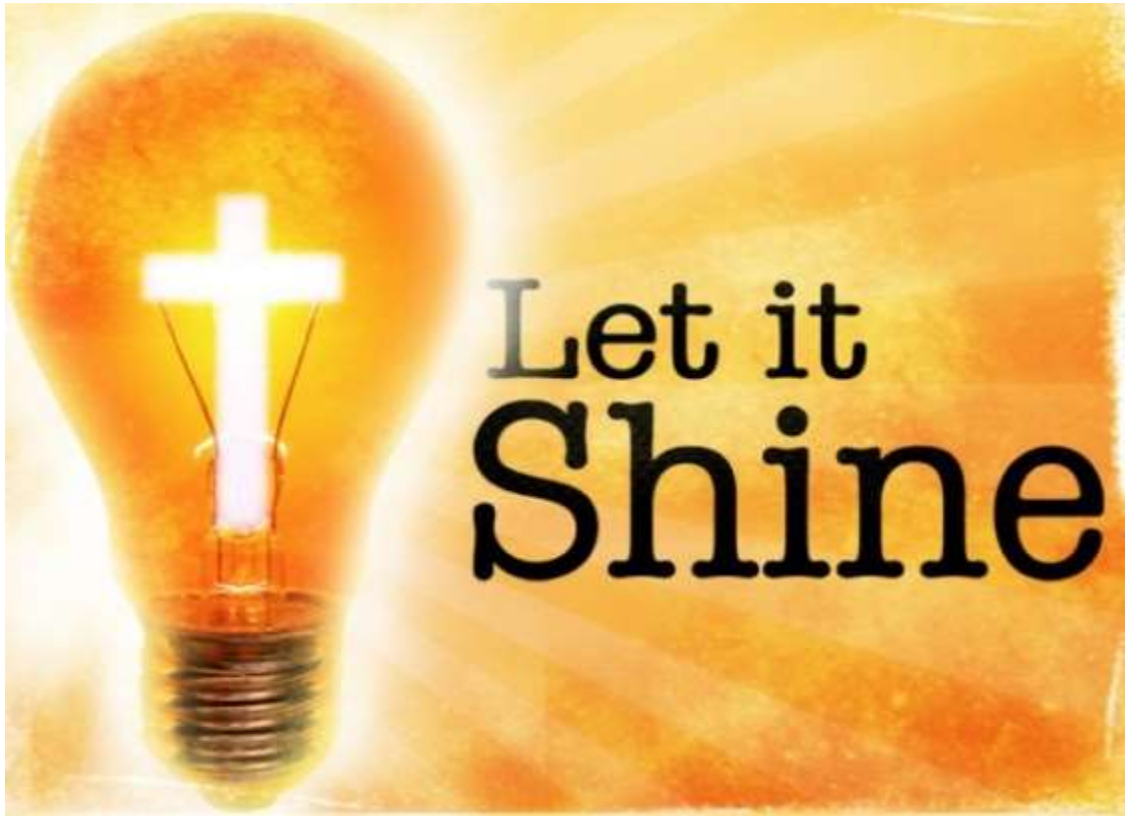


Triune Lutheran Church



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

*We thank you for joining us here
at Triune Lutheran Church, a
family united by our Lord, Jesus
Christ!*



In order to make you feel more at home, here are a few notes about the service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We hope to make your time here as meaningful as possible!

Worship

- The * by the headings throughout the service indicate when we invite you to stand, as you are able.
- The light print will be spoken by the pastor or another worship leader, while we encourage you to speak the **bold print**.
- The hymns are chosen from our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal, which is the red book directly in front of you in the pews. You will find the hymns in the last two-thirds of the book with the bold numbers on the top of the pages.
- We welcome all the baptized to join us in the Lord's Supper, where we believe Jesus is present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine as his body and blood. After the organist and assisting minister commune, you will be invited to come forward up the non-organ side aisle to the pastor, who will give you bread (gluten-free wafers also available upon request). You are encouraged to keep the bread in your hands and then dip it into the chalice of wine for intinction. You may also come forward to receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded. You may return to your seat up the center aisle. If you are unable to come forward, the elements will be brought to you.
- For visitors, if you so choose, we encourage you to fill out a card available at the center-aisle end of the pew to learn more about us.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the eternal voice from heaven,
the anointed and beloved one,
the Spirit moving over the waters.

Amen!

As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in
confession,
trusting the love of Christ.

*You are invited to kneel or remain standing/sitting. Silence
is kept for reflection.*

God who searches us and knows us,
**you have shown us what is good,
but we have looked to other lights to find our way.
We have not been just in our dealings with others.
We have chosen revenge over mercy.
We have promoted ourselves
instead of walking humbly with you.
Forgive us our sin,
and show us your salvation
in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen!**

Beloved of God,
you have not received the spirit of the world,
but, instead, the Holy Spirit
poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.
Receive the promise of baptism:
You are God's child; † your sins are forgiven.
Rejoice and be glad,
for yours is the glory of life everlasting!
Amen!

