

February 8, 2026  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
10:15 AM

+ GATHERING +  
*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

WELCOME AND GREETING

PRELUDE Adoration - Florence B. Price

LIGHTING OF THE TRINITY CANDLE

St. John's is a community that is

**Ignited by Spirit, Growing in Love.**

We begin our worship in the name of the Father,  
the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 786 O Holy Spirit, Enter In

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, why are you here?

**We gather to worship with our hearts and our lives.**

People of God, who do you worship?

**We worship God, who loves us and teaches us to love.**

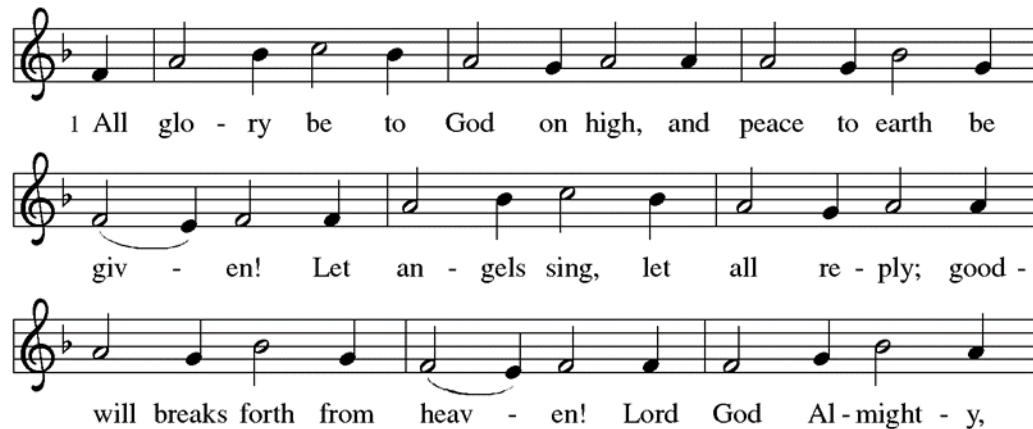
People of God, how do you worship?

**We worship God by breaking the bonds of injustice and freeing the oppressed.**

People of God, come, let us worship God, whose glory surrounds us!

**May our worship demonstrate God's glory in our neighborhood, community, and the whole earth.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be  
giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -  
will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, 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.**

## + WORD +

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-12

*At the conclusion of the reading:*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING: I Corinthians 2:1-16

*At the conclusion of the reading:*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - same as last Sunday

### GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

*At the beginning of the reading:*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion of the reading:*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 715 Christ, Be Our Light

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life,  
you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

**Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.**

**Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.**

Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.

You are the fountain of resurrection.

**Praise to you for your saving waters:**

Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well.  
The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock.  
Naaman washes his leprosy away,  
and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

**Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word  
that saves us in this sacrament.**

Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.  
Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.

**Wash away all that separates us from God and one another.**

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**OFFERING**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**      Salvation Unto Us Has Come - anon. 18th cent.

**OFFERTORY**



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.  
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea-sure.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.  
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be-comes a ho - ly trea-sure.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each petition will end:*

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

+ SENDING +

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### BLESSING

May the triune God,  
who has put a new song in your mouth  
and tuned your heart for praise  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen**

SENDING SONG ELW 314 Arise, Your Light Has Come!

##### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.  
**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Trumpet Tune in A - David N. Johnson

*The liturgy for today's worship service was reprinted by permission from Sundays and Seasons.com, copyright 2026. Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #45176. The hymns and songs unless otherwise noted, are covered under copyright licenses; CCLI 1490857, OneLicense.net A-709256, or are Public Domain. Copyright 2026. Call to worship written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025.*

#### PRAYER LIST

Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers: Bob Moran, Leonard Gibeon, David Mounts, Ed & Billie Schanely, Steve Keyser, Andrew Breuninger, Renee Fels, Rebecca Jellen, Richard Ditzler, Joy Miller, Alyson Harvey, Audrey Sell, Marie Wolfe, Erik Ockenlaender, Mary Eberle, Brandon Blanchard, Gladys Kazalonis, Elizabeth Brossett and family, John Moore, Paige Seasock, Tanner Antalosky, Bob Schanely, Will Morgan and Richard Mitchell.

