4	9:00AM 11:00AM 4:30PM	Parents' Day Out Primetime's Choir & Band Practice
Thur.	February 5		
Fri.	February 6	All Day	Pastor's Day Off
Sat.	February 7	8:30AM	Veteran's Breakfast
<hr/>			
SUN. FEB. 8		9:00AM 10:00AM	Coffee Social Hour Sunday School in Fellowship Hall Confirmation Class in Library 5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY