



February 8, 2026 8:00am

Fifth Sunday of Epiphany

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN

“God, Whose Almighty Word”

LSB 979

God, whose almighty word
Chaos and darkness heard
And took their flight:
Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the Gospel day
Sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light!

Lord, who once came to bring,
On Your redeeming wing,
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inly blind:
Oh, now to humankind
Let there be light!

Text: Public domain

Spirit of truth and love,
Life-giving, holy dove,
Speed forth Your flight;
Move on the water's face,
Bearing the lamp of grace,
And in earth's darkest place
Let there be light!

△ Holy and blessed Three,
Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, love, might!
Boundless as ocean's tide,
Rolling in fullest pride,
Through the earth, far and wide,
Let there be light!

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 66:1-3a, 4, 8; 40:5a; 111:3

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!

Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds!

All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name."

Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard.

You have multiplied, O LORD my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!

Full of splendor and majesty is His work,

and His righteousness endures forever.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

Mighty and merciful God,

we confess that we are sinners, sinful from birth, and separated from You. In our thoughts, words, and actions, we have been unrighteous. Too often, we have been neither salt nor light to the world around us. In repentant faith, we pray for Your mercy. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus, who fulfilled the law for us.

Christ was crucified for us; Christ lived a perfect life for us. In Him, we are declared righteous. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and by the command and authority of Jesus, the Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

In the power of the Spirit, "let Your light shine before all that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (*Matthew 5:16*)

Amen.

KYRIE

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.



- 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
 2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord, keep Your church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 58:3-9a

“Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it? Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the Lord? “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” arr. Mark Patterson

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 205



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



These things are writ - ten that you 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.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Justin Weber

Director of Christian Education

HYMN OF THE DAY**“Thy Strong Word”****LSB 578, vv. 1-4***Choir sings verse 3.*

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
 At Thy speaking it was done.
 For created light we thank Thee,
 While Thine ordered seasons run.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Praise to Thee who light dost send!
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia without end!

*Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
 Bright with Thine own holiness,
 Glorious now, we press toward glory,
 And our lives our hopes confess.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Praise to Thee who light dost send!
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia without end!*

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,
 Dark as night and deep as death,
 Broke the light of Thy salvation,
 Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Praise to Thee who light dost send!
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia without end!

From the cross Thy wisdom shining
 Breaketh forth in conqu’ring might;
 From the cross forever beameth
 All Thy bright redeeming light.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Praise to Thee who light dost send!
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia without end!

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SERMON**“Stay Salty”****Pastor Barry****RESPONSE HYMN****“Thy Strong Word”****LSB 578, vv. 5-6**

Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
 Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
 Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
 Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 May the light which Thou dost send
 Fill our songs with alleluias,
 Alleluias without end!

God the Father, light-creator,
 To Thee laud and honor be.
 To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
 Praise be sung eternally.
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
 Glory, glory be to Thee.
 Mortals, angels, now and ever
 Praise the holy Trinity!

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OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings” LSB 782, v. 1

Gracious God, You send great blessings
New each morning all our days.
For Your mercies never ending,
For Your love we offer praise.
Lord, we pray that we, Your people
Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,
Through the sharing of Your blessings
May bring glory to Your name.

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APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord, Your Word says that we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We pray now for the world in which we are called to let our light shine; for the people who will see our good deeds; and for the church in which the light of the gospel is proclaimed. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, we praise You for Your great love. You have given to Your people Your Word, that we may know of Your salvation for us and be guided in living a holy life in response to Your grace. We thank You for this great gift. Lord, send us Your Holy Spirit, that we may live our lives as salt and light in a world that needs Your flavor and Your light, lest it be continually dark and unresponsive to Your will. May we be empowered to let our lights shine with the true Light, our Lord Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray that Your Church may be a city set on a hill, neither hidden nor obscured, but a beacon of hope and grace to a world in desperate need. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for those who in any way suffer the consequences of living in an unrighteous world, be that because of sickness, death, broken relationships, or emotional damage... Teach us all to bear these trials relying on Your grace. Where You will, grant healing and wholeness. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, we thank You for covering us in Your righteousness, that we may stand before You redeemed by Christ the crucified. We thank you for covering Clara Thunte with Christ's righteousness in the waters of Holy Baptism. Strengthen her in faith as she grows in the wisdom and knowledge of Your great love for her. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, we thank you that you have revealed your wisdom, the wisdom of Christ crucified. Teach us to live as your people. Make us salt and light in the world, and help us to give of ourselves to those in need.
Amen.

