



Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 8, 2026 8:15 Setting 1

As We Gather

What stands at the heart of the Christian faith? Quite simply the cross of Jesus. We preach Christ and Him crucified. Yes the cross is a stumbling block to some and foolishness to others. Yet to us who are being saved the message of Christ crucified is the very power of God.

Handbells: "Amazing Grace"

Welcome

Hymn of Invocation "Awake, My Soul, and With the Sun" LSB 868

Awake, my soul, and with the sun
Thy daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth and joyful rise
To pay thy morning sacrifice.

In conversation be sincere,
Thy conscience as the noonday clear;
Think how the_all-seeing God thy ways
And all thy secret thoughts surveys.

All praise to Thee, who safe hast kept
And hast refreshed me while I slept;
Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake,
I may of endless light partake.

Lord, I my vows to Thee renew;
Disperse my sins as morning dew;
Guard my first springs of thought and will
And with Thyself my spirit fill.

Direct, control, suggest this day
All I design or do or say
That all my pow'rs with all their might
In Thy sole glory may unite.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Text: Public domain

P In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

A If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

A Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Psalm 112:1-9 responsive

Psalm 112:1-9

¹Praise the LORD!

Blessèd is the man who fears the LORD,
 who greatly delights in his commandments!

**²His offspring will be mighty in the land;
 the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³Wealth and riches are in his house,
 and his righteousness endures forever.

**⁴Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;
 he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.**

⁵It is well with the man who deals generously and lends;
 who conducts his affairs with justice.

**⁶For the righteous will never be moved;
 he will be remembered forever.**

⁷He is not afraid of bad news;
 his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.

**⁸His heart is steady; he will not be afraid,
 until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.**

⁹He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor;
 his righteousness endures forever;
 his horn is exalted in honor.

Kyrie

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P 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.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

This Is the Feast (sing)

C **This is the feast of victory
for our God.**
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain,
whose blood set us free
to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory
for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom,
and strength,
and honor, blessing,
and glory are His.**

**This is the feast of victory
for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory
for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain
has begun His reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory
for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

A The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

A Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 58:3–9a

³“Why have we fasted, and you see it not?

Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’

Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to hit with a wicked fist.

Fasting like yours this day
will not make your voice to be heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day for a person to humble himself?

Is it to bow down his head like a reed,
and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?

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

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

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry

and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'"

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual (responsive)

Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Epistle

1 Corinthians 2:1–5

¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem: "O Savior of Our Fallen Race" with oboe (Ken Wolski)

Alleluia and Verse



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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:13-20

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹³[Jesus said:] "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes 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. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life \ddagger everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of the Day "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" LSB 427

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Text: Public domain

Sermon "One Simple Message" 1 Corinthians 2:1-2

Prayer of the Church

A In the peace of Christ, our coming King, let us bring our prayers before our gracious God.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. Let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For God's amazing plan of salvation to reach into our hearts, that all those for whom Christ Jesus came into this world may know the hope, love, joy, and peace of sins forgiven; for perfect peace to reign in the hearts and minds of all who believe, that we may be the Lord's instruments of peace in a world filled with troubles; in peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus; in peace let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Send down upon Your church the grace of Your Holy Spirit that we may be united in faith and in confession of Your name. Unite us together to accomplish Your purpose at SPLC. Give strength, wisdom, and understanding to those who serve on our Call Committee and staff. Grant grace and patience to all in our congregation as we faithfully seek the pastor You appointed to shepherd us. Lord, in Your mercy, in peace let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the comfort and peace of Jesus to touch the lives of all who experience suffering, *Dennis Erler, Cindy Maxwell, Armando Florez, Ami Gray, Teo McDonald, Doug Ebersol, Drake Williams, Joe Kuzma, Nilsa Colas, David Glass, Karen Manion, Jan Peterson, Cythina Estes Carla Weikert, Robert Wood, Eric Peterson, Kerstin Krueger, Mary Fodor, Joseph Davis, Tammy Tolbert.* for Christ's peace to dwell among us as we celebrate His coming to save us, looking forward to the ultimate Day in which He will come again in all power and glory; in peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Into Your hands, O gracious God, we entrust our prayers, through Jesus Christ, our King and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

(Having received the Gospel's grace, let us joyfully share "Peace of Christ" with one another.)

