

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Lord's Day, February 1, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

***God Calls Us to Worship Him:** Responsive Reading of Psalm 63:1-4

Pastor: O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;

Congregation: my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Pastor: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,

Congregation: beholding your power and glory.

Pastor: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

All: So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

*** We Sing in Response:** #44 Red Hymnal "*How Great Thou Art*"

*** We Seek God's Presence in Prayer**

We Confess Our Sins Together: Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you and to one another, that we have sinned against you by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not fully loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not always had in us the mind of Christ. You alone know how often we have grieved you by wasting your gifts, by wandering from your ways. Forgive us, we pray you, most merciful Father; and free us from our sin. Renew in us the grace and strength of your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior. Amen.

We Pray Silent Prayers of Confession

God Assures Us We Are Forgiven: John 3:16-17

*** We Sing In Response to God's Forgiveness:** #359 Black Hymnal "*My Soul Finds Rest*"

*** We Confess Our Faith Together:** Westminster Confession of Faith 23:1,4

Pastor: *How do we understand God's Providence over civil magistrates?*

Congregation (WCF 23.1): God, the Supreme Lord and King of all the world, has ordained civil magistrates to be under him, over the people, for his own glory and the public good, and to this end has armed them with the power of the sword, for the defense and encouragement of them that are good, and for the punishment of evil-doers.

Pastor: *Can believers engage in holding civil offices of the state?*

Congregation (WCF 23.2): It is lawful for Christians to accept and execute the office of a magistrate when called unto in the managing of, as they ought especially to maintain piety, justice, and peace, according to the wholesome laws of each commonwealth, so, for that end, they may lawfully, now under the New Testament, wage war upon just and necessary occasion.

We Read From God's Word: Romans 13:1-7

We Pray For The Congregation and Community

We Memorize God's Word: Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

We Present Our Tithes & Offerings In Worship

We Worship Through the Music of Offertory

* **We Sing the Doxology:** #731 Red Hymnal "*Doxology*"

* **We Give Thanks to the Lord**

* **We Sing In Preparation for the Word:** #318 Black Hymnal "*Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God*"

Children ages 4 through kindergarten dismissed to Children's Worship. The children will be reunited with their parents at the time of the Lord's Supper.

Pastor Reads the Sermon Text: Acts 25:1-12

Pastor Preaches God's Word: "*Paul's Appeal to Caesar*" - Pastor Wes James

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

* **We Sing In Response to the Word:** #176 Black Hymnal "*Be Thou My Vision*"

* **The Lord Sends Us Out (Benediction)**

Sermon Outline
Acts 25:1-12
“Paul’s Appeal to Caesar”
2-1-26

Proposition: Fidelity in the Christian life is a matter of knowing the will of God vs. the ways of the world, while being grounded in the sovereign Hand of God.

Main Point One: The Elders

Sub Point One: Principled Men of “the Faith”

Sub Point Two: Corrupted Faith

Sub Point Three: Their Hatred for Paul

Sub Point Four: Fruitless Trees

Main Point Two: Paul’s Defense

Sub Point One: No wrongs against the Jews or Caesar

Sub Point Two: Festus’ Desire

Sub Point Three: Paul’s Appeal to Justice

Sub Point Four: Paul’s Appeal to Caesar

Main Point Three: The Sovereign Hand of God

Sub Point One: Knowing God

Sub Point Two: Knowing God’s Word

Sub Point Three: The Darkness of the World

Sub Point Four: Faithfulness to Jesus