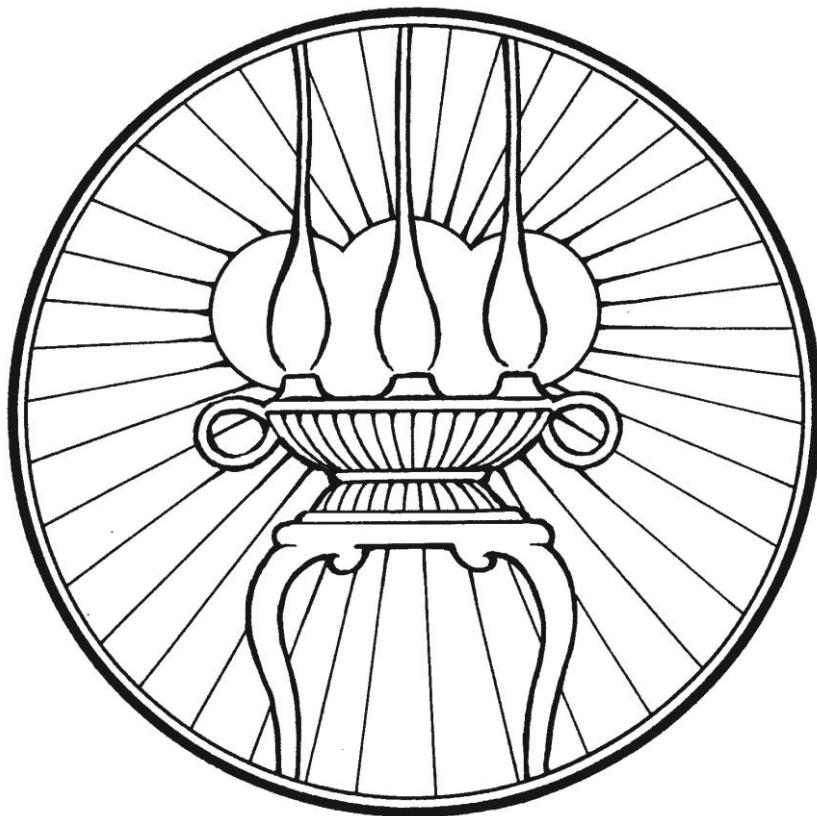


# FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY



**FEBRUARY 8, 2026**

**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)**  
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**AS WE GATHER- THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST-** Jesus warns that “unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:20), but He also calls His imperfect people “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world” (Matt. 5:13, 14). That’s because the Lord Jesus came not to abolish the Law or the prophets, “but to fulfill them” (Matt. 5:17) in perfect faith and love. Since He does and teaches all of God’s commandments, He is “called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:19). God manifests His “demonstration of the Spirit and of power” in “Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2–4), and through the preaching of the Gospel He gives His “secret and hidden wisdom” (1 Cor. 2:7). Christ gives this perfect righteousness to His people, and it leads them to true fasting, which is “to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free” (Is. 58:6) and “to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house” (Is. 58:7).

**DIVINE SERVICE SETTING III P. 184-202**

**OPENING HYMN “THE PEOPLE THAT IN DARKNESS SAT” 412**

**† CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION † P. 184-185**

**† THE SERVICE OF THE WORD †**

**INTROIT PSALM 1119:9-16; ANTIphon: v. 12**

Blessèd are you, O Lord;  
teach me your statutes!

**How can a young man keep his way pure?  
By guarding it according to your word.**

With my whole heart I seek you;  
let me not wander from your commandments!

**I have stored up your word in my heart,  
that I might not sin against you.**

Blessèd are you, O Lord;  
teach me your statutes!

**With my lips I declare  
all the just decrees of your mouth.**

In the way of your testimonies I delight  
as much as in all riches.

**I will meditate on your precepts  
and fix my eyes on your ways.**

I will delight in your statutes;  
I will not forget your word.

**GLORIA PATRI****P. 186****C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;

as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

**KYRIE****P. 186****GLORIA IN EXCELSIS****P. 187-189****SALUTATION AND 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.

**C** Amen.**OLD TESTAMENT****ISAIAH 58:3-9A**

<sup>3</sup>“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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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? <sup>6</sup>“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? <sup>7</sup>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? <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

PSALM 117:1-2A, 96:8

**Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

EPISTLE

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, <sup>4</sup>and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>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”— <sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

P. 190

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

**C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>13</sup>[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.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

<sup>15</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>17</sup>“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.

<sup>18</sup>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.

<sup>19</sup>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.

<sup>20</sup>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 be to Thee, O Christ

NICENE CREED

P. 191

HYMN OF THE DAY

“THY STRONG WORD”

578

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Lord, in your Mercy,

**C** Hear our Prayer.

**In Our Prayers:**

+ Scott Christenson

+ Andy Birkholz

+ Dan Gueningsman

+ Maya Radtke

+ Jeremy Radtke

+ Les Parpart

+ Darian Litzau

+ Robin Lueck

+ Karen Strei

+ Hillard Klaustermeier

+ Angela Litzau

+ Call Process for Associate Pastor

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY "O MORNING STAR, HOW FAIR AND BRIGHT" vs. 2 395

## † SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT † P. 194-199

The Sacrament is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine, but His true body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation, to repentant, reconciled believers in Christ. Our Lord Jesus invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us (Matt. 26:26-28; 1Cor. 11:23-29; Matt.6:15).

