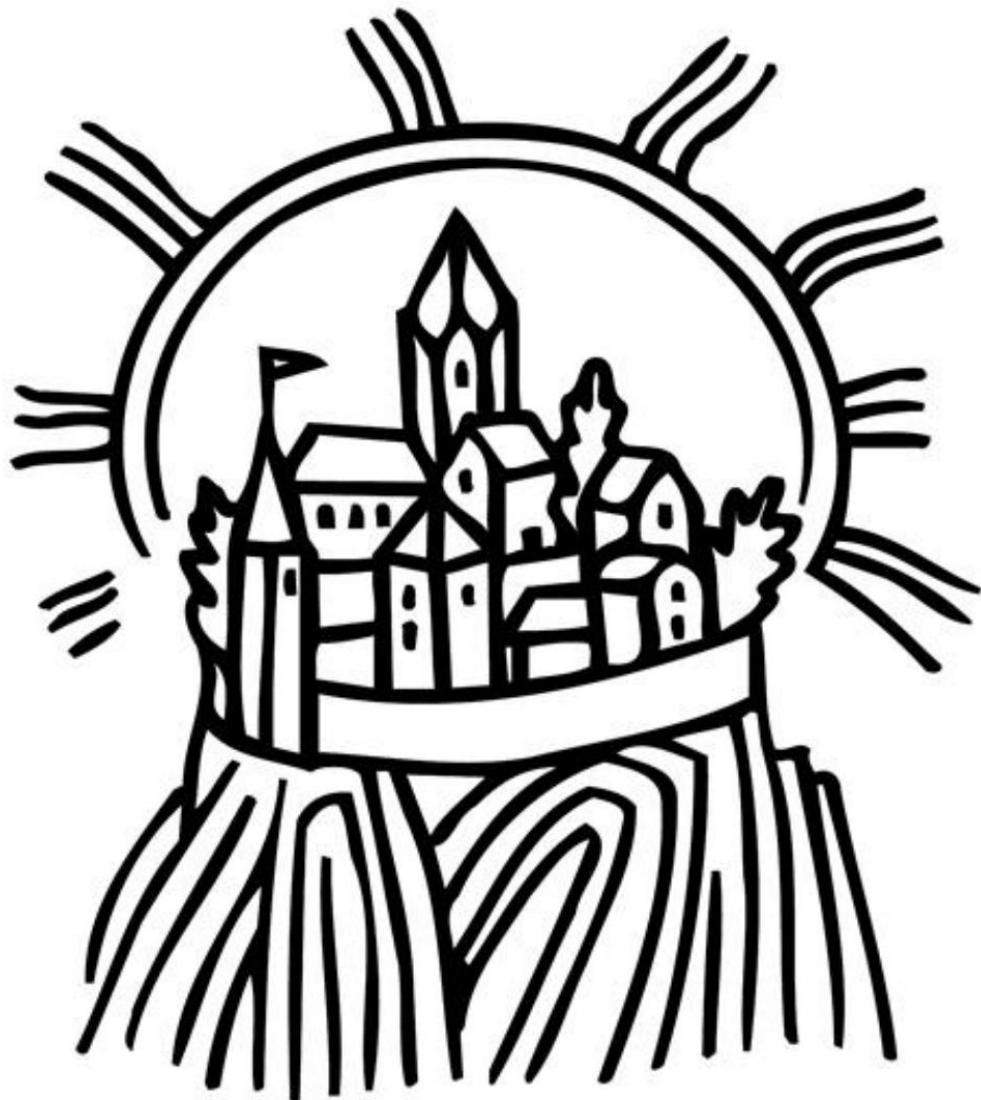




ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

GATHERING

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shin-ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

***CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

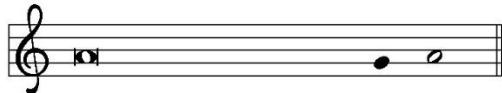
Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: **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.**

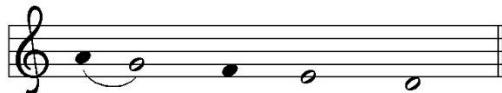
P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: **Amen.**