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”

ELW 520

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all
who call upon you. As the Holy 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!**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-9a

¹Shout 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.

²Yet 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;

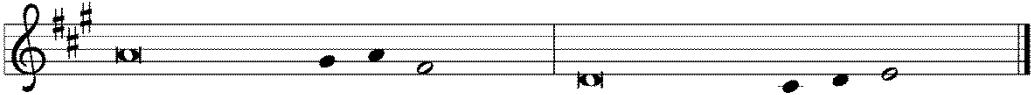
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

- 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.
- ⁴Look, 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.
- ⁵Is 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?
- ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs 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 them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
- ⁸Then 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.

The word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

PSALM

Psalm 112:1-9



SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet 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 doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, 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”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being 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. ¹²Now 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.

The word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**



*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.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord!

[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. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, 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 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. ¹⁸For 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. ¹⁹Therefore, 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. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“This Little Light of Mine”

ELW 677

***APOSTLES’ CREED**

**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**

Trusting that God hears us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, it is your desire that all people might come to know you intimately; so lead our home communities into such deeper relationship with you. May our Triune family and your whole church radiate your light of hope to all whom we encounter. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of creation, you quench the dry ground, bringing water that sustains life. Satisfy the needs of all the earth, so that all living things bear witness to your verdant grace and continue to shout your praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of glory, during your time here on earth, you were crucified by powerful rulers who did not understand you. Grant leaders in our day, wisdom and discernment, that they may recognize you in the lives of the people they serve. Hear us, O God **Your mercy is great.**

God of justice, you free us from the oppression that binds us and exhort us to serve one another. Liberate us from all fear, bigotry, and greed, and set our hearts and minds on love, equality, and justice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, you reveal your saving love to those in need, including Bev & Bill Deitrick, Tim Mize, Hazel Schwab, Martha Wasson, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, Jenny Adams, Cathy Gallagher, Richard Jakubcin, John & Jean Kurtz, Matthew Loede, Marlin Loede, Mary Phillips, Courtney Spencer, George Tomaselli, those serving in the armed forces and as first responders, and all those we name in our hearts...Bless those among us who are preparing to encounter your invigorating will in a new way on our journey with you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all eternity, we give you thanks for the lives of the saints who have pointed us towards faithfulness in you. May we trust in your endless mercy and grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you are able to accomplish more than we even dare to ask, we bring these prayers before you, believing in your saving grace revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen!**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always!
And also with you.

OFFERING

***OFFERING HYMN**

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” VERSE 1 ELW 674

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of wonder,
you shaped us in our mother’s womb,
and from the earth you bring forth this bread and wine.
We place them on your table,
together with our lives and all that you have made.
We long for your peace;
we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ,
our banquet of everlasting life.
Amen!

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn titled "GREAT THANKSGIVING". It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff contains "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff contains "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff contains "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The music is written in a simple, melodic style with eighth and quarter notes.

*PREFACE

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.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved
Son;

and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your
glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O holy God:
you are the Life and Light of all.
By your powerful word you created all things.
Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to
the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.
He is your Light, shining in our darkness
and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his preaching and healing,
his dying and rising,
and his promise to come again,
we await that day when all the universe
will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

Bless us and this meal,
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,
we may be light for the world,
revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
both now and forever.

Amen!

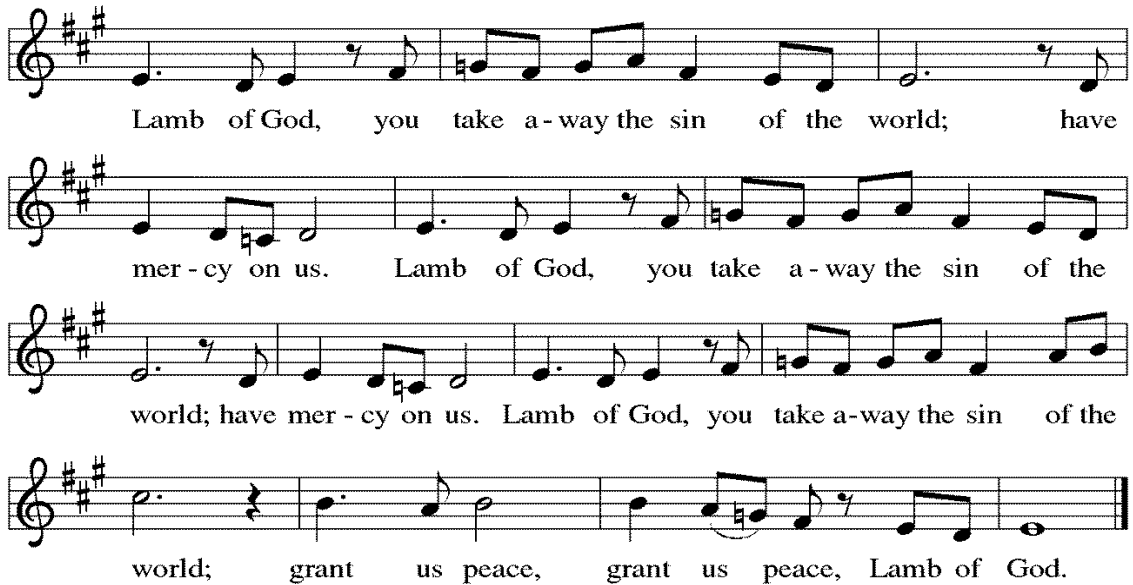
***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

**Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table of mercy and joy for us all!
Thanks be to God!**

*COMMUNION HYMN



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, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

*COMMUNION PRAYER

Faithful God,
you have kept your promise to us in this meal,
nourishing us with the gift of salvation.
Now send your servants forth in peace,
that we may testify to your goodness
and share the hope that is ours
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen!

***BLESSING**

May Christ, the wisdom and power of God,
and the source of our life together,
keep you united in mind and purpose.

And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you now and forever!

Amen!

***SENDING HYMN**

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

ELW 543

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Let your light shine!

Thanks be to God!

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Ministers: ***All People***

Pastor: ***Brad Ross***

Organist: ***Elaine Hammond***

Worship Leader: ***Dale Kirk***

Office Manager: ***Jan Piskac***

Community-Blessing Holiness

This week's lectionary readings continue the theme from last week of God's passion for neighbor care. We sometimes focus so much on our relationship with God and doing what we think God would have us do that it causes our relationships with fellow humans to suffer. Martin Luther cautioned against this kind of thinking when he stressed that not just the cloistered life of monks and nuns were holy, but that we can all do God's work and will in all of our individual vocations. To give a mundane example, filling out my expense reports correctly the first time so I don't generate extra work for someone else is a holy and loving act, just as much as writing these columns. But sometimes we can lose sight of the fact that, in order to love God, we must love our neighbor.

The case of Isaiah 58 points out perfectly that we must couple our love of God with love of our neighbor. The Israelites cried out to God that even though they fasted, God didn't answer their prayers (Isaiah 58:3). God's response is, in a word, sarcastic. After asking for a witness against the House of Israel's sins, God wonders why Israel attempts to speak as a nation that does righteousness, as if they had not forsaken God's commandments (1-2). God pointed out that, on the same day they fasted, they had oppressed their workers (3), fought with each other and even committed acts of violence against fellow humans (4).

In case the Israelites would seek to repent individually, but not address larger systems of oppression, God forestalled that conclusion. God said that simply bowing heads, even in deep humility, or more drastic shows of repentance like wearing sackcloth and laying in ashes, were incomplete (5). Humility on its own is not true repentance for social sins that harm God's beloved children. The fast of repentance that God demands makes amends for how we have hurt others. We must free people from unjust, inequitable systems that keep them bound and imprisoned:

*Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
(Isaiah 58:6)*

God goes on to say that we must divide bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into the house (7). Note that the Spirit, speaking through the prophet, does not say to *give* bread to the poor or *provide* housing for the homeless. No, that's too easy and too sterile. Instead, the kind of fast, the kind of repentance, that God desires for the ways we have propped up systems that have ensnared our sisters and brothers is to *divide* our resources and *share* them with people who also need them. Not only does this begin to provide justice for folks who do not have enough to live on, but it begins to reknit the fabric of society by introducing us to our neighbors in need. This is God's plan and desire for us.

Jesus doesn't let us off the hook from this expectation. He said we are to live our lives as a city on a hill, or a light on a stand, whose light cannot be hidden (Matthew 5:14-15). When people see how we love our neighbors, they will praise God (16).

To make sure we get the point, Jesus says he is not coming to abolish the law or the prophets, but to fulfill them. When I was a child, a Sunday school teacher told me that Jesus fulfilled the commandments so no one else ever had to do them. But that's the exact opposite of what Jesus says: "Therefore, whoever annuls 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" (19). Looking ahead to next week, Jesus will even intensify Mosaic laws so there will be no excuse for abusing our neighbors.

God is passionate about making sure that we don't just have a relationship with heaven, but that we are loving our fellow humans as well. If we seek to love our Creator, but we abuse our fellow creatures, we risk disappointing God and missing opportunities to love our siblings and fellow image-bearers.



Cory Driver is a minister of word and service, and the director of the Transformational Leadership Academy in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. He earned his doctorate in Jewish religious cultures from Emory University, Atlanta. Cory lives with his family in Indianapolis.