



A COMMUNITY REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE WITH A PLACE AT THE TABLE FOR EVERYONE

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany, February 8, 2026

Pr. Ben Colahan, presiding

PRELUDE

*Praeludium [e-Moll]* | A. M. Brunckhorst

WELCOME

Pr. Ben Colahan

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 715 | *Christ, Be Our Light*



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



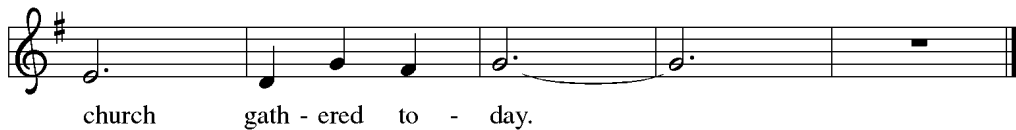
your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



GREETING

Pr. Ben Colahan

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Pr. Ben Colahan

CALL) Mighty God, lover of justice,

**RESP) you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

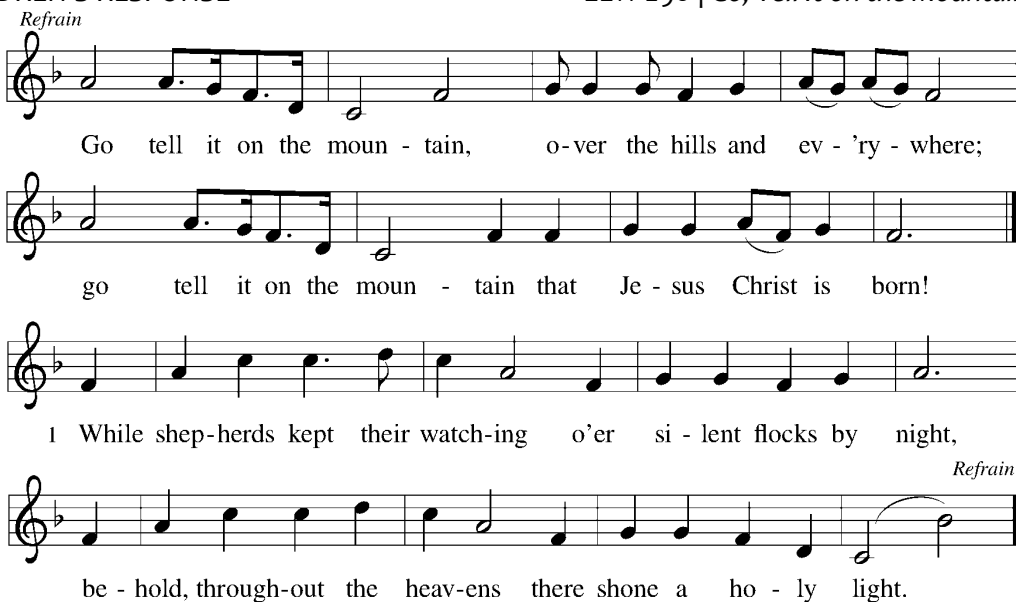
Pr. Ben Colahan

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Josh Edwards

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

ELW 290 | *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* | v. 1



Text: African American spiritual, refrain: John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

FIRST READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Sherrill Heinz

<sup>1</sup>When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God

to you with superior 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 came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. <sup>6</sup> Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. <sup>7</sup> But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory <sup>8</sup> and which none of the rulers of this age understood, 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 human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—<sup>10</sup> God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

**CALL)** Word of God, word of life.

**RESP)** Thanks be to God.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW s. 6, p. 171a



GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20

Pr. Ben Colahan

**CALL)** The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**RESP)** Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup> "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. <sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> 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. <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 in heaven. <sup>17</sup> "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup>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. <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.”


CALL) The gospel of the Lord.  
RESP) Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *We want to be in the spotlight, but Jesus gives us a spot to be light.*  
Pr. Ben Colahan

HYMN OF THE DAY VT 297 | You Are Salt for the Earth


Verses

*Cantor:*



1. You are salt for the earth, O peo - ple:  
2. You are a light on the hill, O peo - ple:  
3. You are a seed of the Word, O peo - ple:  
4. We are a blest and a pil - grim peo - ple:

*All:*




Salt for the King-dom of God! Share the fla - vor of  
Light for the Cit - y of God! Shine so ho - ly and  
Bring forth the King-dom of God! Seeds of mer - cy and  
Bound for the King-dom of God! Love our jour - ney and

*All:*



life, O peo - ple: Life in the King-dom of God!  
bright, O peo - ple: Shine for the King-dom of God!  
seeds of jus - tice, Grow in the King-dom of God!  
love our home - land: Love is the King-dom of God!

