



February 8, 2026

The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices”

- ♪ Oh, that I had a thousand voices To praise my God with thousand tongues!
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices, Would then proclaim in grateful songs
To all, wherever I might be, What great things God has done for me.
- ♪ O all you pow'rs that He implanted, Arise, keep silence now no more;
Put forth the strength that God has granted! Your noblest work is to adore.
O soul and body, join to raise With heartfelt joy our Maker's praise.
- ♪ You forest leaves so green and tender That dance for joy in summer air,
You meadow grasses, bright and slender, You flow'rs so fragrant and so fair,
You live to show God's praise alone. Join me to make His glory known.
- ♪ All creatures that have breath and motion, That throng the earth, the sea, the sky,
Come, share with me my heart's devotion, Help me to sing God's praises high.
My utmost pow'rs can never quite Declare the wonders of His might.
- ♪ Creator, humbly I implore You To listen to my earthly song
Until that day when I adore You, Together with the angel throng
And learn with choirs of heav'n to sing Eternal anthems to my King.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 811—Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission:
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Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Humble yourselves, then, before God; confess your sins to Him and implore His forgiveness.

O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed, I have continually transgressed Your Law. Too often I have sought the easy road of ignoring the needs of others and considered only myself and my wants. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” (vv. 1&5)

♪ Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise, Manifested by the star
To the sages from afar, Branch of royal David’s stem In Thy birth at Bethlehem:
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

♪ Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Present in Thy holy Word Grace to imitate Thee now
And be pure, as pure art Thou; That we might become like Thee At Thy great Epiphany
And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 394—Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.; Text: Public domain

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 58:3–9a

³‘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.

⁴Behold, 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.

⁵Is 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?

⁶‘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?

⁷Is 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?

⁸Then 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.

⁹Then 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.

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 2:1–16

¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

⁶Yet 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. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, 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”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For 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. ¹²Now 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. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Here I Am, Lord”

♪ “I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.

All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night. I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear My light to them Whom shall I send?”

~Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.

♪ “I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people’s pain.

I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send?” ~Here I am, Lord...

♪ “I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send?” ~Here I am, Lord....

Here I Am, Lord-Text & Tune: Daniel L. Schutte b.1947;
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Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Matthew 5:13–20

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³“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.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In 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.

¹⁷“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. ¹⁸For 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. ¹⁹Therefore 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. ²⁰For 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.

Apostles’ Creed

Children’s Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

- ♪ Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
- ♪ Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
Fully absolved through these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
- ♪ Lord, I believe Thy precious blood, Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty, Was also shed in love for me.
- ♪ Lord, I believe, were sinners more Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid, For all a full atonement made.
- ♪ When from the dust of death I rise To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea: Jesus hath lived and died for me.
- ♪ Jesus, be endless praise to Thee, Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made, An everlasting ransom paid.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 563—Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt.; Text: Public domain

Proclamation of the Word

“Thinking Can Get Us into Trouble”

Matthew 5:17–20

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“God, Whose Almighty Word”

- ♪ 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!
- ♪ 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!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 979—Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825; Text: Public domain

Postlude