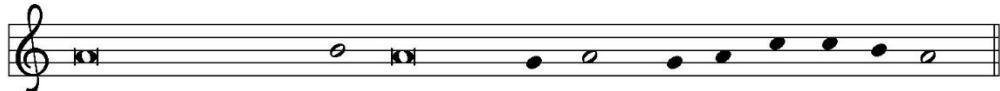
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



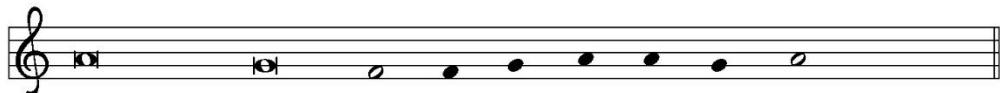
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



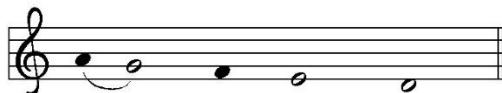
Lord, have mer - cy.



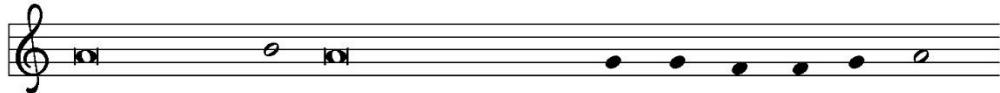
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Glory

Assisting minister

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also, with you.

P: Let us pray... through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Choir Anthem

WORD

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

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. But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory and which none of the rulers of this age understood, 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 human heart conceived,

what God has prepared for those who love him"—

God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 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. 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. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

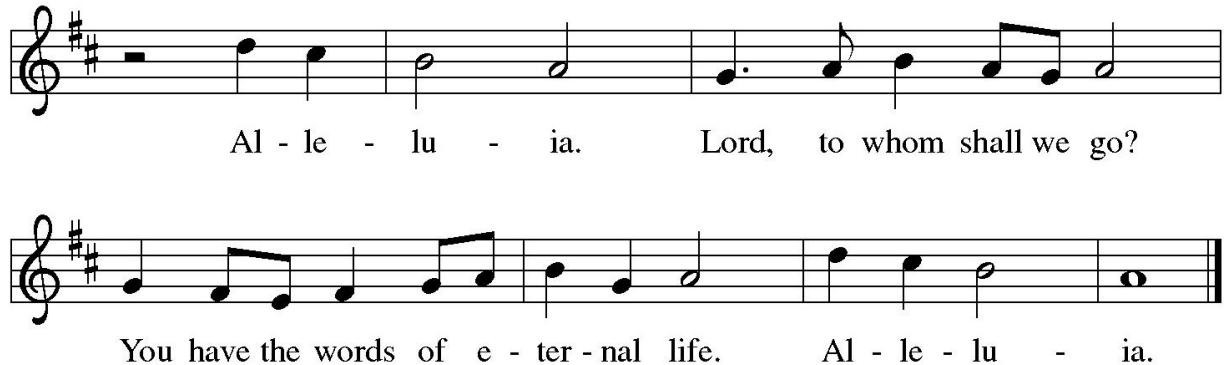
"For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?"

But we have the mind of Christ.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

*GRADUAL HYMN



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter, beginning with the 13th verse.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

“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.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 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. 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.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. 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. 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. 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

Sermon

HYMN OF THE DAY
This Little Light of Mine

Text: African American spiritual
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935
Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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***APOSTLES' CREED**

P: Let us now confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.
A brief silence.
Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world.
Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer

A: Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving, especially Rosemary Rizzo, Tony Rizzo, Erin Jankowski, Dee Marinov, John Veihdeffer, and all those we name in our hearts. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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.

C: Amen

PEACE

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

P: Let us share God's peace with each other now.