Refrain



Bring forth the King-dom of mer - cy, Bring forth the



Text: Mary Haugen, b. 1950  
Tune: Mary Haugen, b. 1950  
© 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. William Stomski

**Sung Response) O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.  
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.**

BAPTISM OF ZACHARY ENGLAND

Pr. Ben Colahan

**CALL)** Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**RESP) I renounce them.**

**CALL)** Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**RESP) I renounce them.**

**CALL)** Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**RESP) I renounce them.**

**CALL)** Do you believe in God the Father?

**RESP) We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**CALL)** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**RESP) We 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.**

**CALL)** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**RESP) We 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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pr. Ben Colahan

**CALL)** The peace of Christ be with you all.

**RESP) And also with you.**

## WELCOMING OF VISITORS

Pr. Ben Colahan

## OFFERING

Luther Seminary News  
Produced by Josh Edwards

*If parents would like their children in communion, please get them during this time.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

**CALL)** The Lord be with you.

**RESP)** **And also with you.**

**CALL)** Lift up your hearts.

**RESP)** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**CALL)** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**RESP)** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## AGNUS DEI

ELW Setting 10, p. 208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## COMMUNION SONGS

*Lord I Need You* | Christy Nockels, Daniel Carson, Jesse  
Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, Matt Maher

*In God Alone/Mon âme se repose* | Taizé



If you would like one-on-one, personal prayer at this time,  
we invite you to pray with today's Healing Minister on the  
north side of the room/wall facing East 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. William Stomski

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Pr. Ben Colahan

SENDING SONG

ELW 866 | We Are Marching in the Light of God



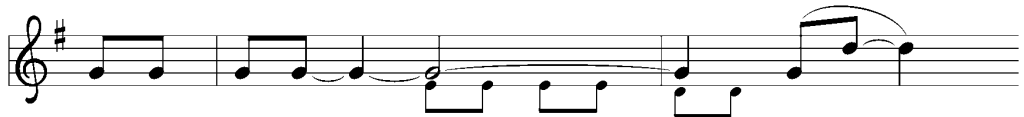
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -  
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',  
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



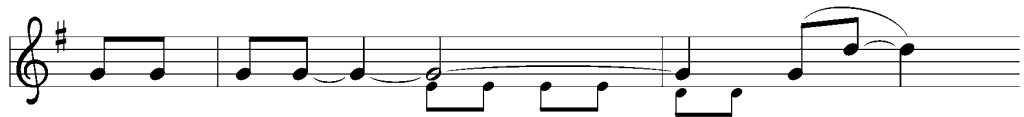
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.  
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.  
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo

*Additional stanzas ad lib.:*

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

## BLESSING

Pr. Ben Colahan

## DISMISSAL

Rev. William Stomski

CALL) Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**RESP) Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Sinfonia from Cantata No. 29 | J. S. Bach

Text: South African traditional; W. Freedom Is Coming, 1984  
Music: SYAHAMBA, South African traditional  
© 1984 Ulrick, admin. Walton Music Corp.

## Giving at Faith Lutheran

You can use this QR code by opening the camera on your phone and focusing on the image. A prompt from "tithe.ly" will pop up. Click it and you will be sent to our giving page. You can also access our giving page at [ChicoFaithLutheran.org/Give](https://ChicoFaithLutheran.org/Give).

Cash or checks can be placed in the offering plate during service or dropped off at the office. You may donate to our General Fund which supports our budget (staff salaries, operating costs, repairs and maintenance) or you may give to any designated fund like the capital campaign, visiting musicians, or youth and children.



## Coffee with the Council Today after Church!

We are just over half-way through our fiscal year! Grab your coffee and hear from our council what's been happening with the capital campaign and where we stand on our budget.





## **Our service is possible because of today's ministers:**

Presiding Minister: Pr. Ben Colahan  
Assisting Minister: Rev. William Stomski  
On-Site Council Member: Chris Brown  
On-Site Equipping Minister: Carol Grandy  
Communion: Dave Barnum, Molly Barnum (shepherd), Gen Brink-Capriola, Annette  
Jefferson, and Sharon Prindle  
Communion Clean-up: Laurea Dunn  
Ushers: Suzie Ernest and Carol Grandy  
Lector: Sherrill Heinz  
Welcome Table: Holly Oroggen and Judy Sitton  
Coffee Hour: Carol Hall and Steve Hall  
A/V Desk: Malinda Ard, Kai Pappani-McDermott, and Kate Ory  
Healing Minister: Maureen Hopson  
Offering Counters: Lori Briggs-Oman and Joan Palmer  
Parking Lot: David Brown, Steve Hall, and Pat Snyder  
Musicians: FLC Contemporary Team  
Cantor: Luke Nicolay

## **Wilderness Worship: Almond Blossom Stroll**

**Sunday, February 15th, 1pm-3pm, 16414 CA-99, Chico**

Martin Luther said, "Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf in springtime." Celebrate the promise of new life by strolling through an almond orchard in bloom. Award winning photographer, Joshua Edwards will take free portraits of individuals and families among the flowers. We'll also celebrate this season of love by reading about God's love for us from the *Song of Solomon*. Stop by the orchard of Eleanor Hyatt, Daun Weiss's mother, anytime between 1-3pm at 16414 CA-99, Chico, CA 95973 on Sunday, February 15th.

