



St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
Highspire  
Epiphany 5  
February 8, 2026

## **Introduction**

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

## **Overview**

### **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.

WORDS OF WELCOME  
PRELUDE

Gather Us In

Deb Dillane

### **The Gathering**

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

\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ELW p. 116

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C Amen.**

\*GREETING

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.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P     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.

**C     Amen.**

**The Word**

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

FIRST READING:     **Isaiah 58:1-9a,9b-12**

*Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.*

1 Shout out; do not hold back!

    Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
    to the house of Jacob their sins.

2 Yet day after day they seek me  
    and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
    and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments;  
    they want God on their side.

3 "Why do we fast, but you do not see?

    Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day  
and oppress all your workers.

4 You fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

5 Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the Lord?

6 Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

7 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 them  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you;  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

9a Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

9b If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

10 if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

11 The Lord will guide you continually  
and satisfy your needs in parched places

and make your bones strong,  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water  
whose waters never fail.

12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

L The word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God**

PSALM: **Psalm 112:1-9,10** (read responsively)

*Light shines in the darkness for the upright. (Ps. 112:4)*

1 Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord  
and have great delight in God's commandments!

**2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house,  
and their righteousness will last forever.

**4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

**6 For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

**8 Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

9 They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness  
stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

**10 The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their  
teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.**

**SECOND READING: 1Corinthians 2:1-12,13-16**

*Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.*

1 When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. 2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. 4 My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. 6 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. 7 But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory 8 and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 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"— 10 God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 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. 12 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. 13 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. 14 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. 15 Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves

subject to no one else's scrutiny.

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

But we have the mind of Christ.

L The word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God**

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

ELW # 172  
(2 times)

\*GOSPEL: **Matthew 5:13-20**

P The holy gospel according to Matthew

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.*

[Jesus said:] 13 "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.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 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. 16 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.

17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. 18 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. 19 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. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Rev. Gail Wolling

\*HYMN OF THE DAY Christ Be Our Light

ELW # 715

\*APOSTLE'S CREED

ELW p.127

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I 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.

I 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. 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, **receive our prayer.**

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, **receive our prayer.**

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, **receive our prayer.**

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 *Don Alsedek, Connie Barner, Rachel Benkovic, Rose Hoover, Tracy Keene, Samson Kennedy, Bernie Kunz, and Rob Lipsitt.* Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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, **receive our prayer.**

P 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

ELW p. 128

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

SPECIAL MUSIC Walk in the Light

Choir

### The Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

\*OFFERTORY HYMN This Little Light of Mine

ELW# 677



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

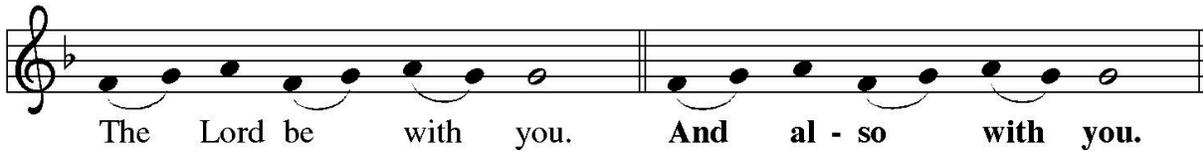
**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A 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.