MEAL

OFFERING AND SETTING THE TABLE

*OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all

crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye

heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

*OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: **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**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

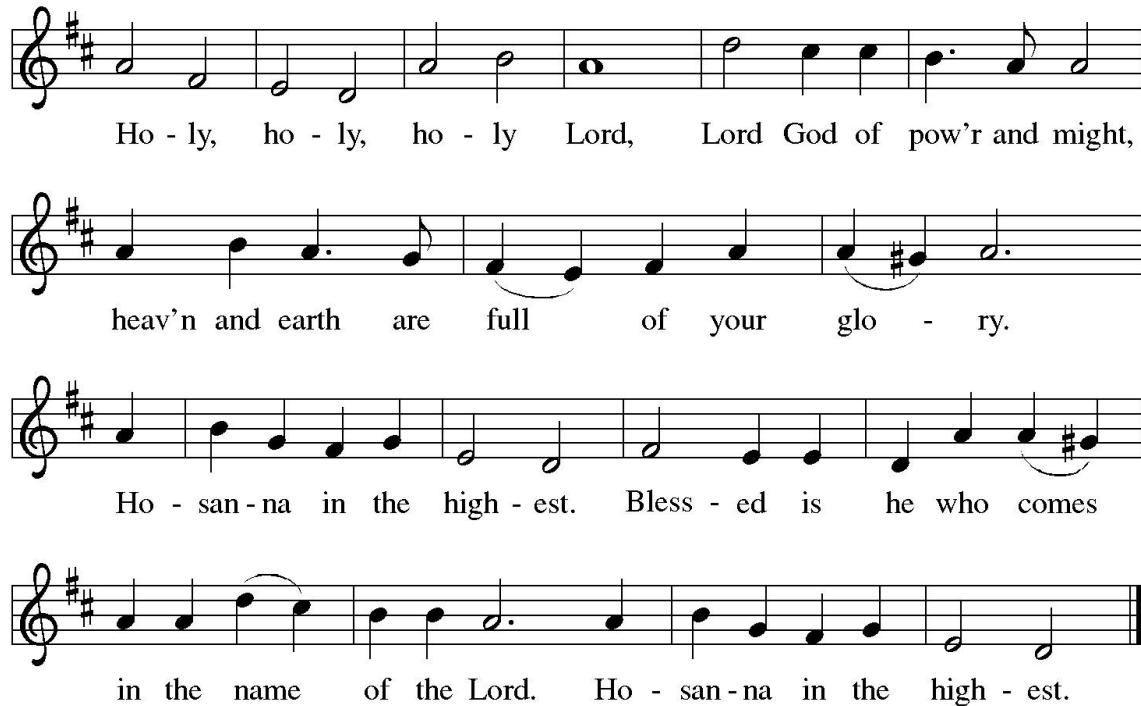
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*THE PROPER PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with all the choirs of angels and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

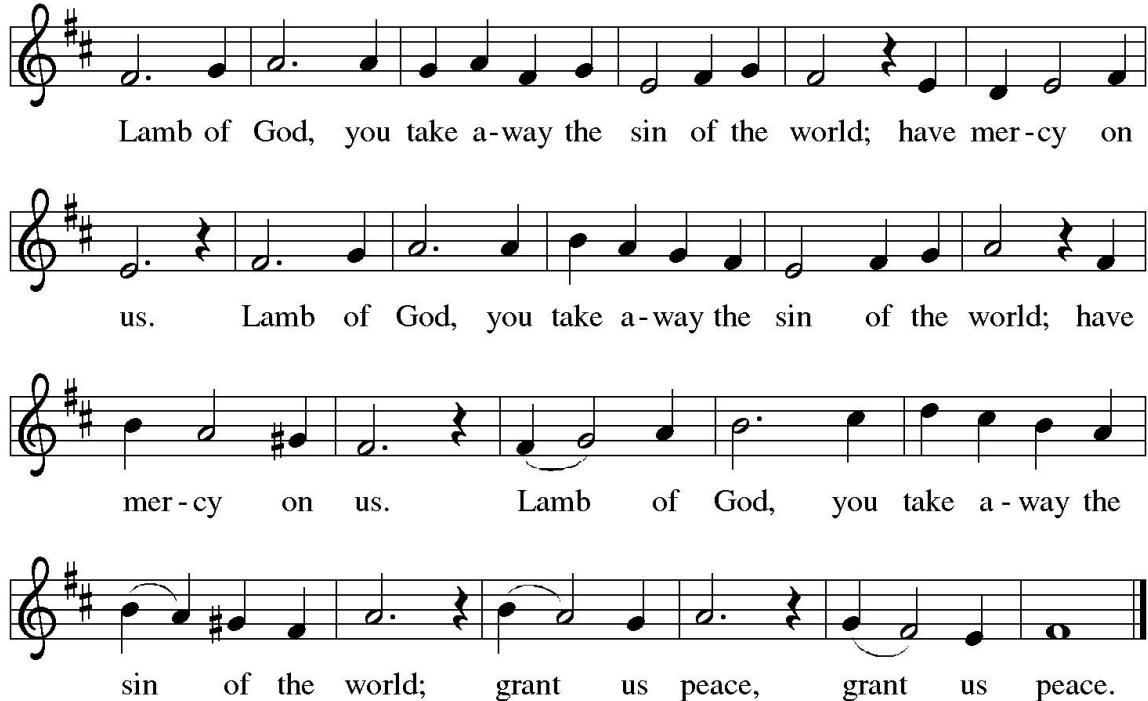
And so Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as our Lord Jesus taught us.