## **Ash Wednesday Services 7:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. on February 18**

Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world. *If you can't attend the services, our staff is delighted to offer you a blessing with ash at the office.*

## **Bring Ashes and Flowers to the Homebound**

In our worship life, we begin Lent with placing ashes on our foreheads and end Lent by placing flowers on the cross. This year, we strive to bring both ashes and flowers to the homebound members of our congregation during Lent. If you are interested in visiting our beloved elder siblings in Christ and bringing them these tangible reminders of our death and resurrection, please contact Marge Troester.

## **Steve Troester Memorial Blood Drive Sun., February 22, 9AM-12:15PM**

We are partnering with Vitalant again to bring the Steve Troester Memorial Blood Drive back to Faith Lutheran! Usually we host the blood drive in the fall, but this year we are trying out a different season. Steve was incredibly passionate about helping others and every year we host this drive in his honor under Marge Troester's organization – so thank you, Marge! You can scan the QR code to register, or you may call Vitalant, Marge, or our church office and we will help you.

## **Class on Christians and Authority: Sundays in Lent at 11am**

Our country is in the midst of major disagreement about the role of government authority. What do the scriptures and our Lutheran tradition teach about how followers of Jesus are to wield authority and to respond to those in authority? Throughout Lent, Pastor Ben will teach a five part class covering such topics as use of force, obedience, resistance, and accountability. Starting February 22nd, Sunday mornings at 11am in the sanctuary. This class will be recorded and available online.

## **Sundays @5pm: February 22nd Community Gospel Concert at 4pm**

In honor of Black History Month, on Sunday February 22nd, Faith Lutheran will host, "A Faithful Celebration," a community gospel concert. Churches from around Butte County will join together in singing God's praises through the tradition of black gospel music and reading scripture. This event will go from 4pm-6pm and will take the place of our regular Sunday @5pm service. After the celebration we will have a potluck in the fellowship hall.

## **Ecumenical Wednesday Evenings in Lent: Transformation through Prayer, Soup, and Worship, February 25th - March 25th**

**5:15-6:15pm: Class on fasting, prayer, and almsgiving in sanctuary**

**6:15pm - 7pm: Soup supper | 7pm - 8pm: Ecumenical Worship**

Join us for an evening of learning how God transforms our lives and the world. Start each Wednesday evening in Lent with a class on the traditional spiritual practice for Lent: fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Then share soup and join us for worship led by a different local congregation each week.

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Sundays

- Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m.
- Dungeons & Dragons (5e) on 2nd Sundays of Month, 5:00 p.m. Room 6 (Kate Ory, Malinda Ard)
- Sundays @ 5 Service in the Sanctuary at 5:00 p.m.

### Mondays

- Inviting Silence at 7:00 a.m. in the chapel (*part of office wing*) (Bill Kees)
- Time Out for Art in Room 6 from 1-4:00 p.m. (Caryl Quinones, Sherrill Heinz)
- Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting in Room 4 at 7:00 p.m.

### Tuesdays

- Quilters in the Fellowship Hall from 10:00 AM to about 3:00 p.m. (Char Miller)
- Centering Prayer on Zoom from 4-5 p.m. (Bill Kees)
- Pastor's Bible Study on Zoom from 5-6 p.m. (Pr. Ben)

### Wednesdays

- Spanish Conversation Group on Zoom at 9am (Clark Colahan)
- Inviting Silence at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel (*part of office wing*) (Bill Kees)
- Griefshare at 2:00 p.m. in Room 7 (Nola D, Stephen K, Peter M)
- Handbell Practice in the Fellowship Hall at 4:00 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)

### Thursdays

- Spiritual Seekers Bible Study on 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room (Mary Schweder)
- Afternoon Games at 1200 Park Ave. Clubhouse from 12 to 3:00 p.m. (Elise Gladu)
- Choir Practice in the Sanctuary at 5:45 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)
- Gambler's Anonymous at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room
- Contemporary Music Practice in the Sanctuary at 7:15 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)
- Troop 12 in Room 7 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Chris Brown)

### Fridays

- Men's Breakfast at Farmer's Skillet on Rio Lindo at 8:00 a.m. (Howie Stensrud)
- Bulletin Folders in the Sanctuary at 2:00 p.m. (Laurae Dunn)
- Food Bank, 1st & 3rd Fridays in the Parking Lot from 3:00-5:00 p.m. (Lisa Roehling)

**We want to be *in* the spotlight, but Jesus gives us a spot to *be* light.**

Jesus insists he does not come to abolish God's law, but to fulfill it. Accused of breaking the commandment to rest by encouraging his disciples to harvest grain to eat and heal on the sabbath (*Matthew 12:1-4*), Jesus makes clear that to fulfill God's law is to live out its purpose rather than to follow rules by rote.

If we follow God's law only to gain personal rewards, it is possible to use even God's law for selfish sinful purposes.

United with Christ, Jesus' righteousness becomes our own so that trusting we have a place in the heavenly kingdom, we can follow God's law – not for personal gain, but for love of God and our neighbor. In this way, we experience the kingdom of heaven now.

*When have you kept the letter of the law, but not its spirit? When have you kept the spirit of the law by violating its letter?*

*What is your goal when you play a sport or a game? What is your goal when you live out God's commandments?*

*How can you use the places Jesus puts you this week to shine God's light on others?*