

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE AND TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

THE GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS-

(8:00) "May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill"
(10:30) "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

#698
on screen

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER (10:30)

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION (8:00) (Please see below to prepare.)

Preface and Sanctus p208
Lord's Prayer p209
Words of Institution and Pax Domini p209
Agnus Dei p210

PREPARATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Because Holy Communion is an expression of our oneness in faith, we request that each person desiring to commune with us examine him/herself on the basis of these points of faith:

- I believe that:
+ I am a sinner in need of God's forgiveness.
+ Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan and death.
+ Jesus Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and
+ The bread and wine I receive are also the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
+ All my sins are forgiven through this Sacrament.
+ As God enables me, I pledge to thank, praise, serve and obey Him.

Those who hold in common these teachings are invited to join us at the Lord's Supper. If you are visiting us for the first time, or have questions or reservations about these points of faith, we invite you to speak with the Pastor before the service.

The lighter colored wine is non-alcoholic for those with special needs. Gluten-free wafers are also available on the small table as you approach the railing.

Hymns during Distribution — Please join in singing:

- "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" #702
- Special Music
- "In the Cross of Christ, I Glory" #427

Nunc Dimittis p211

Post-Communion Collect p212

THE BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING HYMN —

(8:00) "Thy Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness" vs. 5-6 #578
(10:30) "Thy Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness" vs. 1, 5-6 #578

THE POSTLUDE

✘ ✘ ✘

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 8, 2026

WELCOME! In our readings today, light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. The prophet 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 our baptism, we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ the Lord!

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THE PRESERVICE MUSIC AND PRELUDE

THE RINGING OF THE BELL AND PASTORAL GREETING
✘ THE PREPARATION ✘

THE OPENING HYMN —

(8:00) "Thy Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness" vs. 1, 3-4 #578
(10:30) "Bring Forth the Kingdom of God" on screen

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (taken from D.S. IV—p 203)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✘ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: Who made heaven and earth. Psalm 124:8

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. Psalm 130:3-4

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and to call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained 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.

C: Amen.

THE KYRIE AND GLORIA IN EXCELSIS p204

♪ Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

♪ To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth.
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heavenly king!

To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, you take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high—

(Continued on next page →)

**For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply!**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your family the 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.

All: Amen.

✠ THE WORD ✠

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING — Isaiah 58:3-9a

Pew Bibles, p734

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

"Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the judgment of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God. '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.'"

LECTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING — 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, ESV

Pew Bibles, p1132

Though people such as the Corinthians were enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, in this reading St. Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross of Christ.

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, so 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.

LECTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA

♪ **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

p205

**These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – Matthew 5:13-20, ESV

Pew Bibles, p 962

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

C: 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."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

THE SERMON HYMN – "The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace" vs. 1-4

#580

THE SERMON

✠ THE RESPONSE ✠

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE – "The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace" v. 6

#580