



First Lutheran Church

Sunday, February 8, 2026 | 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others.

Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.



PRELUDE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INVOCATION

GATHERING SONG | *God So Loved*

Come all you weary, come all you thirsty. Come to the well that never runs dry.
Drink of the water, come and thirst no more.

Come all you sinners, come find His mercy. Come to the table; He will satisfy.
Taste of His goodness, find what you're looking for.

**Chorus: For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us.
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.**

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions. Come lay them down at the foot of the cross.
Jesus is waiting there with open arms. **Chorus**

**Chorus 2: The power of hell forever defeated. Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom,
For God so loved, God so loved the world.**

Praise God, praise God, from Whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, praise Him, for the wonders of His love.
Praise God, praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, praise Him, for the wonders of His love. His amazing love.

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save. **Chorus**

Chorus 2

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions. Come lay them down at the foot of the cross.
Jesus is waiting, God so loved the world.

CONFSSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Merciful God, **C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out our offenses. Release us from the guilt and shame we carry, and renew a right spirit within us. Teach us your ways, and uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in the newness of life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

KYRIE | *Create in Me a Clean Heart* | ELW #186

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

HYMN OF PRAISE | *Glory be to God* | ELW pg 204, vs 1

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth.
We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you, here on earth our songs we raise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Lord God, **C: with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

MUSICAL MESSAGE | *Just As I Am* - arr. Arnold B. Sherman | *Alleluia Ringers*

FIRST READING | *Isaiah 58:3-10*

³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. ⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷ 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 them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am." If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

RESPONSIVE PSALM | *Psalm 112:5-10*

R: It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice.

C: For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.

R: They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD.

C: Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

R: They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.

C: The wicked see it and are angry; they gnash their teeth and melt away; the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | ELW pg. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL | *Matthew 5:13-20*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th Chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks 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. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON | Pastor Joe Skogmo

HYMN OF THE DAY | *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* | ELW #815

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: 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.

2. 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. **Refrain**

3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. **Refrain**

STATEMENT OF FAITH | *Apostle's Creed*

C: 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Lord in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

OFFERING / NOISY OFFERING | *February: Lutheran Social Services of MN*

OFFERTORY SONG | *Holy, Holy, Holy* | ELW #473

1 Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy God. (*Sing 2x*)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Loving God, C: receive this offering for the building up of your kingdom: the proclamation of your word and the loving of our neighbor. Amen.

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG | *This Little Light of Mine* | ELW #677 - vs 1, 2, 3, & 1

1. This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
2. Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
3. Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
1. This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

February 18 @ noon & 6pm.

Join us for one of our Ash Wednesday worship services. A soup & sandwich lunch will follow our noon worship service. We will serve our Oasis diner at 5pm, as usual, however, there will be NO prek-12th grade programing that evening.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK-IN

March 7-8, 8pm—8am

Sixth - eight graders, are you ready for an epic filled all-nighter? Games! Food! Fun!

Volunteers are needed to help staff this event, if you are a night owl and want to be part of the action, contact Oliva.

THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 1 pm. in the library
Through March 10

Led by Wade Dutton, see and discuss this acclaimed video series about Jesus and his "chosen" disciples.

Each of the 8 sessions includes a 40-50 minute video with discussion following. If you are not able to come each week, each video stands on its own. Or you can watch online anytime at:

[Home Page | The Chosen](#)

BLESSING CLOSET NEEDS

Currently we are need of: mens clothing. Donations can be brought to the church office. Thanks!

PRECHEL FUNERAL | Tuesday, February 17 @ 1pm

Thanks for worshiping with us!



Lead Pastor: Joe Skogmo
Associate Pastor: Matthew Rossler
Music Director: Karen Bimberg

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REBEKAH CIRCLE

The Rebekah Circle will meet on February 10 @ 9am at the Lincoln Park Apartments, 207 Park St.

HIGH SCHOOL FREE LUNCH

High School Students, join us on February 26 @ 11:30am at Pizza Ranch for lunch with the Pastors

COORDINATING COUNCIL

The Coordinating Council will meet Wed, Feb 25 @ 9:30am in the Conference Room.

RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet Thursday, February 12 @ 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for treats and a Gather Bible Study.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

If you are a High School Senior who plans to attend a ELCA Lutheran Colleges - *good news!* There is a scholarship available for you through the Women of the ELCA. Applications can be picked up in the church office, and must be submitted by April 30.

SUMMER CAMP

Are you planning on sending your kids to camp this summer? Scholarships are available for those planning on attending Luther Crest or Camp Emmaus. For more information, contact Olivia.

WANT TO TRY

CONFIRMATION AGAIN?

On select Wednesdays you can come to the sanctuary from 6:30pm to 7:30pm and join our 7th & 8th graders for their confirmation lesson. Take a seat in an open pew and learn and relearn alongside our middle schoolers! Join us for any or all of the following lessons:

2/11: Theology – Vocation

2/25: Theology – Money

3/18: Theology – Creation

3/25: Theology – Baptism & Communion

4/8: Theology – The Cross vs. Glory

Today's altar flowers are given in memory of Edna Knutson

by her daughters Shila Worden & Palma Wright.

Prayers for God's People

Ongoing prayers for:

Bill Wegscheid, Cole Woltjer, Vern, Greta Frisch, Judy Wood, Larry Kjono, Tyler Wilson, Dave & Pam Nustad, Cami Eckhoff, Atticus, Kathy Larson, Henrietta Malchow, Lowell Wenberg & Janice Ness.

Prayers of comfort for those who mourn the loss of a loved one, including, the families of Matt Brown, Richard Dahlen & Mary Lou Anderson.

GIVE ONLINE

Prefer electronic giving?

Set up an automated method and frequency that works best for you by using the QR code.

Then, if you like, drop the **green laminated slip** in the offering plate.