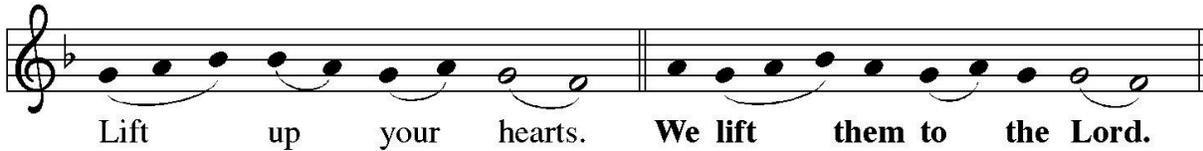
**C Amen**

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

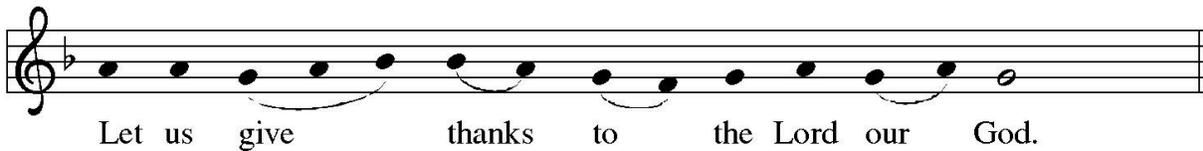
ELW p.129



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

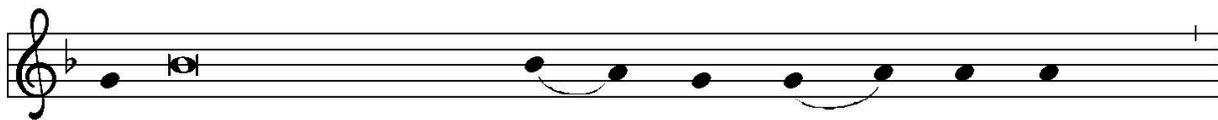


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

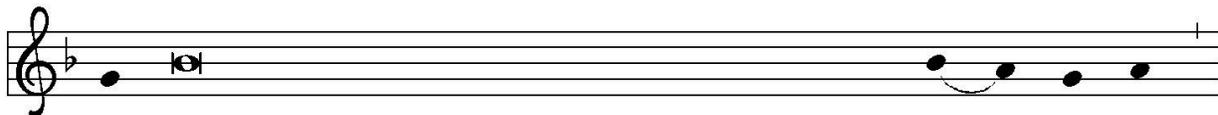


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

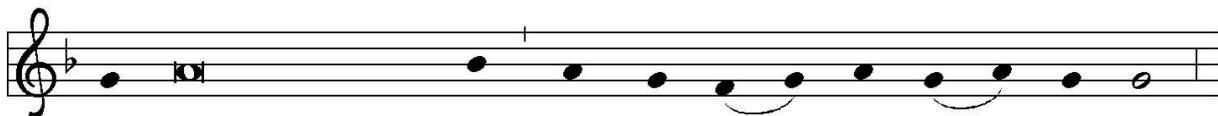
# \*PREFACE



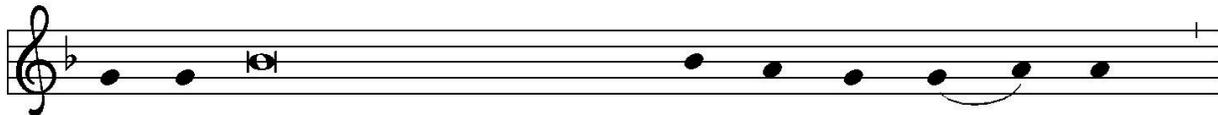
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



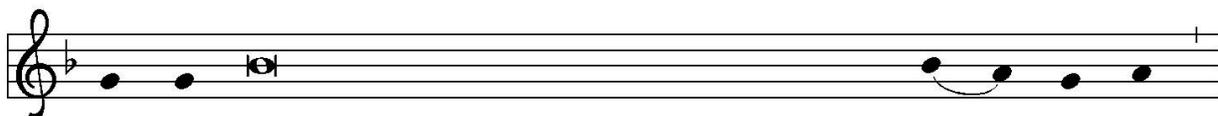
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



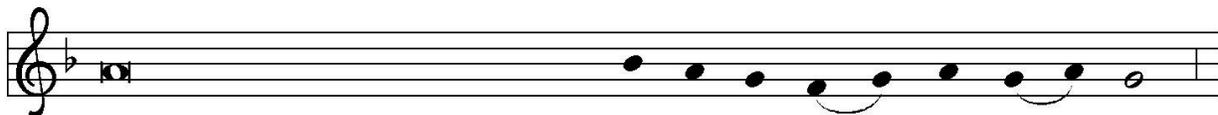
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.



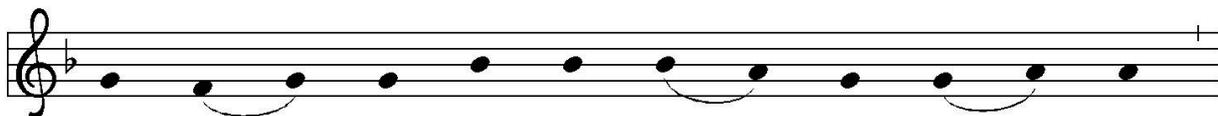
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all na - tions;



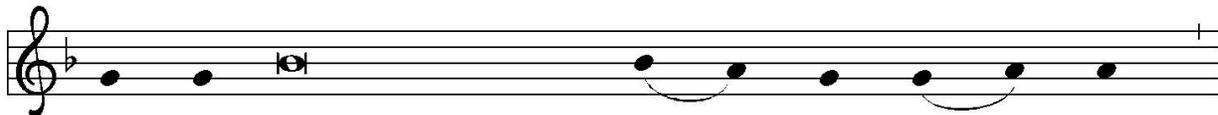
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your be - lov - ed Son,



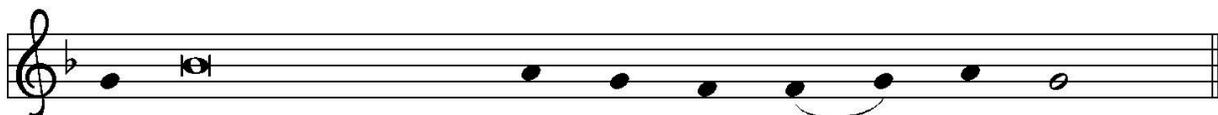
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he re - vealed your glo - ry.



And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,



with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
 heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
 Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
 Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
 Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
 Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
 Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

*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.*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

\*THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p.112

P 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.