## Mark Your Calendar

Monday, Feb. 9	7pm Great Songs of Faith Choir rehearsal 7:30pm Council Meeting
Sunday, February 15	8am Worship 9am Sunday School 10:15 Worship

**Superbowl Grids**—Winners will be announced in Monday's weekly email.

**College student addresses** are being collected as we anticipate sending care packages this winter. If you have a college student in your household, please share his/her mailing address with us! Send in your student's address to the church office, email [stj.stown@verizon.net](mailto:stj.stown@verizon.net)!

**Lenten Prayer Partners** Lenten Prayer Partners return for 2026! Prayer is just one of the faith practices encouraged throughout our lives as Christians, but it is a practice that is lifted up specifically in the readings we hear on Ash Wednesday, the official beginning of the Lenten season. While devotional resources will be provided in the weeks leading up to Ash Wednesday, a prayer partner is another way to faithfully engage in the practice of prayer during the Lenten season.

This year, there are two ways you can express your interest in having a Lenten prayer partner:

1. You can sign up by emailing Pastor Becky
2. You can sign up on the bulletin board outside Pastor Becky's office.

Sign ups will run thru the first Sunday in Lent, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. After worship on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Pastor Becky will put all the names that have signed up into a bowl and pick partners. Pastor Becky will then communicate who your prayer partner is by email or phone on Monday, February 23.

**Sunday Morning Coffee Bar is BACK!** Join us at the coffee bar at the back entrance for coffee, hot tea, breakfast treats and conversation starting at 8:30AM.

Volunteers are needed to cover the coffee bar each week - which means set up, bring treats to share and clean up. The sign up sheet is available outside Pastor Becky's office - please sign up to help!

**RISE Against Hunger NEW DATE** is March 22nd. The new sign up will be available in the next weekly email.

**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 18, 2026**

*Return to the Lord your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,  
and relenting from punishment. - Joel 2:13*

Multiple opportunities will be offered to worship and receive the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday.

**11 AM Worship with Imposition of Ashes** at New Goshenhoppen UCC, East Greenville  
Preacher: Pastor Nick Pence

**7 PM Worship with Imposition of Ashes and Communion** at Friedens UCC, Sumneytown  
Preacher: Pastor David Williams

**Drive-Thru Imposition of Ashes Available:**

6:00-9:00 AM – parking lot at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Red Hill

8:00-9:00 AM - St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Pennsburg

3:00-5:30 PM – parking lot at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Red Hill

4:00-5:30 PM – in the front circle at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Sumneytown

**First Communion Workshop Saturday, March 21 9:30-11:30 AM**

Any 2nd-5th grade student who has not received communion is welcome to attend this spring's first communion workshop. A parent/grandparent must attend the workshop with each student.

Students who attend will receive their first communion on Sunday, March 29 at the 10:15 AM service - a luncheon with cake will be held after worship to celebrate with our first communion recipients. Sign up link on Monday's weekly email or contact Pastor Becky.



**Save The Date!**

The Heavenly Helper Spaghetti  
Dinner Roof Fundraiser  
has been rescheduled for  
Saturday, February 28  
5:00-7:00 PM

*Dessert donations will be needed!*



## **Soup & Study – Lent 2026**

A Different Way to Journey Through Lent  
Where Faith Finds Color

**Mondays in Lent | 5:30–7:00 p.m.**

Begins Monday, February 23, 2026

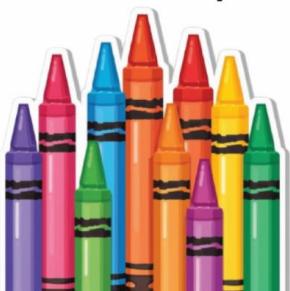
**St. John's Lutheran Church, Sumneytown**

We'll share a simple meal, meaningful conversation, and time to reflect together using Coloring Lent. This group invites us to talk and color side by side, creating space for reflection, discussion, and quiet moments along the way. The book will also serve as a personal devotional guide throughout Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

**Book:** Coloring Lent: An Adult Coloring Book for the Journey to Resurrection

**Books are available for \$10**

from Pastor Becky, St. John's ([pastorbecky74@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbecky74@gmail.com))  
or Pastor Stephanie, Friedens ([pastor.friedensucc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.friedensucc@gmail.com))



**Please bring your own coloring supplies  
to the Monday gatherings:  
crayons, markers,  
or colored pencils.**

**No artistic experience needed.  
All are welcome.**