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.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

“Rise, Shine, You People”

LSB 825, vv. 1-2

Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
Our human story; God in Him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
With grace unbounded.

See how He sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
Now are forgiven.

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SENDING

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPING WITH ST. JOHN'S TODAY! If this is your first time at St. John's, we encourage you to fill out a CONNECTCard located on the Welcome Desk. We want an opportunity to get to know you.

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Pastor Barry

Pianist: Kristin Johnson

Choir: Jubilate, directed by Dr. Katie Rolf

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolytes: 8:00 Emma Johnson

Elders: 8:00 Paul Dolan

Usher Team: 8:00 Mark Asmus

Welcome Team: 8:00 Gayle Degler, Evan and Jessica Sutherland

Tech Crew: 8:00 Buesgens Family, Hunter Krueger

Coffee Hour: 9:00 Kuester Family

UPCOMING WEEK	
Monday, February 9	Men's Bible Study 6:30am
	Monday Night Meal 5:15pm
	AA 7:00pm
Tuesday, February 10	Elder Meeting 6:30pm
	Mary Martha Guild Meeting 6:30pm
Wednesday, February 11	Moms in the Word 9:30am
	Women's Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm
Thursday, February 12	Women's LifeLight Bible Study 9:30am
Friday, February 13	AA 6:30pm
Saturday, February 14	Colson Fellows Cohort Meeting 8:30am
Sunday, February 15	Worship with Communion 8:00/9:30/10:45am
	Education Hour 9:30am
	Youth Night 6:00pm

In Sympathy

The family of Deb McLean, upon the passing of her mother, Marlene Isaacson.

The family of Emily Watry, upon the passing of her mother, Kathy Studetski.

Prayers for Healing and Strength

Lowell Lenz
Shelley Bartizal
Mary Swanson
Pastor Al Holthus

Tracy Koepsell
JoAnn Schesso
Barb Frey
Patti Oelfke

Allan Panning
Janet Macenthun
Joel Landskroener
Jolene Berg

Ongoing Prayers

Carol Affeldt
John Barney
Merlin Bentz
Jack Boman
Jimann Campbell
Julie Carver
Marguerite Craighead
Sunnie Deis

Anita Doss
Sid & Merna Fjelstad
Dennis Gaarder
Ruth Harms
Eugene Henke
Carol Jones
Len Kallsen

Tim & Gretchen Laubach
Marilyn Lenzen
Melinda Meuwissen
Steve Pond
Austin Rannow
Val Schlefsky
Cliff Waller
Ruth Ziegler

Expectant Moms

Izzy King
Brenda Simpson

Nicole Stockey

Brittany Thormodson
Kourtney Vipond

Celebrating Birthdays

2/8

Jim DeWaard
Rebecca Kloos
Brody Wercinski
Bennett Wercinski
Adelyn Zabel

2/9

William Hangrove
Pamela Roepke

2/10

Owen Brooks
Doris Coghill
Richard Kjos

2/10

Sydney Sandvig
Jeremiah Sihombing
Wendy Voehl

2/11

Abel Otto

Timmy Rawerts
Nancy Van Sloun

2/12

Emma Johnson
Jake Thuente

2/13

Autumn Christiansen

2/13

Airin Matzke
Kevin Milbrandt
Lexie Pandolfo
Craig Pauling
Lori Siedelman

2/14

Faith Hagen
Hayley Hammons
Cara Krenz
Joelle Oliver
Derek Schmitz
Sandra Sprengeler

St. Johns
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