

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026 + 9:30 am



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

2417 Drexel Avenue - Racine, Wisconsin 53403

(262) 634-7998

<https://www.facebook.com/LCRRacine>

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.

GATHERING

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

We gather today on the ancestral lands of the Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówi, Kickapoo, and Peoria peoples. We honor and acknowledge the traditional stewards of this land, recognizing their enduring connection to this region. As we come together in worship, let us commit ourselves to respecting their history and culture, and work toward healing and justice for Indigenous communities. May we be mindful of our role in creating a more equitable future for all.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

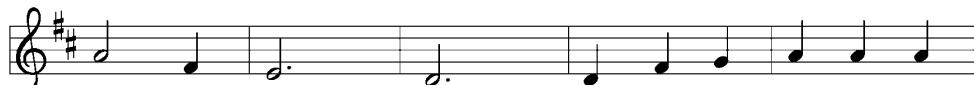
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Song

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" ELW 815



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Gloria

Refrain

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

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

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

Refrain

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

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

2 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.

Refrain

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

high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the MostHigh, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

A - men, a - men.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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

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.

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.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.” 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.

*At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 112:1-9

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.

Second Reading

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.

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 glory⁸ 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.

*At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: **Thanks be to God***

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Gospel Acclamation



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

Gospel Announcement

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel

Matthew 5:13-20

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"You Are the Seed" WOV #753

D A Bm D G

1 You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a star that will
 2 You are the flame that will light - en the dark, so re - splen-dent with
 3 You are the life that will nur - ture the plant; you're the waves in a

A⁷ D A Bm G

shine in the night; you are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a
 hope, faith and love; you are the shep-herds to lead the whole world to
 tur - bu - lent sea; yes - ter-day's yeast is be - gin - ning to rise, a

D G A⁷ D D A

bea - con to glow in the dark. You are the dawn that will
 wa - ters and pas - tures of peace. "You are the friends that I
 new loaf of bread it will yield. There is no place for a

Bm D G A⁷

bring a new day; you're the wheat that will bear gold-en grain;
 chose for my - self, you're the word that I want to pro - claim.
 cit - y to hide, there's no moun-tain can cov - er its might;

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son^{*,},
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

Prayers of Intercession

The Assisting Minister leads the prayers of the people for the church, the world, and all people in need. Each petition ends with:

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

We remember our homebound members and all who have asked for our prayers: Erna Joswig, Joyce Owens, Dorothy Popadic, Pat Quale, Bonnie Ayers, Sue Heckel, Donna Johnson, Linda Bagley, Carmen Falk, Tom Johnson, Mario Miranda, Lynda, Sheila Fair, Cherie Julius, Lynn Hooper, Randy Weit, Aimee and Mark Hooper, Missy Hoffman, Mary Scruggs, Linda Losito, Anne Maley, Judi and Larry Krebs, and Eloise and Larry Laugen, and the family of Dennis Painter (*Teresa Miranda's father*).

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering



Your offering helps us carry on God's mission in our community! You may place your offering in the offering plate as it is passed, you may mail your offering to the church office, you can even text to give by texting the amount you wish to give to 262.592.5757, then follow the prompts. You may also scan the code to the right with your smartphone's camera to give on our website (www.racinelcredeemer.com). You can also sign up for automatic giving on our website as well!

Thank you for your generosity!

Offering Song

The Assembly may rise in body or spirit as the offering is brought forward.

A musical score for the Offering Song, featuring five staves of music in G clef, common time, and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with each line of text corresponding to a staff. The lyrics are as follows:
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and
fill to the brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a
har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the
bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. 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

The Lord be with you. And also 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

.... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna
in the highest. Blessed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*The Presiding Minister prays giving thanks to God, for God's saving work throughout history.
The Assembly responds when prompted:*

The earth is full of your glory

The earth is full of your glory. ...

Amen and amen.

Amen and Amen.

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.

Invitation to Communion

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Distribution of Communion

If you are worshipping with us at home, you are invited to partake in Communion as well! All you need is bread of any kind and wine or juice of any kind. As you receive the bread: 'This is the Body of Christ given for you.' As you receive the wine or juice: 'This is the Blood of Christ shed for you.' If you are worshipping with more than one person, please serve one another as you able using the above words.

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 Song

"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" ELW #712



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

Text © Oxford University Press

Table Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. 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. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, **+** Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" ELW #841



1 Lift ev -'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last,
 shad-owed be -neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,
 let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 true to our God, true to our na - - tive land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871–1938

Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873–1954

Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

Serving Today

Altar Flowers:

The Cook Family

Eleanor's Half Birthday

Assisting Minister:

Nancy Vandewinkel

Reader:

Susan Krikau Sorensen

Usher:

John Wosyk

Altar Guild:

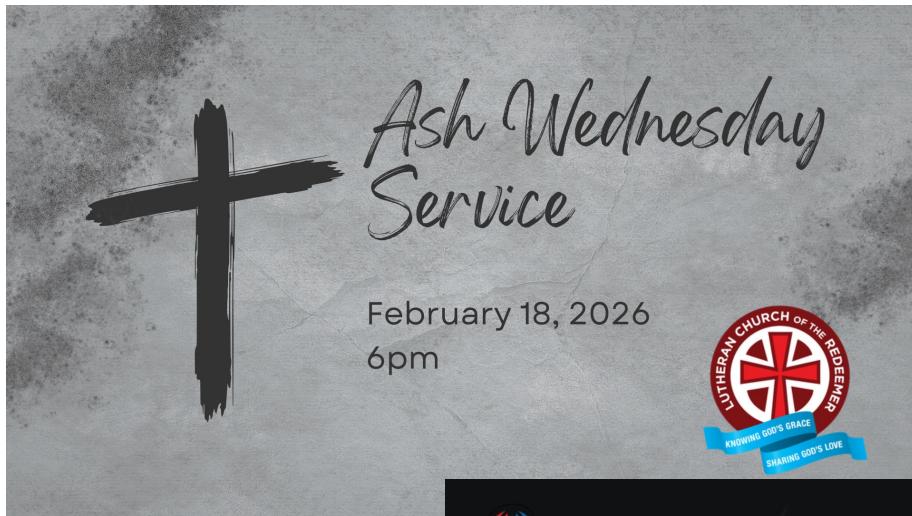
Susan Krikau Sorensen & Lori Rennock

Musician:

Jim Winfield

Pastor:

The Rev. Matt James



**MID-WEEK
LENTEN WORSHIP
PLANTS OF THE
PASSION**

February 25:
5pm Soup & 6pm Presentation on Lutheran
Church in Jordan & the Holy Land
Living Faith Lutheran Church
(2915 Wright Ave, Racine)

*All other gatherings will include 12pm Soup & Bread, 1pm Worship &
5pm Soup & Bread, 6pm Worship*

March 4: Olive Tree
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
(2417 Drexel Ave, Racine)

March 11: Crown of Thorns
Bethania Lutheran Church
(4120 Wright Ave, Racine)

March 18: Hyssop
Journey in Faith Church
(6767 Highway 38, Franksville)

March 25: Aloe
United Lutheran Church
(3825 Eire St, Racine)