

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

*Gathering at St. John's Episcopal Church*

1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater, FL 33764

**Sunday, February 8, 2026**

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany / Lectionary 5, Year A**



## **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.

## Welcome:

## Prelude: Aubade: Broughton

## Gathering Hymn: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service – ELW 712

**Verses 1-3 are sung**



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

## Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\ddagger$  one God,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being,  
the Wind stirring the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us turn to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice,  
**you call us to life in community,**  
**but we have served our own interests**  
**at the expense of our neighbors.**  
**We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.**  
**We say the right words,**  
**but our hearts are far from you.**  
**Turn us to seek your face.**  
**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,**  
**that we may do justice, love mercy,**  
**and walk humbly with you, our God.**  
**Amen.**

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

## Prayer of the Day

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.

**ALL Amen.**

## First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a (9-12)

*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.*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> “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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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?

<sup>6</sup> 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?

<sup>7</sup> 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?

<sup>8</sup> 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.

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

<sup>9b</sup> If you remove the yoke from among you,  
    the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

*Light shines in the darkness for the upright.*

Reader: Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!

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

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

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

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

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

Reader: They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

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

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

**ALL: 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: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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

<sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory <sup>8</sup> and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> 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"—

<sup>10</sup> God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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. [<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

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

But we have the mind of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Gospel Acclamation

Verse 1 and 2 are sung

1\*

2

Man - y will come from east and west, and from  
OR Man - y will come from east and west, and from

north and south, and will eat in the king - dom, the  
north and south, to be washed in the wa - ters, the

king-dom of God. Blest are they, oh, blest are  
wa - ters of life. Blest are they, oh, blest are

they who eat bread in the king-dom, the king-dom of God.  
they who are washed in the wa - ters, the wa - ters of life.

\* May be sung in canon

## **Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
**Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup> “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.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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: Pr. Anne Harman**

## Hymn of the Day: Lord of Light - ELW 688



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and  
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -  
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - crea - sing, at your feet may  
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom  
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance  
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,  
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -  
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -  
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions  
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.  
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:  
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:  
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

### Refrain



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860-1953, alt.

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

Text © Union of Welsh Independents

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## **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 Intercessions**

*Please respond to each invocation: Merciful God, **Receive our prayer.***

### **Pastor:**

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.

### **Reader:**

Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced injustice. Make us your light of hope and salt of change. 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 every place of violence or war. We pray for our neighbors and 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. You may lift up the names of those in need of God's healing and compassion. 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.**

### **A sign of Peace and Reconciliation**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with You.**

# THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERING

All that we have, physically and spiritually comes from God.

Our offering, of time, talent and treasure is a response to our awareness  
that God is the creator of all things and that we are redeemed  
through life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Your support of this ministry and the faith life of this community is appreciated.

## Offering Hymn: By Your Hand You Feed Your People – ELW 468



1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.

2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.

3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.



For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:  
Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.  
In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:



Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow - ing, life out - poured,



giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: CAMROSE, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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## Offering Prayer

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.**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with You.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



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, 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.

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.



## 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

We currently receive communion with real bread and wine. If you need to receive a gluten free host, please ask the communion minister when you come forward. They are on a separate dish. For those who prefer to receive grape juice rather than wine you will find white grape juice in the center of the trays as communion is given. If you have a question, please ask the minister as you receive. The bread and wine should be consumed here in the church before you return to your seat. If for some reason, you are unable to consume either the bread or wine please bring what was not consumed to the ushers or the pastor as soon as the service is completed.

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; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Hymn: Loves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken – ACS 966

1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the  
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a  
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in  
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us

Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from  
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you  
faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the  
in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions

heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.  
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.  
a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"  
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.

*Refrain*

By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your

wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your

peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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## **Prayer after Communion**

**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.**

## **Announcements:**

### **Blessing**

May the triune God,

who has put a new song in your mouth

and tuned your heart for praise

☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Recessional 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.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

## Announcements:

**CCC Table** – please sign up for **Silver Foxes, Lent Retreat & Shrove Tuesday**

Evening Prayer for Peace & Unity  
*He's Got the Whole World In His Hands*

Wednesday, February 11  
7:15 PM

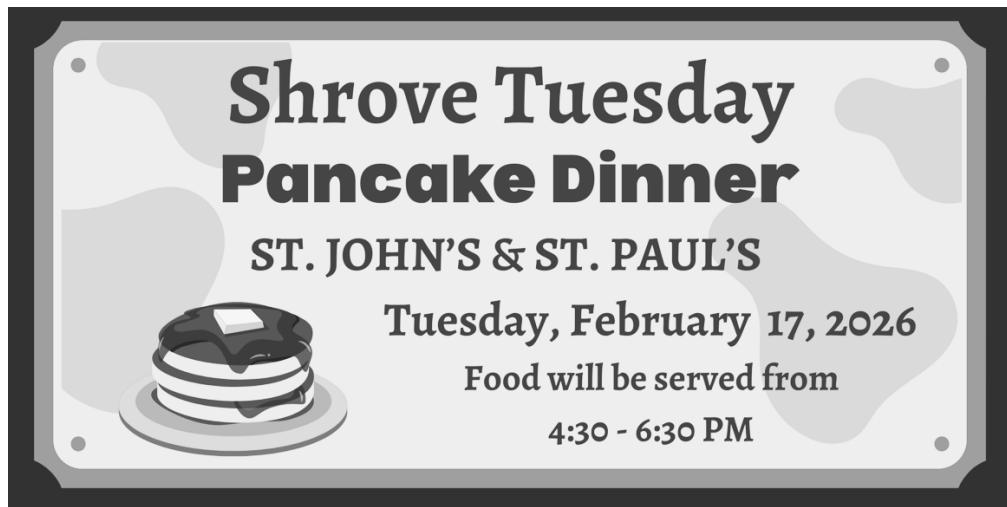
 **St. Paul's Spirituality Center**  
an outreach ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church



St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
*gathering at*  
St. John's Episcopal  
1676 S. Belcher Rd.,  
Clearwater, FL 33764

**Liv Up - Share the Love – February 14 – 2:00 – 4:00 PM**  
First Lutheran Church – 1644 Nursery Road, Clearwater

**Winter Pride** – Sunday, February 15. Would those participating please meet Pr. Anne after worship in the hall for a very brief meeting.



**Please pick up a February Newsletter**

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Gathering at St. John's Episcopal 1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater, FL

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church, a Reconciling in Christ congregation, embodies God's love, and promise of salvation through faith in Christ by extending inclusion and welcome to all.*

We welcome the full, active participation of all who worship and minister with us. If you are interested in learning more about Jesus, God's life and action in the world and our lives, the Lutheran faith, or this congregation and how you can be more involved, please reach out to Pastor Anne.

Phone Number: 727- 446-7718

Email: [office@stpaulsclearwater.org](mailto:office@stpaulsclearwater.org)

Website: <https://www.stpaulsclearwater.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/st.paulslutheranchurch.clearwater.fl>

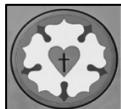


Website



Facebook

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**St. Paul's Spirituality Center**

an outreach ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church



Florida-Bahamas Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



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