We practice closed communion. Why? (1 Cor. 10:16-17). Because our Lord says those who eat and drink His body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm. If not yet instructed, in doubt, or holding a confession differing from that of the LCMS, you are lovingly asked not to commune at this time. Pastor is happy to make an appointment to discuss adult catechesis or questions you have regarding the Sacrament of the Altar.

**Examination Questions:** Please prepare by asking yourself — Am I sorry for my sins? Do I believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior from sin? Do I believe that I am receiving the body and blood of Christ along with the bread and wine? Will I try, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live a more God-pleasing life?

Prayers for "Before communing" and "Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament" are printed on the front cover of the hymnal.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE"	702
"JESUS, THY BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS"	563
"WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS"	425

**NUNC DIMITTIS** P. 199

**COLLECT/SALUTATION** P. 201

**BENEDICTION** P. 202

**CLOSING HYMN "FROM GOD THE FATHER, VIRGIN-BORN"** 401 (T: 632)

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Attendance Last Week**

Sunday: 143

Sun School/Youth: 40

Bible Study: 22

**Organist:**

Lynn Mueller

**CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**1. POTLUCK UPDATE-** TODAY Sunday, February 8 at 11:30 (after second service). Ovens will be on warm if you would like to drop food before attending service. Tableware and drinks will be provided, so just bring your favorite dish to share. We look forward to a time of good food, great conversation, and meaningful fellowship—we hope you'll join us. Everyone is welcome!

**2. SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING-** A Special Voters Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> between services, approximately 9:15 AM. There will be no Bible Study that day (there will be Sunday School). This meeting will be to vote on Associate Pastor candidates.

**3. LOST AND FOUND-** We have accumulated a lot of left behind items, including gloves, scarves, coats and an umbrella. Please check the coat rack in the main hallway to see if any of the items are yours. Anything remaining after February 28<sup>th</sup> will be disposed of.

**4. YOUTH MISSION TRIP** -If you are interested or want to learn more about our youth mission trip to Camp Lutherhaven, please attend a meeting on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Mission trip dates are July 11 – 18<sup>th</sup>.

**5. LENT SCHEDULE-** Please join us for our Midweek Lenten Services, starting Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM. Meals will be served prior to the service. Please note that the services on Wednesdays March 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> will be at St. Peter Lutheran Church.

**6. ASH WEDNESDAY CHILI SUPPER-** Please join us on Ash Wednesday for the ACT Chili Supper, with cornbread and dessert. There will be a free will offering for the Mission Trip to Camp Lutherhaven. Please watch bulletin for time and more information

**7. PRE-SCHOOL MUSIC CLASS** will be held ALL THURSDAY evenings in February from 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the St. Paul's music room. Please join us for some music-making fun, and invite a family from the area to join us too! Babies through age 5 are welcome! Questions? Contact Jane Holasek.

**8. SANDWICH MINISTRY-** Join us for our monthly sandwich making event on Thursday, February 20th at 8:30 a.m.

**9. LILY ORDERS-** If you would like to order an Easter Lily, forms are available on the table in the Upper Narthex. Deadline to order is March 5<sup>th</sup>. No late orders will be taken.

**10. MEAL TRAIN-** A meal train has been set up for the Schulteis Family. What is Meal Train? There are times in our lives when friends and family ask, "What can I do to help out?" The answer is usually to help them with a meal. When many friends provide support through a meal, Meal Train keeps everyone organized. Please use this link to visit the meal train sign up for the Schulteis family:

<https://mealtrain.com/8nzeq4>

**11. SCHEDULE-** *February 15:* Ushers: 1<sup>st</sup> Service-Darian Litzau, Paul Logelin, Jim Hoof; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Brad Ernst, John Lange, Doug Hecksel, Nathan Ide; Acolytes: 1<sup>st</sup> Service- T. Parpart, B. Thompson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: M. Schauer, L. Schauer Greeters- 1<sup>st</sup> Service: Paul Mohwinkel; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Carolyn Toenies; Flowers: Patsy Schauer; Altar Guild: Angela Christen/Debbie Bahr; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

### *Calendar of Events*

<b>Sun. Feb. 8</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b> <b>9:15 a.m.</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b> <b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM.</b> Sun. School/Adult Bible Study/ACT <b>WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM.</b> Congregational Potluck ACT Pizzas ready for pick-up
Mon. Feb 9	3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Release Time Classes Anchor Point (Gr. 7-12) Elder Meeting Council Meeting
Tues. Feb 10	6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Call Committee meeting Dartball Away vs. Waconia
Wed. Feb 11	Noon	Deadline for Bulletin Release Time/Confirmation Classes
Thur. Feb 12	6:30 p.m.	Music Class Admin. Asst. Amanda out of office
<b>Sun. Feb 15</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b> <b>9:15 a.m.</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b> <b>11:30 a.m.</b> <b>3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION</b> Sun. School/Adult Bible Study/ACT <b>WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION</b> Call Committee Meeting ACT Mission Trip Meeting