\*SHARING THE MEAL

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

COMMUNION HYMNS:

Lamb of God

ELW p.135

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

ELW# 717

Make Me A Channel of Your Peace

W&P# 95

**The Sending**

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

\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

O God of Light

ELW# 507

\*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**C Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE St Thomas(Let Justice Flow Like Streams) Deb Dillane

***Thank you, Rev. Gail Wolling for presiding over worship today, you are a blessing to us.***

***We appreciate Deb Dillane for sharing her musical talent with us this morning. Thank you.***

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**Prelude** - "Gather Us In" by Anne Roberts @2004 Augsburg Fortress, streamsDeb Dillane, organist

**Gathering Hymn** - "Gather Us In" ELW #532 words & music - Marty Haugen @1982 GIA Publications, Inc.

**Gospel Acclamation** - "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" ELW #172 PUBLIC DOMAIN

**Hymn of the Day** - "Christ Be Our Light" ELW #715 words & music - Bernadette Farrell @1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications

**Special Music** - "Walk in the Light" arr. Andre Thomas @2005 Choristers Guild Choir

**Offertory Hymn** - "This Little Light of Mine" ELW #677 PUBLIC DOMAIN words & music - African American Spiritual

**Sanctus** - "Holy, Holy, Holy" p. 130, setting 2, ELW

**Distribution of Communion** - Lamb of God, p.135, ELW, setting 2 "Let Justice Flow Like Streams" ELW #717 words - Jane Parker Huber @1984, admin. Westminster music - Aaron Williams PUBLIC DOMAIN

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" W&P #95 words & music - Sebastian Temple @1967 OCP Publications PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

**Sending Hymn** - "O God of Light" ELW #507 words - Sarah E. Taylor @1952, re 1980 Hope Publishing Co. music - H. Barrie Cabana @1978 LBW, admin Augsburg Fortress ATKINSON

**Postlude** - St. Thomas (Let Justice Flow Like Streams) by Raymond Haan @1994 Concordia Publishing, Deb Dillane, organist

### **St. Peter's Lutheran Church Highspire Contact Information:**

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For pastoral care, please reach out to the church office at 717-939-3492 or by email at [stpetershighspire240@gmail.com](mailto:stpetershighspire240@gmail.com). You can also call Patrick Hawkins at 717-903-2987.

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Altar vases are presented to the Glory of God by the Altar Guild.

### **Worship Participants for February 8, 2026**

Presiding Minister	Rev. Gail Wolling
Music Director	Stephen Strauss
Worship Assistant	Brian Keyser
Musician	Deb Dillane
Lector	Grace Hoover

### **Worship Participants for February 15, 2026**

Presiding Minister	Sr. Marianne Brock
Music Director	Stephen Strauss
Worship Assistant	Sally Schonewolf
Musician	Juliet Mitton
Lector	Helene Hoch

### **Worship Participants Ash Wednesday February 18, 2026**

Presiding Minister	Pastor Cindy Brommer
Music Director	Stephen Strauss
Worship Assistant	Patrick Hawkins
Musician	Juliet Mitton
Lector	Mary Hunt

## **CHOIR REHEARSALS**

This Wednesday, February 11th, there will be rehearsal for the Bells at 6:30pm and Choir at 7:15pm. Join us at rehearsals and offer your talents to the Lord through music! Any questions, call or text Steve at 717-265-6854.

## **All are Welcome Bible Study**

The All are Welcome Bible Study meets on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm. We are currently reading Psalms. We send out a weekly email with the Zoom link, as well as a brief summary of what we covered the previous week. To get the link for attending the Zoom session, or just to get on the weekly email list, please contact Matt and Mary Hunt at

[allarewelcomebiblestudy@gmail.com](mailto:allarewelcomebiblestudy@gmail.com)

### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

Due to the inclement weather, the Annual meeting has been rescheduled for today, after our church service. There will be lunch provided by the Council, and they are asking for you to bring a dessert to share. Hope to see everyone there!

### **Synod Assembly Voting Members Needed**

The thirty-ninth Annual Assembly of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will be held on Friday, June 5, and Saturday, June 6, 2026, in person at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 839 West Market Street, York, Pennsylvania. We are looking for 2 volunteers from our congregation to represent St. Peter's at Synod Assembly. If you would be interested, please let any member of council, or the church secretaries know if you would be interested.

### **"Souper" Bowl Time! - February 8 & 15**

Share your Super Bowl spirit with our seminarians!!! We will be collecting monetary donations Super Bowl Sunday, February 8 and Sunday, February 15 for the food pantry at the Gettysburg campus of United Lutheran Seminary. Look for the large soup pot with the New England Patriots and the Seattle Seahawks logos to place your donations. Giant Food Store and ALDI Grocery Store gift cards will be purchased for the food pantry at the Gettysburg campus, giving the coordinators the ability to accommodate dietary restrictions and purchase perishable foods for the seminary students.

Please write "Souper" Bowl Sunday on the memo line on your check payable to St Peter's Lutheran Church and, for cash donations, write "Souper" Bowl Sunday on the envelope with your name (and your envelope # if you want this to be included in your giving statement).

Again, thank you for your generosity as we reach out beyond our community. Any questions, see Clydene Strauss.

*Come to church and stay for fellowship every Sunday in the Parlor. Enjoy coffee and snacks and friendly conversation! If you would be interested in "Hosting a Sunday" please check the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board located in the hallway outside the Music Room/Church Office.*