Offering "No Longer Slaves" Jason Young

Service of the Sacrament

Prepare our Hearts for Communion

1. Do I believe that I am sinful, without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
2. Do I harbor resentment for another or refuse to forgive another's sin?
3. Do I believe that Jesus is God's Son and my personal Savior?
4. Do I believe that He is personally present with His Body and Blood?
5. Do I desire by the Holy Spirit's power to live a Godly life?

If this is what you believe, we invite you to come forward to share Communion with us. If this is not what you understand or believe you are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply cross your arms for the Pastor to bless you.

Communion Instructions

(For those who are intolerant to alcohol, grape juice is available in the center of each communion tray marked by purple cups. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)

Ministry Moment: Denton Freedom House- Jason Young

Preface

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so 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 Him thanks and praise.

A It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



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



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

A Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \ddagger body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My \ddagger blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

A As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

A O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood in this Sacrament, You lead us to remember all that You have done for us before we were born, to realize that You are with us today, and to await Your promised return one day to receive us into Your eternal kingdom. So remember us in Your kingdom now and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

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.

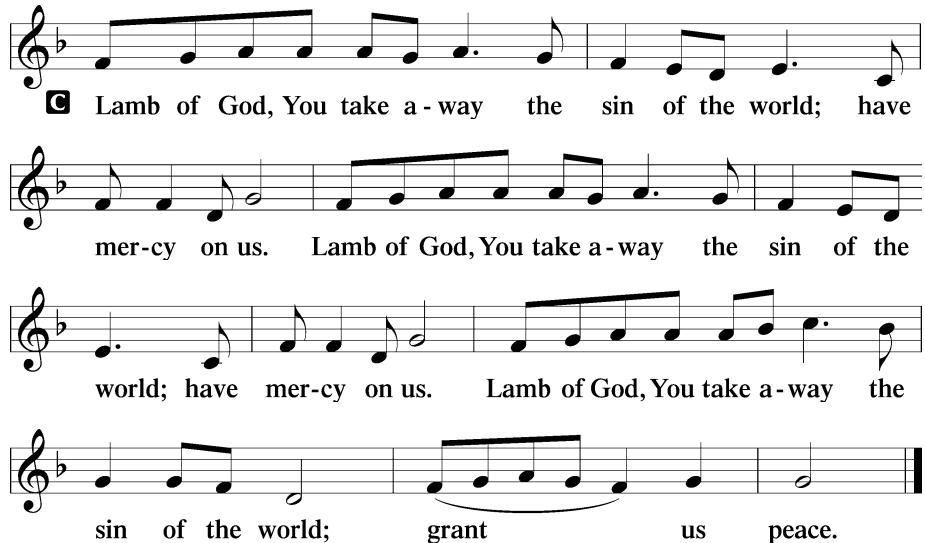
Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei



C 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.

Distribution Hymn "Lift High the Cross" LSB 837

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. Refrain

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. Refrain

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956,
alt.

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Your Table I Approach LSB 628

Your table I approach;
Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart
Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins
And mourn their wretched bands;
A contrite heart is sure to find
Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood,
Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord,
In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place,
This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more
Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.
Text: Public domain

Thank the Lord



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'-ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is-es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and \ddagger give you peace.



Hymn to Depart "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" LSB 922

Go, My children, with My blessing,
 Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
 You are My own.
In My love's baptismal river
 I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing—
 You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven,
 At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
 What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story;
 Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven,
 At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished,
 Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving,
 Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you;
 Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished,
 Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you
And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you
And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you
And give you peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

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Dismissal (requested by Pastor Braun to be at the end of service.)

- P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God!**

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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