C: **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.**

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

COMMUNION MUSIC



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. **Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have**

mer-cy on us. **Lamb of God, you take a-way the**

sin of the world; grant us peace, **grant us** **peace.**

COMMUNION HYMN

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

1 Lord, whose love in hum - ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,
2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light
4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,

who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-en ed sight,
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;

we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas - sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,

con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984
Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985
Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.
Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress.

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*STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

SENDING

***PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION**

P: And now may this, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace forever.

C: **Amen.**

A: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

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

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn (See next page)

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

SENDING HYMN
Let Streams of Living Justice



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn-ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home-land bright-ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874-1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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**COVER IMAGE: SUNDAYS AND
SEASONS**

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Announcements

WE PRAY FOR...

- Rosemary Rizzo - Tony Rizzo - Erin Jankowski -
-Dee Marinov- Diane Busdiecker-Elaine Wolffer-
-Brian Freeburg- Maryann and Chip Orlando-
The friends and family of Emily Friedrich-John
Veihdeffer

George Troester- Son of Maureen Sieteski
Maya Chakraborty
Katherine Sikorski
Brooke- Great-niece of Annette Berg
Angela Roeser
Emily- Niece of Patty Walker
Frank Senn- Brother of Nancy Noble
Janice Darveau- Friend of Kathy Busdiecker
David Jinks- Sarah Kuehfus' Father
The family of Pete & Gayle Ciraolo- Vince
Ciraolo's cousin
Diane Byers- Friend of Nancy Stoehr
Reed White- Friend of Nancy Stoehr
Tom Smith- Shirley Shannon's brother-in-law

The annual meeting of the St. Paul's congregation will take place on Sunday, February 8th following the service.



SCAN HERE FOR ST. PAUL'S DONATION PAGE



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH



It's Time to Lighten Up!

This is a strange time of year. The days are short, the nights are long, and even though we dream of more daylight, we walk around hoping against hope that there won't be enough sunshine produced for a rodent (okay, a groundhog!) to see its own shadow. A quick scan of today's news can be equally as bleak. It is time for a little more light in an otherwise dark and dreary time.

Enter Epiphany. The missional emphasis of this season shines like a beacon of light and hope in the dead of winter, bringing good news in the middle of this world's not-so-good news. This week God provides the mission in Isaiah—feed the hungry, care for the homeless, clothe the naked. Upon accomplishing this mission God tells the people, "Your light shall break forth like the dawn." Paul continues his Spirit-led mission, encouraging the church in Corinth, "No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him." Jesus teaches his disciples, "You are the light of the world. . . . Let your light shine before others" (Matt. 5:14, 16). Through these words in Jesus' sermon, he gives followers of every day and age a mission to share the light which scatters the darkness.

Whether you are looking in the news or out the window, things may seem pretty dark and dreary at this time of year, but do not miss the light of Epiphany! We are indeed created in God's image, therefore the spark of the divine is alive in all of us. The light shines through us as we live out God's mission for our lives each day. As Epiphany continues, we should all be prepared to let our light shine and share the good news.

PASTOR ASHLIN MARCHESE

PREACHER/PRESIDER

PATRICK GARD

ORGANIST

JESSICA MASON

LITURGICAL ASSISTANT

DEBORAH WALDROP

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

JOHN DOERFLER & JON OLSEN

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